

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Dunedin City Council will be held on:

Date: Thursday 12 February 2026
Time: 9.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Octagon, Dunedin

Sandy Graham
Chief Executive Officer

Council
PUBLIC AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor	Mayor Sophie Barker	
Deputy Mayor	Cr Cherry Lucas	
Members	Cr John Chambers	Cr Christine Garey
	Cr Doug Hall	Cr Marie Laufiso
	Cr Russell Lund	Cr Mandy Mayhem
	Cr Benedict Ong	Cr Andrew Simms
	Cr Mickey Treadwell	Cr Lee Vandervis
	Cr Steve Walker	Cr Brent Weatherall

Senior Officer Sandy Graham, Chief Executive

Governance Support Officer Lauren Riddle

Lauren Riddle
Governance Support Officer

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Note: Reports and recommendations contained in this agenda are not to be considered as Council policy until adopted.

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1 OPENING

Rev Alofe Lale, Associate Minister, First Church of Otago will open the meeting with a prayer.

2 PUBLIC FORUM

At the close of the agenda public forum registrations were still being taken. The speakers will be confirmed following the closure of registrations 24 hours before the meeting begins, i.e. 9:00am on Thursday 12 February 2026.

3 APOLOGIES

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

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

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

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Members are reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.
2. Elected members are reminded to update their register of interests as soon as practicable, including amending the register at this meeting if necessary.
3. Staff members are reminded to update their register of interests as soon as practicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Notes/Amends** if necessary the Elected Members' Interest Register attached as Attachment A; and
- b) **Confirms/Amends** the proposed management plan for Elected Members' Interests.
- c) **Notes** the proposed management plan for the Executive Leadership Team's Interests.

Attachments

	Title	Page
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Council Interest Register 3 February 2026				
Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Mayor Sophie Barker	Shareholder	Ayrmed Limited	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	Various publicly listed companies	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Property Owner	Residential Property Owner - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Beneficiary	Sans Peur Trust (Larnach Castle)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Mentor	Business Mentors NZ	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Vegetable Growers Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Alexander McMillan Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Patron	New Zealand International Science Festival	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Patron	Dunedin Horticultural Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Institute of Directors	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Chairperson	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Grow Dunedin Partnership (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Heritage Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Local Government New Zealand (Zone 6) (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-Chair	Ōtepoti Dunedin Destination Management Plan Advisory Panel (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Family Member	Family Member employed at Wilkinson Rogers	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.	
Member	Tertiary Precinct Planning Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict Identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.	
Cr John Chambers	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Rental Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Otakau Golf Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Opera Otago	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Hereweka Harbour Cone Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Okia Reserve Management Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Member	Waikouaiti Coast Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Christine Garey	Trustee	Garey Family Trust - Property Ownership - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Daughter employee	Halo Project	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Ashburn Hall Charitable Trust Board	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Creative Dunedin Partnership (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Performing Arts Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
		Sophia Charter (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	St Paul's Cathedral Foundation (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Theomin Gallery Management Committee (Olveston) (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Doug Hall	Trustee	Cronus Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Clickfix Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	District Licensing Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Public Art Gallery Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	West Harbour Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Marie Laufiso	Property Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Moray Place Community Building Trust - which owns property 111 Moray Place	Duty to Trust may conflict with duties of Council Office	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Women of Ōtepoti Recognition Initiative	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Corso Ōtepoti Dunedin Trust	Potential grants recipient	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Dunedin Branch Treasurer	P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A Inc	Potential grants recipient	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Expert Panel Member	Health Coalition Aotearoa Public Health Infrastructure Committee	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	The Ōtepoti Community Builders Charitable Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee/Secretary	Refugee Support Group	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Former Refugee Steering Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Member	Puketai Residential Centre Liaison Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Social Wellbeing Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Cherry Lucas	Trustee	Otago Farmers Market	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Partner	Southway Enterprises	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Henderson Lucas Family Trust - Residential Dunedin Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Shanghai Association (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Local Government New Zealand (Zone 6) (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Tūhura Otago Museum Trust Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ōtepoti Dunedin Destination Management Plan Advisory Panel (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Airport Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Tertiary Precinct Planning Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Te Poāri a Pukekura (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Mosgjel-Taieri Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Russell Lund	Shareholder	Loan & Mercantile Trust includes:	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Produce Place Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Dunedin Grain Store Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Loan & Mercantile 2000 Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	Lund South Trust includes:	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Lund South Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Lund Dunedin Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Resource Values Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Sherwood Manor Properties Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Lund Central Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director/Shareholder	Lund South Administration Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Director	Construction Operatives Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Lund South Properties Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	RV Lund Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	BDCRS Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Lund Frankton Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	President	Ariki Amateur Athletic & Harrier Club	Ariki is a member of Athletics Otago which receives grant funding from DCC.	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Member	Heritage Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Otago Theatre Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Mandy Mayhem	Chairperson	Waitati Hall Society Inc	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Chairperson	Keep Ōtepoti Dunedin Beautiful	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-ordinator	Emergency Response Group, Blueskin area	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	FENZ Local Advisory Committee for Otago	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Blueskin Bay Amenities Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Blueskin A & P Society	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Zone Representative and Board Member	Keep New Zealand Beautiful	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Coastal Community Cycleway Network	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Waitati Music Festival Committee	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Property Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Disability Issues Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Gasworks Museum Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Keep Dunedin Beautiful (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Performing Arts Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Member	Social Wellbeing Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.	
Cr Benedict Ong	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	Listed Stocks	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Member	Otago Settlers Association (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Andrew Simms	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Limited	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Auckland Limited t/a Andrew Simms - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Stephen Duff Motors Limited t/a Andrew Simms Dunedin - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Three Diamond Automotive t/a Ralliart NZ - Race car preparation	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Cambridge Finance Limited - Financial Services	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	The Landseer Group Limited - Investments	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Otago Motorhome Centre Limited - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Henderson Limited - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Landseer Motor Investments Moorhouse Limited - Motor vehicle retail	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Minaret Property Investments Limited - Property Investment	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	The Newfoundland Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	The Moturata Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Trails Group	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Cricket Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Mosgiel AFC	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Commercial Property, Andersons Bay Road, Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Heritage Advisory Group (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Tūhura Otago Museum Trust Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Taieri Airport Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Micky Treadwell	Director	Atawhai Interactive Tapui Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Contractor	Otago Polytechnic	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Co-owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Green Party of Aotearoa	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Member	Dunedin Otaru Sister City Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ice Sports Dunedin Incorporated (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ōtepoti Dunedin Live Music Advisory Panel (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Te Ao Tūroa Partnership (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Otago Peninsula Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Lee Vandervis	Director	Lee Vandervis, Antonie Alm-Lequeux and Cook Allan Gibson Trustee Company Ltd - Residential Property Ownership - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Director	Bunchy Properties Ltd - Residential and Lifestyle Farm Property Ownership - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Various publicly Audio and Lighting - Hire, Sales and Service Business	May contrace and provide service to DCC	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If the meeting is in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Member	District Licensing Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Okia Reserve Management Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Steve Walker	Trustee	Dunedin Wildlife Hospital Trust	Potential grants recipient	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If the meeting is in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Member	Orokonui Ecosanctuary	Potential grants recipient	Withdraw from discussion and leave the table. If the meeting is in public excluded leave the room. Seek advice prior to the meeting.
	Member	New Zealand Labour Party	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Residential Property - Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Shareholder	Various publicly listed companies	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	NZ Sea Lion Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Justice of the Peace		No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Predator Free Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Heritage Fund (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Art Gallery Acquisitions Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Hereweke Harbour Cone Trust (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	NZ Masters Games Trust Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Name	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
	Member	Otago Regional Transport Committee (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Ōtepoti Dunedin Live Music Advisory Panel	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Predator Free Dunedin (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Cr Brent Weatherall	Owner	Residential Property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Owner	Business George Street, Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Brent Weatherall Jeweller Limited	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Weatherall Trustee Company	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Trustee	Residential Rental Properties	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Club	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Dunedin Public Art Society (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Keep Dunedin Beautiful (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	Member	Strath Taieri Community Board (Council Appointment)	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

Executive Leadership Team - Register of Interest - current as at 11 November 2025					
Name	Date of Entry	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Sandy Graham	19/09/2018	Owner	Residential property Dunedin	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	25/07/2019	Trustee	Trustee of the Taieri Airport Facilities Trust	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	17/09/2024	Member	St Clair Golf Club	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	17/09/2024	Vendor	Property purchased by senior member of ORC staff.	No conflict identified	Transaction was arms length through an agent with no direct interaction.
	17/09/2024	Client	Various local contractors (glazing, carpet, fencing and kitchen upgrades)	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	12/11/2025	Family member	Family member works for the DCC	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Nicola Morand	09/05/2022	Owner	Residential Property Dunedin	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	09/05/2022	Owner	Residential Property in Otago	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	20/09/2023	Trustee	Riki Te Mairiki Talaroa Trust	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	09/05/2022	Partner	Morand Painting & Decorating	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	12/11/2025	Member	Te Runanga o Otakou	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	12/11/2025	Member	Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
	12/11/2025	Family member	Family member works for the DCC	No conflict identified	Seeks advice in advance of meeting if actual conflict arises.
David Ward	28/07/2022	Director	Ward Property Rentals	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	28/07/2022	Member	Water New Zealand	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	28/07/2022	Member	IPWEA (Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia)	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	21/02/2024	Owner	Residential Property Dunedin	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	28/07/2022	Fellow	The Institution of Civil Engineers	No conflict identified.	Any decisions relating to The Institution of Civil Engineers will be referred to the CEO
Scott MacLean	23/01/2024	Owner	Residential property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	23/01/2024	Trustee	Te Poari a Pukekura Charitable Trust	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	23/01/2024	Spouse is Chair	Dunedin Wildlife Hospital Trust (DWHT)	DCC has funded the DWHT	Take no part in discussions or decision making about the Trust or participate in any transactions between the Trust and DCC.

Executive Leadership Team - Register of Interest - current as at 11 November 2025					
Name	Date of Entry	Responsibility (i.e. Chairperson etc)	Declaration of Interests	Nature of Potential Interest	Member's Proposed Management Plan
Carolyn Allan	01/03/2024	Owner	Residential property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	01/03/2024	Owner	Residential rental property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	01/03/2024	Member	Mountain Bike Otago	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Paul Henderson	15/01/2025	Owner	Residential property	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	15/01/2025	Associate Member	Building Officials Institute of NZ (through to 31 Dec 2025 then expires)	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	15/01/2025	Playing Member	Dunedin City Royal Football Club	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	10/10/2025	Navigator Member	Taituarā	No conflict identified.	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
	10/10/2025	Partner	Ruru Workplace Solutions Ltd	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.
Mike Costelloe	10/10/2025	Owner	Residential properties x 2	No conflict identified	Seek advice prior to the meeting if actual or perceived conflict of interest arises.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 26 JANUARY 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Confirms** the public part of the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 26 January 2026 as a correct record.

Attachments

	Title	Page
A↓	Minutes of Ordinary Council meeting held on 26 January 2026	16

Council

MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Dunedin City Council held in the Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Octagon, Dunedin on Monday 26 January 2026, commencing at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Mayor Sophie Barker
Deputy Mayor Cr Cherry Lucas

Members

Cr John Chambers	Cr Christine Garey
Cr Doug Hall	Cr Marie Laufiso
Cr Russell Lund	Cr Mandy Mayhem
Cr Benedict Ong	Cr Andrew Simms
Cr Mickey Treadwell	Cr Lee Vandervis
Cr Steve Walker	Cr Brent Weatherall

IN ATTENDANCE

Sandy Graham (Chief Executive), Carolyn Allan (Chief Financial Officer), Scott MacLean (General Manager City Services), David Ward (General Manager 3 Waters, Property and Urban Development), Paul Henderson (General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services), Mike Costelloe (General Manager, Arts, Culture and Economic Development) and Jackie Harrison (Manager Governance).

Governance Support Officer Lynne Adamson

1 OPENING

Edward Ellison, Upoko Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou opened the meeting with a karakia.

REPORTS

2 TRIBUTES TO THE LATE CR JULES RADICH

Mayor Sophie led tributes for Jules Radich commenting on his loyal service to the city during his time as Councillor and Mayor.

Edward Ellison, Upoko Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou paid tribute to Mr Radich.

The Dunedin City Council Waiata Group then sang Whakaaria Mai.

This was followed by tributes from past Councillors Bill Acklin; Carmen Houlahan and Andrew Whiley followed by current Councillors and Paul Weir, Chair – Saddle Hill Community Board.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CR JULES RADICH

A report from Civic recorded thanks to the late Jules Radich for the service given by him in his terms of office.

Mayor Sophie presented Cr Jules Radich’s Certificate of Service to his family who then thanked Council for the caring service for Mr Radich.

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

- a) **Records** its sincere thanks to the late Jules Radich for the loyal and conscientious service he has given to the Dunedin community as a Councillor for the three years from 2019 – 2022, Mayor for the three years from 2022 – 2025 and Councillor for three months from 2025 - 2026.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/001)

The Dunedin City Council Waiata Group led the meeting in singing Purea Nei.

Mr Ellison closed the meeting with a karakia.

The meeting concluded at 5.06 pm.

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MAYOR

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 29 JANUARY 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Confirms** the public part of the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 29 January 2026 as a correct record.

Attachments

	Title	Page
A↓	Minutes of Ordinary Council meeting held on 29 January 2026	19

Council MINUTES

Minutes of an ordinary meeting of the Dunedin City Council held in the Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Octagon, Dunedin on Thursday 29 January 2026, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Mayor Sophie Barker
Deputy Mayor Cr Cherry Lucas

Members

Cr John Chambers	Cr Christine Garey
Cr Doug Hall	Cr Marie Laufiso
Cr Russell Lund	Cr Mandy Mayhem
Cr Benedict Ong	Cr Andrew Simms
Cr Mickey Treadwell	Cr Lee Vandervis
Cr Steve Walker	Cr Brent Weatherall

IN ATTENDANCE

Sandy Graham (Chief Executive), Carolyn Allan (Chief Financial Officer), Scott MacLean (General Manager City Services), Nicola Morand (Manahautū - General Manager Community and Strategy), Paul Henderson (General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services), Mike Costelloe (General Manager, Arts, Culture and Economic Development), John McAndrew (Head of 3 Waters), Hayden McAuliffe (Financial Services Manager) and Jackie Harrison (Manager Governance).

Governance Support Officer Lynne Adamson

1 OPENING

Rev Greg Hughson, Dunedin Interfaith Council opened the meeting with a prayer.

2 PUBLIC FORUM

2.1 Mike Collins, CEO Business South

Mr Collins spoke in support of Enterprise Dunedin being established as a Council Controlled Organisation.

Mr Collins responded to questions.

3 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

4 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

Confirms the agenda with the following alteration:

That Item 13 – Enterprise Dunedin Review be taken before Item 7 – Committee Structure and Delegations Manual.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/002)

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arose between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** the Elected Members' Interest Register; and
- b) **Confirms** the proposed management plan for Elected Members' Interests.
- c) **Notes** the proposed management plan for the Executive Leadership Team's Interests.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/003)

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING - 11 DECEMBER 2025

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

- a) **Confirms** the public part of the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 11 December 2025 as a correct record.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/004)

REPORTS

13 ENTERPRISE DUNEDIN REVIEW

A report from Enterprise Dunedin informed Council on deliberations on Enterprise Dunedin's future governance. It drew on operational data, portfolio-specific impact assessments, and benchmarking of other New Zealand economic development agencies, and the lessons learned from similar governance changes in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and other regions.

The report evaluated two governance options for Enterprise Dunedin – the Council's economic development agency – as directed by council resolution on 12 August 2025. The options compared were:

- a) **Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO):** Create an arm's-length entity owned by Council, governed by an independent board and advised by a stakeholder group.
- b) **Enhanced In-House Model:** Retain Enterprise Dunedin as an internal unit of the Council, with some functions refined or redistributed within Council.

Summary of considerations – conversations with John Gallaher who was adamant about the CCO option and have a clear strategy and mandate. Anything short of that would not shift perception.

The Chief Executive (Sandy Graham) and General Manager, Arts, Culture & Economic Development (Mike Costelloe) advised of an update to the summary of considerations, spoke to the report and responded to questions.

During discussion Cr Christine Garey left the meeting at 9.28 am and returned at 9.31 am.

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Andrew Simms):

That the Council:

- a) **Agrees** its preferred option for consultation is to transfer Enterprise Dunedin into a standalone Council Controlled Organisation (CCO).
- b) **Requests** a report from staff for the 12 February 2026 Council meeting to establish a Transition Steering Group, with proposed Terms of Reference that should include:
 - i. membership of the group;
 - ii. authority to consider timing of consultation;
 - iii. necessary delegations to recommend consultation material back to Council; and
 - iv. any resourcing requirements.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs John Chambers, Doug Hall, Cherry Lucas, Russell Lund, Mandy Mayhem, Benedict Ong, Andrew Simms, Lee Vandervis, Steve Walker, Brent Weatherall and Mayor Sophie Barker (11).

Against: Crs Christine Garey, Marie Laufiso and Mickey Treadwell (3).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 11 votes to 3

Motion carried (CNL/2026/005)

Moved (Mayor Sophie/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for 10 minutes

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 11.07 and reconvened at 11.20 am.

7 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND DELEGATIONS MANUAL 2025

A report from Civic presented the Committee Structure and Delegations Manual 2025 for formal adoption by Council.

The report noted that changes were made to the 2023 Committee Structure and Delegations Manual to reflect the new Committee Structure, as approved at the Council meeting of 11 November 2025.

The Chief Executive (Sandy Graham), Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy) Nicola Morand and Manager Governance (Jackie Harrison) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Mandy Mayhem):

That the Council:

- a) **Adopts** the Committee Structure and Delegations Manual 2025.
- b) **Authorises** the Chief Executive to make any minor editorial changes.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/006)

8 REMUNERATION OF EXTERNAL APPOINTEES TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES POLICY

A report from Civic recommended that Council adopted a policy setting out the remuneration framework for external representatives appointed to Dunedin City Council committees and subcommittees.

The remuneration of external appointees was a matter of public interest and required transparency, consistency and alignment with statutory guidance.

The Chief Executive (Sandy Graham), Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy) Nicola Morand and Manager Governance (Jackie Harrison) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Moved (Mayor Sophie/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

Adjourns the meeting for 5 minutes.

Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 11.49 am and reconvened at 11.51 am.

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

- a) **Approves**, the Draft Remuneration of External Appointees to Council Committees Policy.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/007) with Cr Lee Vandervis recording his vote against

9 APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

A report from Civic sought approval to commence the appointment process for two new Independent Members of the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (the Committee).

The Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy) Nicola Morand and Manager Governance (Jackie Harrison) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

- a) **Approves** the appointment process outlined in the report.
- b) **Agrees** that the appointment panel would consist of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors John Chambers, Andrew Simms and Lee Vandervis; and the Chief Financial Officer.
- c) **Notes** that the appointment panel would make a recommendation to Council on the appointment of the new independent members being the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/008)

10 FINANCIAL REPORT - PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025

A report from Finance provided the financial results for the period ended 30 November 2025 and the financial position as at that date.

The Chief Financial Officer (Carolyn Allan) and Financial Services Manager (Hayden McAuliffe) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Moved (Cr Cherry Lucas/Cr Lee Vandervis):

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** the Financial Performance for the period ended 30 November 2025 and the Financial Position as at that date.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/009)

11 UPDATES TO MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026

A report from Civic advised proposed changes to the meeting schedule for 2026 approved by Council on 11 December 2025, in accordance with Clause 19(6)(a) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy) Nicola Morand and Manager Governance (Jackie Harrison) spoke to the report and responded to questions.

Moved (Mayor Sophie Barker/Cr Cherry Lucas):

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** the updates to the meeting schedule for 2026.

Motion carried (CNL/2026/010)

12 NOTICE OF MOTION - OPTIONS FOR RECOGNISING SIGNIFICANT PHILANTHROPIC AND CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

In accordance with Standing Order 26.1, the following Notice of Motion was received from Cr Benedict Ong.

Moved (Cr Benedict Ong/Cr Andrew Simms):

That the Council:

- a) **Requests** a report on options for recognising significant philanthropic and corporate contributions through conditional, non-commercial naming recognition of selected public assets (excluding residential streets), such as trails, buildings and facilities and subject to statutory, cultural, and community safeguards, and consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.
- b) **Requests** a report be completed in time for consideration as part of the development of the 10 year plan.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs Russell Lund and Benedict Ong (2).

Against: Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Cherry Lucas, Mandy Mayhem, Andrew Simms, Mickey Treadwell, Lee Vandervis, Steve Walker, Brent Weatherall and Mayor Sophie Barker (12).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared LOST by 12 votes to 2

Motion carried (CNL/2026/011)

The meeting closed at 1.06 pm

.....
MAYOR

REPORTS

NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION FEEDBACK

Department: Enterprise Dunedin

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 Enterprise Dunedin canvases feedback following city events to assess whether the events we deliver meet the needs/expectations of attendees and wider community. There was a strong public sentiment following the 2025/26 New Years Eve celebrations that the event lacked the significance warranted for the change of year. Feedback gathered indicates that our community enjoyed the different aspects of the event however overall there was a dissatisfaction rate of 61%. Comments relating to dissatisfaction included entertainment choices and other easily remediated operational elements. However, the reinstatement of fireworks was dominant amongst the feedback and requires a council discussion (see attachment and comments section).
- 2 Following this public feedback, Council should consider whether to continue with the central city activations and concert similar to that delivered for 2025/26 or whether to introduce new elements to the events schedule in addition to the concert offering.
- 3 The cost to deliver New Years Eve on behalf of the city is \$132,000 which is absorbed by costs including, security, production, and traffic management. The cost of fireworks or a light show would be an additional \$45,000, which could be accommodated within the budget envelope through a reduction in production quality and music and no secondary location for family friendly activity at an earlier timeslot.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Decides** how they would like to celebrate New Years Eve given community feedback.

BACKGROUND

- 4 Fireworks were traditionally a key feature of the city's NYE celebrations in the Octagon until 2020/21. That year, the presence of scrim around the Civic Centre and Municipal Chambers posed a fire risk, leading to the discontinuation of the display. Over the following three years, the event featured light and laser shows as an alternative. These shows received increasingly mixed reviews from the public through feedback delivered directly and via local media coverage or online commentary. Public feedback consistently mentioned the lack of fireworks in years where light and laser shows were a feature of celebrations.
- 5 At the Wednesday 30 April 2025 Council Meeting two options for the 2025/26 NYE celebration event were presented. Council was asked to decide whether to reinstate fireworks at a new

location or continue with the Octagon building projection display. Both options being roughly comparable in cost. A fireworks display based at Robin Hood Park, near the Beverly Begg Observatory was proposed to ensure public safety, while enhancing the appeal of the display. This location was chosen following investigation into the suitability of a range of locations considering safety, visibility and the impact on people, animals and surroundings. A full safety and suitability audit was conducted by a pyro technics company.

- 6 Council decided against holding either a firework display or projection mapping display during the 2025/26 celebration.

Moved (Cr Bill Acklin/Cr David Benson-Pope):

That the Council:

- a) **Reinstates** a Fireworks Display, shifting it to Robin Hood Park and providing a city-wide display.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs Bill Acklin, David Benson-Pope, Carmen Houlahan, Jim O'Malley, Brent Weatherall and Mayor Jules Radich (6).

Against: Crs Sophie Barker, Christine Garey, Kevin Gilbert, Marie Laufiso, Cherry Lucas, Mandy Mayhem, Lee Vandervis, Steve Walker and Andrew Whiley (9).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared LOST by 9 votes to 6

Motion carried (CNL/2025/101)

- 7 Staff were asked to re-imagine the celebration including options for Hogmanay style additions.

Moved (Cr Sophie Barker/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Council:

- a) **Requests** that staff investigate a re-imagination of New Years Eve for 2025/26, including an option for a Hogmanay style event and report back with costed options by 30 July 2025.

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs Sophie Barker, Christine Garey, Kevin Gilbert, Marie Laufiso, Cherry Lucas, Mandy Mayhem, Steve Walker, Andrew Whiley and Mayor Jules Radich (9).

Against: Crs Bill Acklin, David Benson-Pope, Carmen Houlahan, Jim O'Malley and Brent Weatherall (5).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 9 votes to 5

Motion carried (CNL/2025/102)

- 8 An update of planned programming was delivered to Council and noted on 26 August 2025.

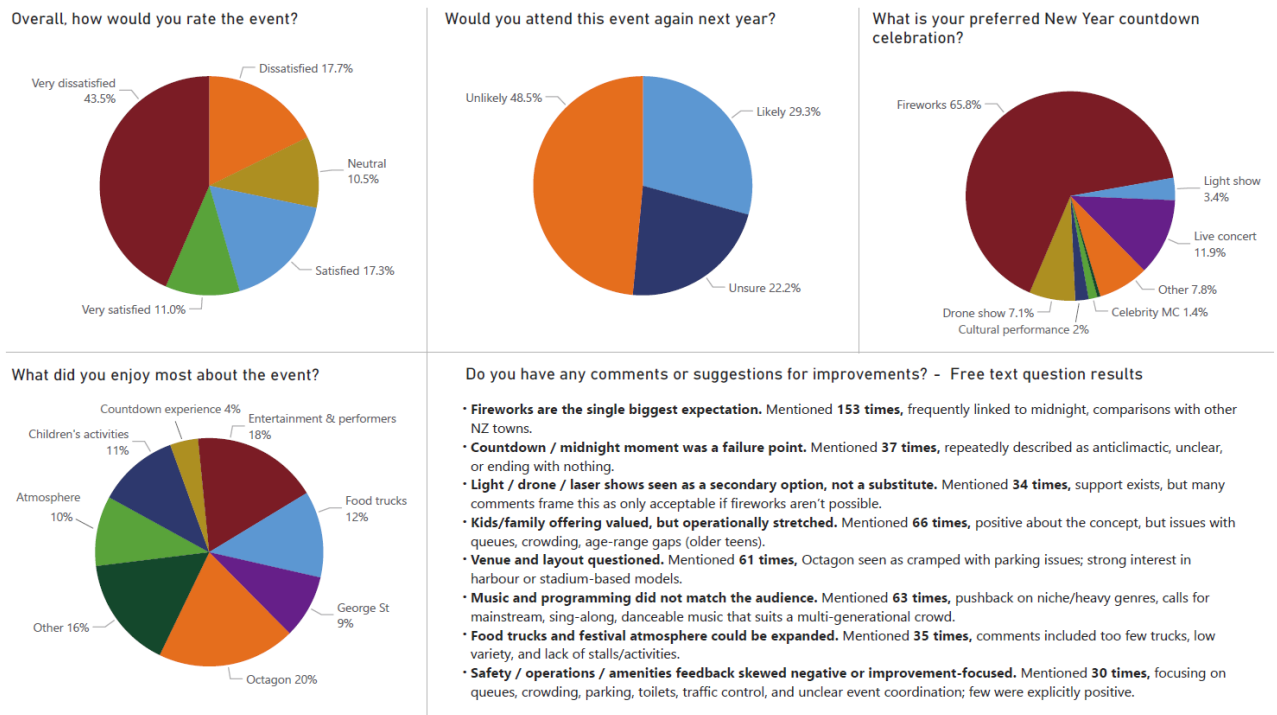
Moved (Cr Bill Acklin/Cr Kevin Gilbert):

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** the report on the NYE Celebration event 2025/26.

Motion carried (CNL/2025/250)

- 9 The 2025/26 NYE celebration took place across two key locations within the central city, creating an inclusive, vibrant experience to engage a broad cross-section of the community. A Family Zone operated on George Street from 5:00pm following sentiment around the suitability of a family event in the drinking precinct. This lively celebration hub featured a range of activities tailored for children and families. A special parade to the Octagon for a 8:00pm kids' countdown drew the audience to the Octagon Main Stage. The evening programme included a line-up of local and national talent musical acts from 8:00pm to 12:15am. The midnight countdown was marked onstage with a countdown, live bagpipers, music from the Ōtepoti All Stars and a small lighting display on stage. Roaming performers, interactive elements, diverse food offerings and visual features all added to the celebratory experience.
- 10 A staff-run public survey on the 2025/2026 celebration included responses from both attendees and non-attendees. 432 people responded to the survey, with the majority (69%) submitting responses on December 31, 2025. 61% were very dissatisfied or dissatisfied, 23% were satisfied or very satisfied.



DISCUSSION

- 11 Direction is needed on the future of Dunedin's NYE Celebrations. Planning for this event, particularly securing contractors to deliver fireworks or lightshows over this high demand period must take place in the first quarter of the year.

- 12 Feedback from the public is clear, fireworks are an expected part of NYE celebrations. Other forms of marking the change of year are enjoyable but do not have the same impact.
- 13 Robin Hood Park, near the Beverly Begg Observatory is a viable location for a fireworks display, ensuring public safety, while enhancing the appeal of the display. The higher vantage point would accommodate a larger safety exclusion zone, significantly reducing risk, while enabling a broader, city-wide display. With visibility from the Octagon and many residents' homes, the city-wide experience would encourage more people to remain in Dunedin rather than traveling to see fireworks at other locations such as Wanaka, the Catlins, Timaru or Te Anau.

OPTIONS

- 14 Option One – Reinstatement of a Fireworks Display. Reinstatement of the fireworks display, shifting it to Robin Hood Park and providing a city-wide display alongside ongoing city celebrations in the Octagon.

Advantages

- New location presents a low-risk option.
- Wider appeal for residents to celebrate NYE collectively.
- Retention of locals that might otherwise leave the city by providing high-quality fireworks display.
- Attraction of out-of-town visitors providing high-quality fireworks display combined with an Octagon activation.
- The cost for a new city-wide fireworks display can be accommodated in the current budget, as part of the Refreshed Festivals and Events Plan.

Disadvantages

- Fireworks have known risks that must be managed in conjunction with relevant contractors.

- 15 Option Two – Status Quo, Continue with city centre activations and concert. Council continues to develop the family friendly celebrations with city activations, activities and main stage concert with local and national musical acts with wide public appeal.

Advantages

- The new elements introduced for the 2025/2026 celebrations were well received and attracted a diverse range of people across all our demographics.

Disadvantages

- The opportunity for a city-wide celebration is missed, with limited appeal for members of the public not attending Octagon-based activities.
- By not acting on the public sentiment, there is a risk of losing residents and visitors over the holiday period.


NEXT STEPS

- 16 The next steps will depend on the decision that Council makes regarding their preferred option. Once confirmed, staff will manage the recommendation and deliver the required activities.

Signatories

Author:	Teresa Fogarty - Destination Manager
Authoriser:	Sian Sutton - Manager, Enterprise Dunedin Mike Costelloe - General Manager, Arts, Culture & Economic Development

Attachments

	Title	Page
A	Results of Public Survey - New Years Eve 2025.2026	33

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities. This decision promotes the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Future Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This decision fits within the Council’s key strategies, particularly the Festivals and Events Plan.

Māori Impact Statement

No known impacts.

Sustainability

No known impacts.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

No impacts.

Financial considerations

All options are budgeted.

Significance

This decision is considered a low assessment in terms of the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

A public survey was conducted by staff following the 2025/2026 NYE event

Engagement - internal

There has been no internal engagement.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no risks aside from the very low risk of the exclusion zone for the display.

Conflict of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

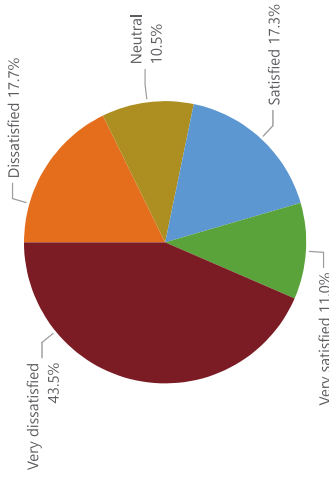
SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Community Boards

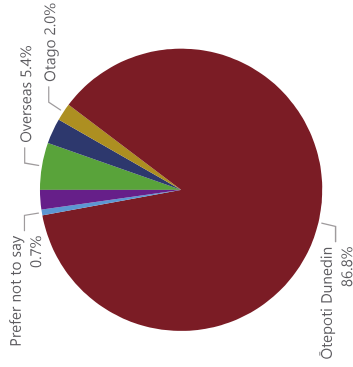
There are no implications for Community Boards.

Public Survey Results - New Years Eve Celebrations 2025/2026

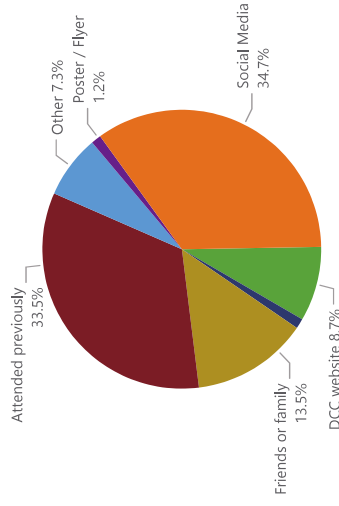
Q1. Overall, how would you rate the event?



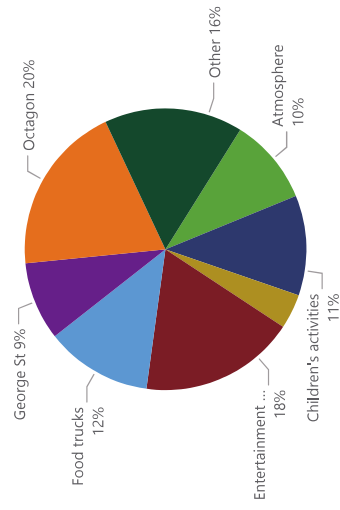
Q2. Where is your place of residence?



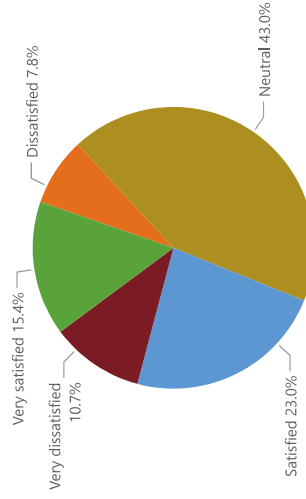
Q3. How did you find out about this event?



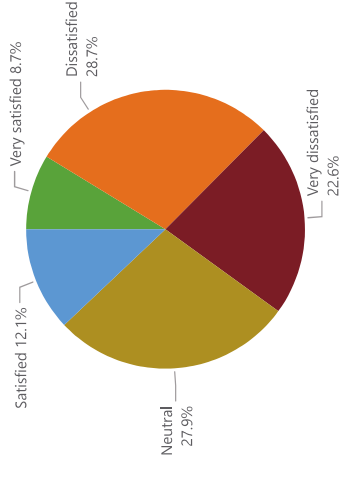
Q4. What did you enjoy most about the event?



Q5. How do you rate the Kids Celebration?



Q6. How do you rate the Event Parade?



Q7. Do you have any improvements or suggestions for next year?

- 5 food trucks to service the entire dunedin - that's terrible. Still no fireworks? Also the bands that were chosen were really underwhelming... particularly the first band that was playing death metal and screaming demonically into the microphone was extremely disgusting and embarrassing. We didn't make it to the light show because frankly, it absolutely sucked. Worst new years experience ever.
- A better band, the bands that were on were awful & the light show was very disappointing and why can everywhere else in NZ. Have fireworks but we can't? We made special trip into town for the light show with people who were down from Auckland & everyone was highly disappointed
- A better canon. The kids confetti cannon was a let down
- A better countdown moment ending with fireworks, that's what many want to bring in the new year
- A bit more thought into the bands, they were horrible. Not the right music for this event. We left early because of it, as did many others.
- A decent well know band and major fireworks
- A New Year's Eve countdown shouldn't be as boring as last night. Very disappointing. It should be lively— fireworks, not just a band. It's only once a year, a fireworks display won't hurt.
- A real countdown, fireworks, they don't necessarily need to be at the octagon, we have an amazing peninsula or the stadium. Let's be real, alcohol is kind of necessary. Just check Nelson celebration. A big stage on a central location surrounded by food and drinks with heaps of police presence, fireworks, and after the countdown music to party instead of an old violin playing sad music. This is not rocket science just look Christchurch or Nelson to inspire.
- A second face painter and more good trucks for the kids to go have dinner there.
- A visual or light show to music would create a more celebratory atmosphere
- A well organised (to ensure the safety of everyone) fireworks display. And an earlier lightshow/countdown for kids. This will attract people to come to Dunedin rather than leaving for the smaller towns
- Actual fireworks
- actual fireworks?? over the harbour or something
- Actually have fireworks
- add some action
- Advertise it more! Missed the entire event.
- All good
- Also the music at the stage at the Octagkn was a bit too loud for kids.
- An actual celebration rather than some live music, could take notes from every other city
- As a European I would love to see the whole octagon be a drinking zone. It's weird to me that people drinking need to be behind gates. There were awesome vibes, and everyone was having a good time. You can allow drinks and still have a family friendly event.
- As one of the fairies who was employed by the DCC to march in the "parade" and lead the children with their wands, the pipe band stormed ahead of us and didn't even give us a chance to walk from the stage to the pipe band; it didn't feel like a parade. We just walked- had to create the sense of comradesy ourselves for the kids by creating a conga line - far behind the pipe band
- At least something at midnight, this light show was hyped up and apart from a cheap projector on stage, no one saw anything
- Band wasn't great but as it was only by chance I was there it didn't phase me.
- Bands that reflect the general population and the age that the event attracts. The punk band was not suited to this event at all
- Better bands
- Better food
- Better light show or bring back fireworks
- Better music that caters for all ages - some good local bands
- Bring back fire works. Have a band that the majority likes, as opposed to the minority. This year was terrible. Never been to a worse celebration. Pounawea is so much better.
- Bring back fireworks
- Bring back Fireworks barge in the harbour and the cannon. Keep the Octagon party and live music stage. Food vendors on princes and George streets.
- Bring back fireworks even if it's like they use to do on the Harbour
- Bring back fireworks over the harbour
- bring back fireworks!!!
- Bring back fireworks!!! We have the lamest new years celebrations in NZ ever. It used to be amazing when there was fireworks. Every other council around the world can safely and effectively organize a display, why not Dunedin?
- Bring back fireworks. Provide music that is better suited for the environment. Local artists are fine so long as they are quality.
- Bring back fireworks: the past couple of years, the new year's celebrations have been boring and uneventful. More should be done to celebrate the new year in my opinion. fireworks, confetti dropped out of windows, stuff like that. I would rather see that. i didn't even bother to say til midnight, there was barely anything to do besides eat food and listen to music. more events. get the community more together and involved.
- Bring back light show and fireworks
- Bring back the cannon and fireworks.
- Bring back the cannon at midnight, give the food trucks a reduced rate so more will come, more entertainment booked (talk to the midwinter carnival organisers), fireworks or a drone show
- Bring back the fireworks
- Bring back the fireworks display at midnight like the rest of the country (as Dunedin Council always bring new charges in and claim it's in line with the rest of the country councils).
- Bring back the fireworks or something that can replicate it. Actually engage & take the Dunedin community people's ideas into consideration. Sad to see the NVE looking worse & uneventful each year.
- Bring back the fireworks please, that'll draw the crowds in better - use some of our rate payers money for enjoyment
- Bring the fireworks back!
- Bring the fireworks back. Even if they are on the water as was done once maybe twice
- Bring the rolling stone
- Can we just please do what everyone else does - Te Anau has 10 minutes of fireworks. Not doing this reinforces the idea that Dunedin is being the times and broke.
- Cancel the event. Total waste of money
- Confetti

Q7. Continued

- Change the new year celebration somewhere where more people can fit in. No parking problem and have fireworks to cheer. My firework ideal location is Otago peninsula where people. An pake around protsmouth drive and around peninsula and enjoy fireworks.
- Countdown was late, then straight back to the band. no fireworks, no light show. Nothing to celebrate. Was a huge disappointment
- Create an atmosphere. Every element was half-arsed and disappointing. The bands were terrible choices for new years, the food trucks were average, and the light installation was apathetic attempt. Just put in a little bit of effort.
- Deaf Raccoon, the swearing was terrible.
- Definitely to make it more memorable.
- Did not visit George st or see parade but no n/a option. Live music should start earlier for us old folk adults and have fun
- Didn't even know there was a kids thing, not helpful when you don't have kids and just want to go out with
- Do it at the waterfront with fireworks
- Do something to show u care
- don't have anything Dunedin was an embarrassment other regions do better would rather go watch them
- Double the face painters. More food options, leave the meridian open to access toilets
- Drone show , harbour basin. Large viewing area. Almost a one off cost
- Dunedin is extremely boring at xmas no decorations just a tree that could fo with a upgrade no fireworks on new years hard for people to park this is part of the reason people leave and go elsewhere for celebrations
- Dunedin is so dull now. this city is dying with its lack of entertainment
- Dunedin is the only city in NZ to have such a dismal celebration of the New Year. The 'celebration' (if you can call it that) this year was a joke. I have nothing positive to say about it. Other cities and towns (smaller than our city!) have two fireworks displays (earlier at about 9 and at midnight) while Dunedin has...? What a disappointment for our city.
- Dunedin used be great on NYE but now it's pathetic
- Everything great
- Everything! The kids event was, as our 6yr old said" the most boring thing he has been to". From my pov it seemed to be aimed at 3-5 yr old girls. Music was kindy stuff. Glitter Canon just fizzled up into the air. The parade (of only 4 musicians) led to a void as the DJ wasn't on the stage , helping hype or create a vibe , he was tucked away at the side, behind a curtain. I was very disappointed. Plus no fireworks 🙄 in the Octagon for adults. Watching other centre's events just reinforced how pathetic Dunedins event was, even the tiny town of Te Anau had fireworks!! Up your game DCC: !!
- Everything. It was not great.
- Family music from bands
- Fantastic against the roof and then it doesn't matter if it rains... Or Fireworks on the harbour
- Festive spirit and be just like other towns and cities have fireworks.
- Fire works
- Fire works like all other towns in nz
- Fire works, light show,
- Fire works. Put some money into it instead of being a waste of time
- Firecrackers show or lighting show
- Firework. More food trucks more entertainment
- Fireworks
- Fireworks
- Fireworks
- Fireworks
- Fireworks
- Fireworks
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- Fireworks
- Fireworks
- Fireworks
- FIREWORKS
- Fireworks
- Fireworks
- Fireworks
- FIREWORKS
- Fireworks !!!!!
- Fireworks , a big name band , make it something that would draw visitors to the city and locals out of their homes. why can't we make Dunedin a destination?
- Fireworks and drone show together
- Fireworks and may be light show
- FIREWORKS at midnight
- Fireworks at midnight
- Fireworks at midnight or a drone show
- Fireworks at the harbour
- Fireworks display
- Fireworks display or some sort of a display when it comes to 12am
- Fireworks display, more catering for adults
- Fireworks display. It would bring more people in and avoid people doing their own
- Fireworks from a barge in the harbour basin .u only have to look at Chinese new year celebrations and take note how they run a good event and draw the crowds
- Fireworks from the harbour. People in all other centres celebrate new years with fire works. This could be done in the harbour from a pontoon like it used to be.
- Fireworks honestly without them it's bad
- Fireworks in a better location (maybe a barge in the harbour). Not playing death metal music at 10pm. Having bands that people sing along to. Having a proper countdown.
- Fireworks in the harbour
- Fireworks like every other place in nz. Put a bit of effort in to get people out
- Fireworks like the rest of New Zealand

Q7. Continued

- Fireworks on the harbour
- Fireworks on the harbour like what happened during the 150th and councillors waking up and stop being in denial while putting their political ideology away for 5 minutes. If other cities can have fireworks why not Dunedin? Wake up DCC!
- Fireworks or at least a high quality light show
- Fireworks or laser lights – something to draw people in. A piper at midnight just isn't enough to bring people down
- Fireworks over the harbour if the Octagon isn't a safe place to have them
- Fireworks over the harbour. Our Harbourside is woefully under-utilised and underdeveloped. It would be great to see more community events and pedestrian friendly businesses popping up there.
- Fireworks please
- Fireworks please – it will help to attract visitors into our city that is otherwise quiet this time of year
- Fireworks please!
- Fireworks show
- Fireworks were not as good as they used to be on the harbour
- Fireworks will go better and get more people going to it was pretty average like the last few years
- Fireworks would be well received. I had a great night without them but the countdown on the screen with nothing afterwards is the biggest area for improvement. The light show from previous years is better than nothing but fireworks can hopefully be done in a way that's safe. Maybe a combination of fireworks with a video projection countdown onto St Paul's at the same time (given the light display projected onto St Paul's for Midwinter Carnival worked well)
- FIREWORKS!
- Fireworks! Every other city, and many towns - Te Anau, Timaru, etc have fireworks, so why can't Dunedin?!? Come on council!
- FIREWORKS! LEARN FROM THE CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS, DOESNT HAVETO BE FANCY BUT Something WOULD BE GREAT
- Fireworks!!!
- Fireworks!!!
- Fireworks!!! And let the bars play music. I want to dance in a bar with music and a drink. I did not enjoy the music in the octagon and you can't drink in the octagon. Other cities do it so well and dunedin just misses the mark yet again.
- Fireworks, a better band and huge variety of stallholders. Bring the vibes Dunedin City Council! You guys suck!
- Fireworks, food trucks, stalls
- Fireworks, food vendors, entertainment
- Fireworks, light show, have some kind of fun atmosphere. NYE in Dunedin USED to be fun. Now it's dull, boring, and people go anywhere else, including Timaru, to escape the monotony of our celebration.
- Fireworks, more food venues for teenagers
- Fireworks, more variety of food trucks and entertainment
- Fireworks.
- Fireworks.
- Fireworks. NOT a light display.
- Fireworks. All we want is a bagpiper playing auld lang syne, a countdown, a cheer and fireworks, its not hard. Bring back the cannon too
- Fireworks. Put things in place for this to be a safe event for fireworks to happen. Maybe you might need to change the venue for the New Year's Eve fireworks display if it's not safe in the Octagon. Think outside of the Octagon. Have more children friendly areas for kids especially in the Octagon as there are quite a few who are drunk as. Make it a family enjoyable environment.
- Fireworks. The general mood was of boredom and wanting more
- FIREWORKSSSSS!
- For a family event you couldn't have picked two of the worst bands. A poor representation of kiwi musicians. People were leaving.
- Fun family fireworks Happy New Year
- Fireworks
- Go back to how it was shut off portsmouth Dr and have fireworks in the middle of the Harbour
- Good bands - someone famous be great
- Have a spectacle to usher in the new year. I know money is tight but when you cut costs to the point that you lose many people's highlight of the night you drive people elsewhere. When people aren't in Dunedin for new years, a time when people are willing to open their wallets for a treat. DUNEDIN BUSINESSES LOSE CUSTOMERS.
- Have fire works and don't advertise as a light show just to not have one
- Have fireworks on a barge on the Harbour like in 2000 surely that's safe enough? Close off portsmouth drive, have entertainment and food trucks and bands but most importantly fireworks! That's the whole point of NYE!
- Have it at the stadium with a light show and a count down
- Have more face painters. The line really long and taking over an hour to get painted.
- Having new years in the stadium would be amazing with music, food stalls a light show or even illuminate light and sound, (since we weren't allowed it last year at the gardens,) its embarrassing that every other town could accommodate it, but not dunners.
- Hope we can come back
- How about a fireworks display on the wharf, which has been done before and was well received, doesn't have to be large
- I came from out of town with friends and assumed there were fireworks like every other city in the world - very disappointed there wasn't. I won't be back again for new years.
- I chose middle rankings for the kids and parade as didn't see those, arrived later.
- I didn't know it was on. But I'm not the target audience. My preference is for low key, family friendly event. With bands and activities. Sponsor local bands in a stage rather than crazy fireworks or even a massive light show.
- I enjoyed the entertainment for children but honestly the amount of face painters for the size of the queue was ridiculous! Could you please get a few more people next time as no child should have to wait over an hour for a bit of face paint.
- I have travelled extensively to New Zealand's other cities, on the North and South Island, over the last 6 weeks and their decorations have been great. Dunedin's decorations were few and far between! The Christmas Tree in the Octagon was drab, faded decorations that have been used year after year and seen better days, truly shocking.
- I hope our rate payers funds did not pay them.

Q7. Continued

- I think it should be moved to the Stadium, light show would look
- I suggest incorporating chants into the kid march so that there is more noise, energy and inclusivity. I also think providing clappers, cowbells or maracas to the kids and audience members would make it more lively! I thought the DJ was fun, but that because it was right when the kids had arrived it would have been fun if the DJ had played more kids music that they could dance to, like the Macarena, or a lightly EDM version of the Bluey intro or BabyShark. I also think that maybe providing more creative placemaking, like bean bags or yard games could make the event more family friendly.
- I think you need to get back to the new years of the past. Keep the music more mainstream and cater to the masses. Perhaps pay for an act that has some kind of following. Supporting youth is great but the genres of music were not suitable in a new years format. It's not a music festival. You need catchy music that everyone knows and perhaps feature local talent within in this main band.
- I thought there would be fireworks- can you listen to your community and get this sorted!!!
- I won't be going again
- If there would be no fireworks, the countdown could've been more emphasized. Flashing the countdown to the buildings through lights? Anything that could make the count down social media worthy (this would be a good advertisement for Dunedin as well)
- Im here currently, the kids activities are great. We appreciated the free face painting however theres only one person painting. We got here at 5pm and only just got done at 6pm. We'd recommend more painters to improve the experience as we don't much have much time with younger children needing to go to bed earlier.
- Improve everything
- Improve the countdown, actually have something happen to signify the year changing
- Instead of large end band for long set, have 2 smaller bands sharing the last hour. Gives more variety.
- It wasn't clear about whether the confetti canon was for the kids or if it was for later at midnight. On the Rosalind post it made it sound like you should then walk up to see to the cannons.
- It would be nice to welcome the new year with fireworks, if really not possible, the light show from the previous years were quite entertaining. Last night was absolutely disappointing.
- Keep the kids section on George st. away from the bars.
- Kids area was so squished it made it hard for little ones to see anything. They hardly had space to move or dance. The countdown for midnight was anticlimactic with nothing really happening at 12!
- Kids music and concert, some activities before the countdown that can be more fun. With reasonable duration, not too fast.
- Laser show Forsyth barrel would be good
- Last year's event was so short and boring that my family returned home to Sydney before NYE this year. It will take something special to persuade them to stay here. This years planned programme felt like an exercise in futility. When there were fireworks we didnt always go into the Octagon but instead would celebrate at home and then walk out, rain or moonshine, to view the display from different places overlooking the city centre. It was fun, accommodated several ages and a safe activity. Nothing remotely like that occurs now and it feels like a big boring yawn.
- Light show or drone show
- Light show, fireworks something to mark new year.
- LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE and stop being a hypocrite
- Live stream for those who cannot get to the octagon
- Live music, food stalls that the vendors can afford to pay for, proper countdown, fireworks, bring it back to the way it use to be.
- Love the idea of the children's activities but needs more staff in interactive activities
- Love to see more events on George streets. The kids event was great, and made the shopping streets actually more pleasant as cars weren't using it as a thoroughfare. A monthly event with food trucks on the mall block would be cool and helps local businesses as well.
- Loved the kids entertainment! Haven't seen any other city do this on any news/media
- Loved the no fireworks ir canon. Perhaps drones if cost effective.
- Make it a proper celebration like what we do for Chinese New Year.
- Make it an event not a joke heavy metal bands for family's???
- Make it clear when the countdown is on and actually do something on new years not red stagelights lighting up the octagon
- Make New Year special again and the city will improve.
- Making it an exciting engaging atmosphere to be a part of. It used to be (≈10 years ago) an awesome experience and highlight of the year... however as soon as a couple of people have complained, it seems to have fallen way down hill. Yes I understand that we have pets and want to be responsible owners. And yes, it makes a loud noise. But the celebration only happens once a year and most people enjoy that experience with all the bells and whistles.
- Many people from Dunedin go elsewhere for the fireworks , so would be good to bring them back even if you light them at the wharf for safety reasons
- Maybe ask if a fund could be set up for a fireworks display from a 'bargie' in the upper harbour. That way everyone doesn't have to crowd into the octagon. Parking is a nightmare when events are on. C'mon Dunedin, think BIC 🇳🇿 make it so any vantage point in the city can enjoy & people don't have to drive if they don't want to.
- Maybe fireworks could be let of over the harbour basin then u can view it from most places
- Maybe look to how other cities celebrate, and build something memorable rather than something that feels last minute and thrown together just because you have to
- Maybe some more entertainment for the slightly older kids. I attended with my 10 7 and 4 yearold and the 10 year old found there wasn't much they were into
- Maybe something more for the kids early on. I was quite surprised when we arrived and it was just a small stage, face painting and wand activity.
- More engaging activities, hourly events for each hour leading up to midnight
- More face painters
- More face painters
- More face painters!
- More face painters.
- More face painters, we loved the face painting, but I think we spend nearly the whole night in the queue 🤦🏻
- More fireworks
- More food options at the kids area.
- More food trucks

Q7. Continued

- More food trucks
- More food trucks, there was 4-5 and they all had similar foods which felt pointless.
- More food trucks and more activities for children
- More food trucks and variety of food trucks. Have music that's not punk/rock it wasn't good
- More food trucks, a beer garden for adults, fire works for the countdown
- More food trucks, more face painters maybe pippity pop or a bouncy castle? The concert and countdown were good. Somethings at the stadium for kids would be nice.
- More food trucks, more face painters, just more things to do
- More food vendors, better advertising, fireworks and maybe a better location.
- More kids stuff for that caters to a wider age range
- More people painting faces please do children,
- More seating options would be appreciated. You have to stand for a long time during the course of the night. Finally, it's not NYE without pyrotechnics!
- More seating would have been great. Most people just sitting on the pavers on George street with their kids.
- More stalls
- More than one face painter -line was very long
- More than one face painter...over 40 kids queuing at one point, a lot missed out after waiting forever as the parade left.
- More variety of food trucks. The food choices were very lacking (only 5 trucks, 4 selling some variety of burgers and chips and the other vegetarian).
- More variety of music. Maybe some reggae
- Move away from the Octagon, maybe Logan Park ,
- Move it and have fireworks over the Harbour
- My main disappointment is that there was so much down time and event staff didn't know what the order of events were to be. The cannon could hardly be called that. A quick fizz and it was over. No one knew where the cannon was to be set off- George Street or Octagon. The parade was a parade of " the people" - that's fine but no one knew that!!! The whole event needed tighter co ordination and clear order of events/ timing. The haphazardness led to disappointment.
- Need to incorporate better adult music - needs to be middle of road
- Needs to include mainstream music covers - still live and some original music is fine but punk music is not the go at 9pm.
- New dj. The stage away from the bars. Get a music promoter to book and promote the music aspect. A good start with most of the line-up this year. Have a draw a card. Let me book it
- No heavy metal bands. I felt so bad for all the kids that were there who had to block their ears.. need fire works! We are the only city in NZ that has the worst new years celebrations.
- No. I think we've missed some of it so a bit hard to comment too much. But has a nice atmosphere
- Not having it in the Octagon, parking is awful and unappealing. It's too small and cramped. There should be fireworks at the harbour instead
- Party atmosphere. The whole town had no Christmas feel to it and certainly wouldn't have thought it was New Years Eve.
- NYE being only one example. The fireworks- Lazer show- to a countdown. Confetti canon- seriously?! Get a grip!!! Pathetic amount of food trucks and music events. Embarrassing to have people visit and ask them to join NY celebrations. Wasted opportunity to generate income, tourism and a city that has some atmosphere and something going on.
- Or a light show
- Other Cities make a real effort. Dunedin, quiet Simply, sucks! No proper Christmas Decorations in George St, and don't get me started on that NYE debacle. Everyone who had a hand at organising this S/Show needs sacking! Absolutely terrible organisation. No Canon, No Light Show, No Confetti bombs. I could go on but won't waste my breath. DO BETTER!
- People miss the fireworks, it doesn't have to be off the buildings we have a massive warf area that would make it seable for a large part of Dunedin not just the octagon
- Performers for a wider range of ages. It seemed to be focused on younger children.
- Play music people know! So many people turned up and then the atmosphere died as no one knew the music to dance to or get the excitement up. I can't believe you didn't even have a real piper or pipe band for the countdown or the song. The band was so awkward about the music at midnight and just sort of stood there while auld langsyne played. The MC didn't encourage anyone to sing, and then the MC made a mother in law'joke' about his mother flying from Scotland to see that. Then they started playing something else no one knew and people just left. I was very disappointed again.
- Play music people know, so they can have a good time- get a covers band. You don't need the kids area at George St, have it all in the Octagon. We couldn't get close to the kids stage. it was too low and couldn't see or hear.
- Please please do fireworks again
- Please think more about the type of music hired for this event. This is a multi generational event and finding the balance to create a good night for all is essential. This year the balance wasn't there. The first 3 bands while talented in their genre did not create the "New Year vibe "that the final band managed to pull together.
- Public fireworks display. It makes new years!
- Remove weeds have alcohol stalls in the octagon
- Sack the entire events team They have proven over many years this is far to hard for them todo effectively
- Save the money from the Albany cycleway so Dunedin rate payers can have a new years celebration like the rest of NZ...so sad
- Seek Help incited hate referring to the Nazi regime.
- S***
- Should have a firework display like the other cities or a better light show.
- Stream live countdown from Auckland Attract more tourists for new year with seasonal flights in this Christmas period - a lot of aussies want to visit during the Christmas new year period particularly from Adelaide ;)
- Take a good hard look at other city's around the world not just NZ. You said you wanted to make Dunedin a tourist destination well pull your fingers out and do something. We are leaving Dunedin after 20yrs here as it's gone backwards and now a nothing city
- Target should be revenue not driving people to spend elsewhere
- Terrible choice of bands.
- The deterioration of Dunedin events in the last few years is diabolic.

RESIDENTS' OPINION SURVEY QUARTERLY UPDATE: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

Department: Corporate Policy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This report provides a summary of the Residents' Opinion Survey (ROS) quarterly results (the Quarterly results) for Quarter Two 2025/2026 (October-December 2025), as detailed in Attachment A.
- 2 The Quarterly results show a comparison between the first quarter of the financial year (July-September 2025), and the second quarter of the year (October-December 2025).
- 3 The Quarterly results show quarter-on-quarter changes in:
 - residents' overall satisfaction and dissatisfaction with ten (10) Dunedin City Council (DCC) facilities, services, and infrastructure areas.

residents' overall satisfaction with five (5) aspects of the DCC and elected members (the Council).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** the Residents' Opinion Survey quarterly results for the period of October-December 2025 (Quarter Two 2025/26).

BACKGROUND

- 4 The DCC utilises the ROS as a measurement tool aiming at collecting statistically reliable results on residents' satisfaction with the DCC services and facilities and their perceptions of the Council's performance. It has been commissioned by the DCC every year since 1994 in varying forms and provides an annual snapshot to the Council.
- 5 On 13 February 2023, the Strategy, Planning, and Engagement Committee (the Committee) requested the addition of quarterly updates to the ROS. The Quarterly results have been prepared by the supplier in consultation with Corporate Policy and have been delivered regularly since then.
- 6 Enlighten Me Research have supplied the ROS results to the DCC since June 2025.

- 17 'Statistically significant' means a result is not likely due to a random chance in sampling and is likely due to some factor of interest (for example, a meaningful change that requires attention).
- 18 There is a strong relationship between determining what is statistically significant, the sample size and margin of error. The bigger the sample, the smaller the margin of error (uncertainty about results). In a large sample size, a small percentage change could be deemed as significant because the level of uncertainty (margin of error) is small. The change (even if it is small) is deemed significant as the change is likely due to a factor of interest. This is particularly notable in this quarter.
- 19 In a smaller sample size, a large change may fail to be deemed significant due to a greater level of uncertainty.

Findings of Quarter Two

- 20 There were two areas with statistically significant changes to overall satisfaction in this quarter. Within facilities and services: Sport and recreation facilities, and within the DCC and elected members: Performance of Community Board members.

Overall satisfaction with facilities and service areas:

- 21 The level of satisfaction with 'Sport and recreation facilities' has significantly increased from 73% to 82%. This area includes
- Moana Pool
 - Te Puna o Whakaehu
 - St Clair Salt Water Pool
 - Port Chalmers Pool
 - Dunedin Ice Stadium
 - Edgar Sports Centre
 - Forsyth Barr Stadium

- 22 Although the analysis and reporting of quarterly data provided by the supplier is not set up to examine to which facilities this significant change is attributed, the disaggregated accumulative results for each facility indicate that Moana Pool and Te Puna o Whakaehu experienced the highest increases in satisfaction.

Overall satisfaction with the DCC and elected members:

- 23 The level of satisfaction with 'Performance of Community Board Members' has significantly increased from 24% to 40%.

OPTIONS

THERE ARE NO OPTIONS AS THIS REPORT FOR NOTING ONLY.NEXT STEPS

Staff will work with EnlightenMe Research to provide Council with the next quarterly results (Quarter Three).

Signatories

Author:	Nadia Wesley-Smith - Corporate Policy Manager
Authoriser:	Nicola Morand - Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy)

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	DCC Residents' Opinion Survey - Quarterly Tables October-December 2025	53

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Waters Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated Transport Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and Recreation Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The ROS contributes to all aspects of the strategic framework as it gauges residents’ opinions on the DCC facilities, services, and infrastructure; overall performance; and perceptions of Ōtepoti Dunedin.

Māori Impact Statement

The 2025/26 ROS does not qualify for Māori descent electoral roll data under section 112 of the Electoral Act 1993. This data would enable more accurate representation of Māori in the ROS through targeted sampling. Where response rates are not proportional to the Ōtepoti population for Māori the results are weighted to known population distributions based on the 2023 Census data to reduce sample bias.

Sustainability

The ROS asks about residents’ perceptions of Ōtepoti Dunedin as a sustainable city, and whether the DCC is a leader in encouraging the development of a sustainable city.

Zero carbon

The ROS has no direct impact on the city-wide and DCC emissions, as greenhouse gas emissions are likely to stay the same. In procuring and awarding the new supplier, the DCC Procurement Emissions Standards Guidance was applied.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

One of the objectives of the ROS is to gauge the extent to which Council is meeting its 9 year and annual plan objectives. The ROS asks about residents’ satisfaction with the ‘value for money’ of the services provided by the DCC.

Financial considerations

Significance

The significance of this report is low in terms of Council’s Significance and Engagement policy, as it is for noting only

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Engagement – external

The ROS is a form of external engagement that allows the DCC to create community-informed improvements.

Engagement - internal

Reporting of ROS results will be considered as part of future work on non-financial reporting, levels of services, and community-informed feedback.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

No risks identified

Conflict of Interest

Community Boards

The survey includes questions relating to the performance of Community Boards, ROS result breakdowns are available at a community level, which includes Community Board areas.

PLANNING BILL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BILL - SUBMISSION

Department: City Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The Government is implementing resource management reform through a comprehensive multi-stage process designed to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).
- 2 On 9 December 2025, the Government released the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill for public submissions. The Dunedin City Council's (DCC's) draft submission focuses primarily on the Planning Bill, as this is the principal piece of legislation through which the DCC would work to deliver its resource management functions under the new system. However, the submission also touches on broader themes that apply to both Bills and the resource management system overall.
- 3 This report seeks approval of the draft submission from the DCC to the Environment Select Committee on the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill. The draft submission is Attachment A.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Approves** the draft Dunedin City Council submission on the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill, with any amendments requested, to the Environment Select Committee.
- b) **Authorises** the Chief Executive to make any minor editorial amendments to submission.
- c) **Notes** that the Mayor or delegate will speak to any hearings in regard to this submission.

BACKGROUND

- 4 In March 2025, the Government announced that the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) would be replaced with two new pieces of legislation: a Natural Environment Act – focused on managing the natural environment; and a Planning Act – focused on planning to enable development and infrastructure.
- 5 The two new Bills were introduced to Parliament on 9 December 2025, and are open for submissions until 13 February 2026. The Government is intending to pass these into law around mid-2026.

- 6 The Bills are part of several changes the Government is making to the resource management framework, that the DCC has submitted on. On 30 July 2025, Council approved a DCC submission to the Ministry for the Environment on three packages of national direction on resource management. These related to Infrastructure and Development, the Primary Sector, and Freshwater. The first tranche of national direction resulting from this consultation was released in December 2025, with another tranche expected in early 2026.
- 7 On 12 August 2025, Council also approved a DCC submission to the Ministry for the Environment and Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on the Going for Housing Growth programme. This programme is part of the Government's plan to tackle New Zealand's housing shortage and will be implemented through the new resource management system.
- 8 The new resource management legislation narrows the scope of the resource management system and the effects it controls. It has the enjoyment of private property rights as its guiding principle.
- 9 Under the new resource management system, there will be a single combined plan per region which will consist of the following chapters:
 - a) A regional spatial plan (prepared under the Planning Act and developed collaboratively by all councils in a region)
 - b) Land-use plans for each district or city (prepared under the Planning Act and developed by city or district councils)
 - c) The natural environment plan for each region (prepared under the Natural Environment Act developed by regional councils)
- 10 The regional spatial plan will provide strategic direction for growth and infrastructure and enable strategic integration of decision-making between the Planning and Natural Environment Acts. The land-use plans will enable the use and development of land, while regulating adverse effects. The natural environment plan will set out how the effects of the use of natural resources in that region are managed, including managing within environmental limits.
- 11 Under the new system, there will be a much stronger emphasis on national direction and consistency. Each of the Acts will have its own set of 'national instruments' – which will include national policy direction and national standards.
- 12 Land-use and natural environment plans must implement the national instruments and regional spatial plans. Much of the plan content will be standardised; however, there will be some flexibility to include bespoke or customised rules to suit the local context.

DISCUSSION

- 13 The DCC's draft submission has been prepared on behalf of the DCC to reflect the experience of staff in delivering resource management functions, councillors' experience as hearing commissioners, and the views of council members. Staff members from a range of departments across the DCC have been involved with the drafting of this submission.
- 14 The submission covers several key topics and sub-topics. For each topic, the submission identifies which aspects of the Bill are supported, and any potential issues and concerns. Where

Option Two – Status Quo – Do not approve the Dunedin City Council submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill

20 Under this option, Council does not approve the draft DCC submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill to the Environment Select Committee.

Advantages

- There are no identified advantages for this option.

Disadvantages

- Missed opportunity to participate in the Government’s engagement on the new resource management system.


NEXT STEPS

- 21 If approved, DCC staff will make any requested amendments and then organise for the submission to be sent to the Environment Select Committee by 13 February 2026.
- 22 City Development will continue its preparatory work in advance of the new resource management system being enacted.

Signatories

Author:	Bede Morrissey - Policy Planner Dr Anna Johnson - Manager City Development
Authoriser:	David Ward - General Manager, 3 Waters, Property and Urban Development

Attachments

	Title	Page
	DCC Submission on the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill	61

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf, of communities. This decision also promotes the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Waters Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated Transport Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and Recreation Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Planning Bill is also relevant to the DCC's Te Taki Haruru — Māori Strategic Framework, the Housing Implementation Plan, and Zero Carbon Policy.

Māori Impact Statement

The DCC's Te Taki Haruru — Māori Strategic Framework includes the principle of Autaketake and its values of tapu and noa. Its key directions include: communities, resources and customary practices are protected through responsible regulatory measures and processes, and that we are guided by tikaka and kawa (protocol) for the wellbeing of whānau and wider community.

The DCC submission includes a discussion on the role of Māori in the new resource management system. This has been drafted by staff from the DCC's Mana Ruruku (Māori Partnerships team).

Sustainability

There are no direct implications for sustainability from this submission. However, the resource management reforms themselves will likely have significant implications for sustainability and emissions.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no direct implications to the LTP / Annual Plan / Financial Strategy or Infrastructure Strategy from this submission. However, the resource management reforms themselves are likely to have significant ramifications for these documents.

Financial considerations

There are no financial implications from this submission directly. However, the resource management reforms themselves may have significant financial implications.

Significance

This decision is considered low in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

There has been no external engagement.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Engagement - internal

The submission has been prepared by the DCC’s City Development department, with input from Resource Consents, Legal, Mana Ruruku, Waste, and Transportation .

Significant elements of the submission content have been based on the DCC’s previous Going for Housing Growth submission, which included input from the DCC’s 3 Waters, Transport, Housing, Mana Ruruku, Parks and Recreation, Corporate Policy, Zero Carbon, and Finance teams.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no identified risks.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest.

Community Boards

There are no specific implications identified for Community Boards.

13 February 2026

Committee Secretariat
Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: En.Legislation@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou

SUBMISSION ON THE PLANNING BILL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BILL

The Dunedin City Council (DCC) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill, part of the wider resource management reforms aimed at replacing the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991.

The DCC acknowledges that replacing the RMA is a significant undertaking, and has a keen interest in RMA reforms, as these will fundamentally change the way in which local government delivers resource management functions across New Zealand.

This submission has been prepared on behalf of the DCC to reflect the experience of staff in delivering resource management functions, councillors' experience as hearing commissioners, and the views of council members. Staff from a range of departments across the DCC have been involved with the drafting of this submission, and the comments in this submission reflect the recent experiences of staff in developing the Dunedin City Second Generation District Plan (2GP), several variations and plan changes to the 2GP, and the more recent development of the Future Development Strategy (FDS). Our submission also includes feedback specific to the local context of Ōtepoti Dunedin (Dunedin).

This submission focuses primarily on the Planning Bill (the Bill), as this is the principal piece of legislation through which the DCC would work to deliver its resource management functions. However, the submission also touches on broader themes that apply to both Bills and the resource management system overall.

1 INTRODUCTION

1. Dunedin City Council (DCC) recognises that change is needed within the resource management system and acknowledges the scale and complexity of reform. DCC supports key elements of the proposed system – particularly a strengthened role for spatial planning and clearer national direction – where these improve coordination, provide certainty, and enable more consistent approaches to genuinely nationwide issues.
2. However, DCC considers several aspects of the current proposals create significant governance, delivery and cost risks for local government and communities. These risks are substantial enough that, without amendment, they may undermine both the effectiveness and affordability of the new system.
3. DCC’s key concerns are:
 - **Regulatory relief:** The proposed regime would impose significant, uncertain and potentially unquantifiable financial liabilities and resourcing demands on councils, which conflicts with the Government’s stated intention to reduce rates and the proposed rates-capping policy. DCC recommends these provisions be removed or, if retained, accompanied by clear funding mechanisms and amendments to ensure the regime is workable and fair.
 - **Transition sequencing, timeframes and implementation funding:** The proposed timeframes and sequencing are not realistic for producing high-quality spatial plans and land-use plans, particularly while national direction, standards and methodologies are still being developed. Rushed implementation increases the likelihood of rework, dispute, and poor outcomes, and creates immediate pressure on council budgets that may not be provided for in Long Term Plans (LTPs).
 - **Local democratic decision-making and public participation:** DCC supports national consistency where appropriate but does not support a model that removes local policy judgement and reduces local government to implementing centrally determined settings regardless of local evidence, constraints, and trade-offs. National direction and standardised provisions must include sufficient flexibility to reflect genuine variations between places.
 - **Affordability and deliverability of infrastructure and the cost of growth:** The new system must explicitly enable growth to be sequenced and directed in a way that is infrastructure-efficient and financially sustainable for communities. Without clear ability to consider infrastructure affordability, funding pathways, and long-term operational implications, councils risk being pushed toward inefficient servicing decisions that increase costs to ratepayers and undermine delivery of agreed infrastructure priorities.
 - **Fragmentation of environmental management across two Bills:** DCC is concerned about the division of environmental effects management between the Planning Bill and the Natural and Built Environment Bill. Where effects span both regimes, the current framework risks gaps, duplication, and uncertainty about which matters can be considered, when, and under which statutory tests. This fragmentation is likely to

increase complexity, litigation risk, and administrative cost for councils, applicants, and communities, and may result in important cross-cutting effects not being appropriately addressed within either regime.

- Impacts on Iwi Māori: the Māori interest goal is too narrow and results in an insufficient focus on matters of concern to Māori. Further, the absence of a specific Treaty provision risks diluting the commitment to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
 - Economic competitiveness and place outcomes (amenity, landscape and heritage): DCC considers the current approach underweights the tangible contribution that amenity, landscape and heritage make to Dunedin’s visitor economy and its ability to attract businesses and skilled migrants. DCC recommends these matters be retained but tightly framed around evidenced economic contribution and outcomes.
4. DCC’s detailed submission focuses on amendments that improve workability, legal coherence, and delivery certainty, while ensuring the system remains affordable for councils and communities and maintains appropriate democratic accountability.

2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE NEW SYSTEM

2.1 Role of local government

5. Dunedin City Council supports the intent of the Planning Bill to establish a more integrated, nationally consistent planning system with clearer outcomes and limits. However, the effectiveness of the new system will depend critically on the clarity, feasibility, and appropriateness of the role assigned to local government, as councils will be the primary institutions responsible for implementing the system in practice.
6. Local government should not simply be a delivery agent for national policy and pre-determined regulation. Councils are democratically accountable bodies with statutory responsibilities for land use planning, infrastructure provision, service delivery, and community wellbeing. They hold detailed local knowledge and are responsible for managing the long-term financial and infrastructure consequences of planning decisions. Local government’s role in the new system should reflect their democratic accountability to their communities for land use decisions, infrastructure investment, and long-term financial sustainability. The planning system must respect the role of elected members in setting strategic direction and making trade-offs within nationally defined limits.
7. For the new system to function as intended, the role of local government must be more clearly defined, realistic in scope, and aligned with councils’ function, organisation, and funding.
8. The Bill shifts a significant proportion of substantive policy making from regional and district planning processes into the development of national instruments. While this may streamline local planning processes, it also compresses complex policy debates into nationally led processes that may be less accessible to local communities and councils.

9. National instruments will be expected to resolve difficult trade-offs (for example, between development capacity, environmental protection, infrastructure constraints, and amenity effects) at a national level. However, these trade-offs often have place-specific implications that are best understood and tested locally. There is a risk that nationally set solutions will not reflect local evidence or lived experience, particularly in smaller or slower-growing regions.
10. The DCC is concerned that the proposed framework narrows the scope for councils to exercise professional judgement and local democratic choice, even where locally tailored solutions would better achieve the objectives of the legislation.
11. The establishment of spatial plan committees introduces a new governance layer that cuts across existing council decision-making structures. While collaboration is supported, there is a risk that poorly defined governance arrangements will create uncertainty about decision-making authority or undermine councils' ability to discharge their statutory responsibilities. There is also concern about the ability of local authorities to influence matters outside of the local areas where there is no tangible effect on their local area – for example it makes no sense for Dunedin elected members to influence the planning for Queenstown (over 250km away) or vice versa.
12. The Bill also often assigns responsibility to local government without sufficient clarity, sequencing, or resourcing. For regional spatial plans, councils are required to make decisions and commitments in advance of national direction, environmental limits, and funding clarity. This places councils in a position of bearing delivery risk for matters outside their control and blurs accountability between central and local government.
13. These matters are also discussed further in Section 0 (Spatial Plan provisions).
14. Recommendations:
 - a. Reconsider implementation sequencing and timelines to ensure local authorities are able to implement national direction within a complete and settled framework. Also ensure councils are not required to make binding decisions or commitments until relevant national direction, limits, and methodologies are in place. This will ensure councils are not required to “fill gaps” in national policy or bear disproportionate delivery risk.
15. Provide clearer statutory direction on the establishment of spatial plan committees including how their role interacts with elected councils' statutory decision-making responsibilities and make the relationship with the Long Term Plan (LTP) and its ability to delegate authority clear. This is necessary to avoid friction and delay during establishment, and improve confidence in decision-making processes.
 - a. Ensure that Councils have enough influence in the system to manage the costs of growth in a way that ensures long-terms infrastructure delivery is affordable to communities. This is best done by including this outcomes within the goals of the Bill and giving a strong role to strategic spatial planning and appropriate ability to decline unanticipated growth that may undermine that outcome.

2.2 Management of biodiversity

16. Under section 221 of the Natural Environment Bill, management of indigenous biodiversity will be the responsibility of regional councils. This represents a change from the current RMA framework, under which indigenous biodiversity is managed jointly by territorial authorities and regional councils.
17. DCC acknowledges both benefits and drawbacks to the proposed management approach. As a positive, having indigenous biodiversity solely managed under the Natural Environment Bill would provide clarity, as both landowners and councils would only need to refer to a single piece of legislation. It would also reduce duplication of roles and responsibilities between regional councils and territorial authorities, offering a simpler and more transparent framework for indigenous biodiversity management.
18. However, there are potential drawbacks. One key concern is that applicants may now be required to obtain a consent from both the territorial authority and a separate permit from the regional council for a development in a significant natural area. Under the current system, they may only need a single consent from the territorial authority. This change could increase the consenting burden and result in higher costs for both applicants and the local authorities involved.

2.3 Links between the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill

19. The Planning Bill is primarily focused on enabling development and regulating land use, while the Natural Environment Bill is directed at managing the effects of natural resource use and protecting the natural environment from harm. The scope of the “environment” addressed by each Bill differs: the Planning Bill applies to the “built environment,” while the Natural Environment Bill applies to the “natural environment,” both of which are defined terms within their respective Bills.
20. There is a risk that some activities may generate effects that fall outside the defined “environment” regulated by either Bill. For example, when considering land use consent applications under the Planning Bill, local authorities may be unable to assess adverse effects on the natural environment or indigenous biodiversity, as these matters do not appear to fall within the scope of the “built environment.” Therefore, if a separate consent is not also required under the Natural Environment Bill, there is a risk that such effects may not be able to be considered at all.
21. A further issue arises from the reciprocal exclusions in each Bill. Under the Natural Environment Bill, decision-makers are prohibited from considering effects regulated under the Planning Bill (s14(b)). Similarly, when exercising functions under the Planning Bill, decision-makers are precluded from considering “any matter where the land use effects of an activity are dealt with under other legislation” (s14(1)(j)). This creates a potentially significant gap, particularly where matters overlap across both regimes (for example, natural hazards), as decision-makers will be unable to consider effects that are regulated under the other Act.
22. For example, under the NE bill, regional councils can only consider the effects of natural hazards on natural resources. Effects on natural hazards as they relate to land-use are managed by

territorial authorities. So, if a permit is sought to discharge stormwater to a stream, it appears that regional council will not be able to consider the potential impacts on the discharge on flooding of houses downstream. This is a concerning gap that needs to be remedied.

23. A further potential example could relate to zoning new growth areas that will require an on-site wastewater solution. The impacts of the wastewater discharge would be considered at the subdivision or development stage, through the need for any resource consents under the NEA. However, the ability of the area to absorb future wastewater discharge should be considered at the zoning stage, before any time and money is invested in its redevelopment. However, the effect of wastewater discharge cannot be considered under the Planning Act.
24. While the regional spatial plan should identify any environmental limits (such as ability to absorb wastewater discharges), to allow this to be considered at the rezoning stage, as outlined later in this submission this will not be possible for the first regional spatial plan. Even for later spatial plans, it is possible that the appropriate limit is not identified because new housing is not anticipated in a particular area or because the level of information required cannot be collected at a regional level efficiently (it requires site level soil testing). Therefore, there should be an ability to consider effects under the NEA when making zoning decisions under the Planning Act.
25. DCC recommends that further consideration be given to the interface and alignment between the two Bills. In particular, consideration is needed as to whether dividing the environment into two distinct subsets is appropriate. Further work is also required to ensure that all significant environmental effects of an activity can be considered, including effects that fall outside the defined scope of either Bill, and to avoid circumstances where activities or effects are effectively excluded from consideration under both legislative frameworks.
26. DCC holds a similar concern with the relationship between other non resource management legislation, for example where the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 applies and requires an archaeological authority, then the land use effects of that activity – e.g., adverse effects on significant historic heritage – might be out of scope, despite the objectives of each legislation being significantly different.
27. This clause requires rephrasing to ensure that it only applies where the effects are being managed to address the same issue or achieve the same outcome, for example minimum floor levels under the Buildings Act to manage natural hazards effects.
28. DCC recommends that this clause is deleted or reworded as “(j) any ~~matter where the land use~~ environmental effects of an activity are managed ~~dealt with~~ under other legislation to achieve a similar outcome.”

3 IMPLEMENTATION

29. The DCC appreciates the Government’s desire to fast-track reform, however, it feels that the pace of reform is both unnecessary given other changes that have been made (such as fast-track consenting) that are being used to address issues with the pace of certain consenting and because the risks and costs of rushing reform do not outweigh the benefits.

3.1 National direction

30. The proposed system relies heavily on the timely development, sequencing, and quality of national instruments. DCC is concerned that delays, gaps, or future changes in national instruments could significantly disrupt development of the new plans that will be required under the Planning Act. This could result in local planning processes being stalled or constrained while councils wait for national instruments to be developed or finalised. Future amendments to national instruments (e.g. if there were to be a change in government) could require repeated changes to the new combined plans, and would result in additional uncertainty and cost.
31. Furthermore, councils may be required to implement national standards that assume levels of resourcing, data availability, or infrastructure capacities that simply do not exist uniformly in different areas of the country.

3.2 Sequencing, time frames and funding implications

32. The proposed development of national instruments, the regional spatial plan and land-use plans is swift. While timely transition is supported, the proposed sequencing needs further consideration to ensure speed does not come at the cost of quality.
33. The time allowed to prepare the regional spatial plan is insufficient unless the first generation of spatial plans are limited to a 'stapling together' of existing FDSs or equivalent spatial strategies with only limited changes to the contents.
34. The draft regional spatial plan for each region must be publicly notified within 15 months after Royal Assent of the Planning Act, or 6 months after the first national policy direction is issued. This includes setting up new and complex governance arrangements for regional spatial plan development. The national policy direction will be critical in developing the regional spatial plan, so the timeframe for developing the regional spatial plan is realistically 6 months, not 15.
35. DCC considers that this timeframe is impractical and unworkable and is not consistent with the time taken to develop similar documents under the RMA. For example, development the Dunedin Future Development Strategy (FDS) took around 18 months to notification, excluding time required to set up governance arrangements.
36. Meaningful spatial planning requires substantial technical analysis, modelling, engagement with mana whenua and communities, coordination with infrastructure providers and central government agencies, and internal governance and assurance. As the first major instrument being produced under a new statutory regime, there will also be unavoidable implementation overheads as establishing committees, delegations, secretariat arrangements, work programmes, and shared evidence bases.
37. It is unrealistic to expect local government to scale up early ahead of enactment given the levels of uncertainty and risk of change. The proposed timing also creates funding issues in that existing Long Term Plans are unlikely to have identified funding for significant work on new regulatory plans within this time period (the regional spatial plan is expected to be developed during 2026 and 2027, with notification in the third quarter of 2027).

38. Further, these expectations to do more work faster (and commitment of significant additional expenditure towards developing regional spatial plans) comes at a time when councils face significant workforce constraints, financial pressures, and multiple concurrent reform programmes. Without realistic assumptions about capacity and resourcing, most councils will not be able to deliver the quality and consistency of outcomes expected under the new system.
39. Significantly more time should be provided to develop the first regional spatial plan. In order to understand the new requirements and comprehensively develop them, DCC recommends a minimum of 12 months from release of the national policy direction, all relevant national standards and confirmation of environmental limits. This would allow plans to be developed that are of sufficient quality and detail to provide robust, defensible direction for regions as the remaining parts of the system are implemented.
40. Alternatively, the scope of the first regional spatial plan should be reduced significantly.

3.2.1 ***Sequencing with respect to environmental limits***

41. Development of the regional spatial plan is particularly problematic. Schedule 2, cl.2(2)(a) of the Bill requires a regional spatial plan to be consistent with environmental limits. However, environmental limits are established either through the natural environment plan (ecosystem health limits), or by the Minister in national standards (human health limits). Ecosystem health limits must be determined using a methodology provided by the Minister in national standards.
42. This sequencing creates both legal and practical difficulties. Regional spatial plans cannot be required to be consistent with limits that are not yet identified, yet these cannot lawfully be set because methodologies are not available, or are not sufficiently advanced to shape spatial decisions.
43. The likely consequence is either councils must “guess” at limits and constraints (creating risk of misalignment and rework), or they must use placeholders and caveats, reducing the usefulness of the documents and creating interpretive uncertainty. Either approach increases the likelihood of rework, legal challenge, and loss of public confidence when the first generation of regional spatial plans must be revisited.
44. Land use plans must be notified within 9 months of decisions on the regional spatial plan. While acknowledging that the new land-use plans will be simpler and incorporate more standardised material, DCC considers that the timeframes given in the Planning Bill are simply not possible to meet, and recommends that these timeframes are reviewed to provide councils further time to develop these documents.
45. DCC recommends that the statutory framework is re-sequenced so that regional spatial plans are prepared after all necessary national direction is released and environmental standards confirmed. This would require release firstly of national direction that sets environment limits methodologies, development and confirmation of those limits, then development of regional spatial plans.
46. DCC further recommends that sufficient time is allowed to complete every step, particularly for development of the first regional spatial plan. DCC recommends a minimum of 12 months

following confirmation of environmental limits or a reduction in the scope and expectations for the first regional spatial plans, or alternatively 24 months from Royal Assent.

47. This would:

- ensure regional spatial plans are meaningfully informed by confirmed environmental limits/outcomes
- reduce the need for rework, improve legal coherence, and create regional spatial plans that can credibly guide subsequent instruments and investment decisions.
- acknowledge real-world implementation timeframes, and avoid creating a cycle of non-compliance or rushed processes.
- allow appropriate budget to be included in LTPs to fund development

3.3 Preparation of regional spatial plans

48. As outlined in Part 3 of the Bill, all local authorities within each region must agree on how they will work together in relation to preparation of a regional spatial plan. This will include appointing a spatial plan committee, who will be responsible for development of the regional spatial plan. Under s69, there must be a publicly available document which will outline how the local authorities will work together in relation to various matters on development of the regional spatial plan.

49. From reading the Bill, DCC is of the view that the provisions do not preclude the option of each local authority being able to focus on specific parts of the regional spatial plan that are relevant to their district. This was a point that the DCC strongly supported in its Going for Housing Growth submission.

50. DCC considers it would be inappropriate for Dunedin to be involved in Queenstown's spatial planning or vice versa. Given the strong focus on integrating land use and infrastructure planning, district councils must take the lead role in spatial planning for their districts and only those districts who are part of any urban area should be involved in planning for that urban area. Having said that, DCC supports working together, including across districts, on matters that extend beyond urban areas or cross local authority boundaries.

51. Section 71 outlines the requirement of local authorities in a region to have a spatial plan committee. This committee must appoint "a chairperson and a secretariat in accordance with regulations" in section 71(3).

52. It is unclear when these regulations will be made available. Since the timeframe for regional spatial plan development currently starts from Royal Assent, any delay in receiving the regulations after Royal Assent will reduce (the already short) timeframe, as spatial planning committees and secretariats cannot be established and work cannot commenced.

53. The Council is concerned that the Bill provides insufficient statutory guidance on the practical establishment and operation of spatial plan committees, including membership and

representation, voting/decision-making arrangements, delegations, and how potential tensions between councils are to be managed. The role, function, and composition of the secretariat also requires clarification. It is assumed that it would comprise council staff responsible for the day-to-day development of the regional spatial plan; however, this is not explicitly stated. This uncertainty creates problems with planning, resourcing and funding the preparation of the regional spatial plans.

54. Recommendations:

- a. Explicitly enable and encourage efficient work allocation, including an approach where each council leads the spatial planning work for its district, with collaboration focused on cross-boundary and region-wide matters.
- b. Amend the Bill so that the timeframe for preparing the regional spatial plans commence from the release of any regulations governing the set-up of the spatial plan committee and the secretariat.
- c. Clarify the role, function, and composition of the secretariat.

55. This would:

- improve efficiency, respect accountability, reduce unnecessary duplication, and support better-quality spatial planning grounded in local knowledge
- avoid delay in establishing appropriate working relationships and commencing work on the regional spatial plan
- enable effective resourcing, role definition, and project mobilisation

3.4 Inconsistency in timing of decisions on regional spatial plans

56. There appears to be an inconsistency in the Bill regarding the timeframe for which decisions must be made on the regional spatial plan. Schedule 2, cl.21(3) requires that local authorities must make decisions on the recommendations of the independent hearings panel within 12 months of the date on which the draft regional spatial plan was notified.

57. However, Schedule 1, cl. 5(4)(b) states that a draft regional spatial plan must be decided within 6 months after it is publicly notified.

58. This inconsistency is presumably due to clause 5 in Schedule 1 being specifically related to the first set of national instruments, and that the timing in Schedule 2 would apply for subsequent regional spatial plans. If so, it seems counter-intuitive that a shorter time is allowed for decisions on the first regional spatial plan, which arguably will be more complex and time-consuming to develop at each stage than a subsequent regional spatial plan review.

3.5 Costs of implementation

59. The DCC is concerned about the significant costs associated with implementing the new resource management system. These costs are expected to include the evidence gathering, changes to IT systems, preparation of new regional plan chapters, governance and operational arrangements, updates to processes, templates and guidance documents, changes to administrative systems, and additional staff training and resourcing. There will also be legal costs including those borne due to litigation risk in the system. While there has not been time to appropriately estimate these costs, it is considered that the cost assessments in both the Supplementary Analysis Report¹ (published November 2025) and the Regulatory Impact Statement² (published March 2025) are too low.
60. At this stage, it is unclear what proportion of these substantial implementation costs will be borne by local government, as this will depend on Government decisions regarding any implementation funding package. However, councils across the country are already operating in a fiscally constrained environment, which is likely to be further exacerbated by the proposed rates capping. In this context, DCC has significant concerns about the affordability of the reforms and strongly urges the Government to carefully consider the funding and support mechanisms that will be required to enable local government to implement the new system effectively.
61. DCC encourage the Government to provide an appropriate funding package that includes a centrally procured e-planning system that efficiently and economically enables not only delivery but effective data capture for monitoring and ongoing system improvement; and centrally procured robust and comprehensive independent science and economic assessment to support appropriate management approaches that will achieve social and cultural well-being, environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.

4 PURPOSE / GOALS OF PLANNING ACT AND CHANGES FROM THE RMA

62. The DCC understands and has sympathy for the Government's intent to reduce the costs of regulation within the land use planning system, however, it considers that the costs of the removal of some areas of regulation have not been well-enough considered or communicated to the public so that the costs and benefits of these changes can be appropriately considered and weighed. DCC also considers that there are less-extreme options that could achieve similar levels of benefit with less significant costs to the quality of our cities and places.

4.1 Removal of visual amenity

63. A key concern is the proposed changes to the matters managed under the new system, particularly the removal of visual amenity from the system (Section 14(e) which excludes the consideration of effects of any activity including: "the visual amenity of a use, development, or building in relation to its character, appearance, aesthetic qualities, or other physical feature". DCC is concerned that eliminating amenity as an element of the planning system could

¹ [Supplementary-Analysis-Report -Replacing-the-Resource-Management-Act-1991-Further-Policy-Decisions_Redacted.pdf](#)

² [Replacing the Resource Management Act](#)

undermine the ability to create attractive well-functioning urban environments that continue to support New Zealand’s tourism economy, its reputation as an attractive destination for skilled migrants, and general liveability outcomes for residents. DCC does not believe that this change has wide-spread public support and that it represents a ‘baby out with the bathwater’ response to a much narrower problem of ensuring that public submissions and processes do not inappropriately constrain or delay development.

64. The removal of amenity from the system will allow both urban and rural areas (including key tourists routes and vistas) to become cluttered by commercial hoardings and other signage as common in other western countries where signage is not regulated.
65. The removal of the ability to manage landscape values (where not ‘outstanding’) will remove DCC’s ability to manage the design of new development on areas identified as significant landscapes including important natural backdrops to the urban environment, such as ridgelines and headlands. In Dunedin, this will affect the management approach to new development in over 28,000 ha of significant natural landscapes, and a further 1,878 hectares of natural coastal character. Landscape vistas affected would include the Silverpeaks, Mahinerangi, and the lower slopes of both Mt Cargill and the Otago Peninsula. A large number of coastal areas would also be affected, including the entire southern coast from Taieri Mouth to Tunnel Beach, Aramoana, Blueskin Bay, and Waikouaiti.
66. It will also prevent requirements such as the screening of outdoor storage and the management of fences in front yards; evidence indicates that this will result in unattractive neighbourhoods that invite crime and anti-social behaviour such as tagging.
67. It would also prevent the ability to schedule protected trees which most plans have, and which many communities support as part of maintaining attractive urban places.
68. Our initial analysis indicates that no other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have completely excluded public amenity outcomes from their planning frameworks and most of the world’s most attractive and successful cities manage it more strictly than New Zealand has. DCC considers that management of visual amenity is a critical element and should be reinstated in the new system albeit with appropriate limits on notification / rights to submit and scope to consider to prevent its use for NIMBYism or to delay development. DCC considers that there has been a lack of attention to, and proper analysis of, the importance of amenity to New Zealand’s tourism economy, as well as its ability to attract skilled migrants. DCC recommend that the matter of visual amenity be narrowed to focus on the tangible contributions this matter makes to the visitor economy and migrant attraction, rather than being removed.
69. For example, national planning standards could still set rules for fence heights, signage in different zones, screening of outdoor service areas/storage, and allow for the scheduling of protected trees but restrict public submission and/or appeal rights to ensure efficient processes.
70. There is also a lack of clarity as to how certain aspects of amenity that have been signalled as not being removed – such as shading and noise amenity still fit into the system. The content of the Bill appears to be inconsistent with the accompanying commentary to the Bill (for example [New-Planning-System-factsheet-05-Making-it-easier-to-build-and-renovate-your-home.pdf](#) and [New-](#)

[Planning-System-factsheet-08-Simplifying-residential-development.pdf](#)), both of which explicitly refer to shading and state that effects such as shading will continue to be considered through the consent process.

71. It is noted that the management of shading or noise effects does not appear to fit clearly under any of the goals other than the vaguely worded “land use does not unreasonably affect others, including by separating incompatible land uses”. This goal statement is ripe for litigation as it is not clear about: what effects are captured (and does it include adverse effects on land values), how what is ‘unreasonable’ should be interpreted – is it what the land owner thinks is reasonable or unreasonable or someone else opinion of reasonableness and what factors are considered in determining reasonableness, and finally who is captured by ‘others’ – neighbours, communities, visitors?
72. While ‘amenity’ by nature has a degree of subjectivity it is still more clear of a concept than what unreasonably affects others.
73. Finally, if the management of shading effects is intended to be maintained – this seems to be precluded by Section 14 (and the transitional provisions), which remove the ability to consider the “external layout of buildings on a site”. Where buildings are placed on a site is a key determinant of shading effects, but this exclusion limits the management of shading to height limits. To ensure clarity, Section 14 should specifically state ‘excluding height in relation to boundary where this results in shading effects’ to avoid legal challenge for rules that manage height and distance from boundary together.

4.2 Removal of management of quality of homes

74. DCC is also concerned about the proposal to remove the management of the quality of homes for future residents, including the provision of minimum areas of outdoor living space. It is a fallacy that these effects are born by the property owner and therefore not an externality, as in many cases the builder of a home is not the end occupier, and in many cases that future occupier is a tenant.
75. DCC accepts that if any plans genuinely prescribe the direction of a television, as claimed, that that is inappropriate and that only aspects of housing quality that have scientific research that indicates a tangible impact on health outcomes should be managed.
76. DCC is particularly concerned that the removal of appropriate requirements for outdoor living space will have detrimental impacts on people’s health and wellbeing and add to the cost of living (for example, by removing access to secure outdoor areas to dry clothes). This view is supported research.
77. There are a wide range of studies that explore the positive relationship between both public and private outdoor green spaces, with increased health and wellbeing. This includes Cervinka et al.³ who concluded that domestic gardens mitigate health deprivation more effectively than public

³ R. Cervinka et al. (2016) My garden–my mate? Perceived restorativeness of private gardens and its predictors (Urban forestry & urban greening, 16 (2016), pp. 182-187).

green space at all levels of urbanity apart from the most rural areas. Brindley et al.⁴ undertook a population-level survey which showed that garden size played a significant role in self-reported health, with areas with small gardens displaying greater income-related health inequalities. This study highlighted that garden access and quality may play a key role in the buffering effect of nature regarding health and wellbeing. Collins et al.⁵ highlighted that access to a private garden substantially reduces the predicted probability of poor mental health issues in men, regardless of their access to local public green space. They also showed that having access to a private garden for older women reduces the predicted probability of poor mental health. These studies represent only a sample of the research literature available that have linked private outdoor space to improvements in health and wellbeing.

78. Access to quality outdoor living areas is recognised as important in a number of jurisdictions, including in Australia. For example, in Melbourne, outdoor living areas have quantifiable minimums and qualitative design guidance. New medium density rules strengthen garden / open space requirements beyond the conventional Residential Code minimums. Emerging provisions (Medium Density Codes) replace the older “outdoor living area” with consolidated primary garden area requirements (typically 20 – 40m², scaled to lot size) as part of amenity requirements for townhouses and terraces. These provisions require a larger outdoor area than the previous rules. Landscaping and soft landscaping/tree canopy targets are also introduced to improve amenity and outdoor quality. Design guidelines have been prepared to support these provisions.
79. DCC is concerned that the proposal to remove management of the quality of homes, particularly the provision of outdoor living space requirements, will lead to a number of adverse effects for future residents and lead to tangible adverse health outcomes for people and associated costs to the health sector. DCC recommends that quality of homes is an important matter that should continue to be managed under the new resource management system. DCC strongly encourages a more robust, wide-ranging and objective cost and benefit analysis that analysis of international best practice and evidence before proceeding.

4.3 The management of historic heritage

80. Dunedin is considered Aotearoa New Zealand’s premier heritage destination. The high quality and extent of Dunedin’s built heritage is unique amongst Aotearoa New Zealand’s cities. Our heritage buildings greatly contribute to Dunedin's liveability, vitality, and economy. Both residents and visitors highly value the city’s heritage. A 2023 resident survey indicated strong support for heritage buildings and their protection, while tourism surveys show that Dunedin’s historic heritage is a key factor contributing to the city’s distinctiveness relative to other destinations. DCC considers that there has been a lack of attention to, and proper analysis of, the importance of heritage character to New Zealand’s tourism economy as well as its ability to attract skilled migrants, for example in places such as Dunedin, Oamaru and other parts of Otago, and other locations in New Zealand such as Napier. DCC recommend that management of

⁴ P. Brindley et al. (2018) Domestic gardens and self-reported health: A national population study (International Journal of Health Geographics, 17 (2018), p. 31)

⁵ Collins et al. (2023) The relative effects of access to public greenspace and private gardens on mental health

historic heritage should recognise the tangible contribution this makes to the visitor economy and migrant attraction.

81. DCC supports the goal of protecting identified values and characteristics of sites of significant historic heritage from inappropriate development (s11(1)(g)(iii)), subject to the threshold for significance being appropriately set to enable not just the most notable buildings, but also those buildings that cumulatively contribute to the collective heritage value of a broader area. While DCC recognises that not all heritage can be cost-effectively conserved, or in some instances its loss is necessary to achieve more strategically important goals or projects (for example, the loss of the Cadbury factory for the new Dunedin Hospital), those trade-offs or cost benefit assessments are very context specific and not the same city to city, or place to place. Therefore, any future definition of significance in the national direction must not set the bar too high to support the achievement of the goal. It is better to set an achievable threshold to identify historic places that meet the criteria of significance, and provide robust policy direction to assess trade-offs and the costs and benefits of protection on an individual basis, than to make country-wide assumptions about those costs and benefits and set the bar too high.
82. In terms of more minor comments DCC notes the following.
83. The drafting of s11(1)(g)(iii) includes the phrase “sites of significant historic heritage”; the inclusion of the word ‘sites’ appears to conflict with the definition of historic heritage. The definition of historic heritage includes a variety of terms, specifically “historic sites, structures, places, and areas”. To avoid confusion, DCC recommends that the word ‘sites’ should be removed, or the sentence be reworded to include a term such as ‘item’, e.g., ‘Items of significant historic heritage’ to provide clarity to the definition.
84. In addition, the new act is an opportunity to simplify the term used to describe heritage. Both the RMA and the Planning Bill use ‘historic heritage’ For simplicity, this submission recommends ‘historic heritage’ be referred to as ‘heritage’ in the Bill. DCC notes the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act uses the term ‘heritage’ (e.g. Heritage List), noting that the purpose of that Act is to promote ‘protection... of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand (s3 HNZPT). Removing the word historic from the title of the definition clarifies that the places specified in (b) (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv), include both historical and cultural heritage. The word historic is repeated as a prefix to ‘sites, structures, places, and areas’ in the definition which is a tautology.
85. DCC note that the ‘qualities’ in the definition of historic heritage in the Bill are the same as those in the RMA. However, they are a subset of the criteria identified in the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 in s66(1). For consistency and to avoid confusion, both pieces of legislation dealing with heritage protection should be consistent.

4.3.1 ***Suggestions relevant to future national direction on Heritage***

86. DCC also acknowledges that further direction on the protection of significant historic heritage will be provided through national instruments. DCC would like to highlight several matters that could be usefully clarified or explored through the national policy direction or national standards. Clarification on these matters would ensure consistency of heritage protection across the country and reduce debate and litigation around whether places are ‘significant’ heritage and should be protected.

87. These matters include:

- a. The process and information requirements for undertaking a heritage assessment.
- b. How significance is to be determined, and what the threshold for ‘significant’ is, for each of the qualities (archaeological, architectural, historical, etc.).
- c. The weighting to be given to other planning matters when proposing heritage protection.
- d. Guidance on assessing significance at a local or regional level, and methods for doing so. While Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga provides guidance on applying its criteria and thresholds, these do not carry through to local heritage, as they relate to national significance⁶. Additionally, as noted above, the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga criteria differ from the qualities in the Bill.
- e. Guidance on identifying the protected parts of a place. Best practice is to protect the entire place (the interior and exterior of a building, and the setting, for example). Guidance should identify circumstances in which it is appropriate to omit part of the place from heritage protection.
- f. A definition or method for identifying the ‘surroundings’, to support the definition of historic heritage clause (b)(iv). The method will need to anticipate a broad range of scenarios, with specific guidance for both individual places and groups of interrelated places with collective significance and their surroundings.
- g. For heritage areas containing an interrelated group or groups of historic places, a method for identifying collective significance (for example, as an area or precinct), and quantifying the significance of buildings within that group, i.e. whether contributing, neutral, or detracting.
- h. Clarification about whether heritage protection is to be ‘tiered’ as it is currently in many district plans (e.g. class I, class II), or whether ‘significant’ is a single category.

4.4 Removal of effects on retail distribution

88. The DCC is concerned that the Bill’s removal of the ability to consider retail distribution effects in planning decisions (refer s14(1)(c)) will have detrimental implications for Dunedin’s transport network and parking management, and the vitality and vibrancy of the CBD and centres (which are important to overall economic performance of retail and hospitality in the city).

89. Firstly, with respect to parking management, DCC provides for a wide range of parking options across the city, including on-street paid parking and time restricted parking, along with off-street parking spaces and parking buildings. As would be expected, parking provision is primarily concentrated in areas that are most frequently visited by people, i.e. the CBD and other local centres around the city. Under the current district plan, retail is generally concentrated in these

⁶ Significance Assessment Guidelines, Guidelines for Assessing Historic Places and Historic Areas for the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero (2019), <https://hznzpt-rpod-assets.azureedge.net/b2emu5pe/significance-assessment-guidelines.pdf>

centres, enabling more efficient public transport, active transport, and car-parking opportunities. If DCC can no longer consider retail distribution effects, then there is potential that retail activity could become more widely dispersed across the city, resulting in increased private vehicle trips, increased congestion, inadequate parking options and increased costs for parking management, less effective public transport, and negative implications for the Council's environment strategy and zero carbon aspirations.

90. The DCC also highlights that concentrating retail locations in specific areas (CBD and centres) is fundamental to maintaining the vitality and vibrancy of these areas. Having a vibrant and successful CBD and centres directly contributes to the overall economic and social wellbeing of the city. Additionally, concentrating retail activities in these areas also acts to provide space for other activities that cannot easily locate in the CBD and centres. Research⁷ undertaken in Auckland demonstrates that where retail activity is located within a city strongly shapes urban form and influences how efficiently people travel and use their time. Retail distribution also influences other patterns of land use, including those that contribute to the vitality and viability of centres that function both as key commercial hubs, and as places of social interaction which provide important community amenities and social infrastructure for the populations they serve. DCC received evidence⁸ at its district plan hearings that a more permissive commercial environment does not necessarily result in better economic outcomes. For example, commercial activity may locate where land is cheapest, leading at a dispersal of activities, loss of agglomeration benefits, a decrease in the depth and breadth of the retail offering in the CBD, a consequent reduction in the attractiveness of the CBD as a destination and its social amenity (leading to adverse effects on remaining businesses), and less efficient travel patterns. Each individual out-of-centre commercial development has a small, but cumulative effect on centres, typically aggregating to significant effects over time.
91. The DCC recommends that the ability to consider the effects on retail distribution should remain in the Planning Bill, due to the implications this has on parking management, transport, the vibrancy and vitality of the CBD and centres, and the general contribution towards economic prosperity.

4.5 Effects on significant landscapes

92. The Planning Bill excludes consideration of effects on landscape, apart from outstanding natural landscape and features (s14). DCC is concerned that this proposal is too 'broad brush' and that consideration of effects on highly valued (but not outstanding) landscapes is excluded.
93. DCC's district plan contains a landscape classification of 'significant natural landscapes' (SNLs). These areas are intended to give effect to Section 7 of the RMA, which requires that the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values and the quality of the environment are given "particular regard to". There is currently 28,000 ha of land identified in the district plan as SNL. The DCC considers that the distinctiveness of Dunedin is not just about its key or outstanding

⁷ Fairgray, S. (2013). Auckland retail economic evidence base, Auckland Council technical report, TR2013/046. https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/1529/tr2013-046-auckland-retail-economic-evidence-base.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁸ [2GP Hearings - Commercial Mixed Use - Economic Evidence Derek Foy Final.pdf](#)

features and landscapes. Rather, it is the broader landscape fabric of the city and surrounds, of which SNLs are an important part, that gives Dunedin its unique sense of place.

94. A planning framework that focuses only on quantifiable environmental outcomes without requirements to consider wider landscape character and amenity is likely to fail to protect the things that give places their unique identity and quality. These include landscapes that are not ONLs and ONFs, but remain highly valued. The quality of the broader landscape character values of Dunedin is important to residents and is a key attraction for tourists. The erosion of landscape character values has the potential to undermine strong tourism premiums based on Dunedin's distinctive landscapes.
95. At present, SNL areas cover large areas of the hills that surround the Otago Harbour and form the backdrop to the inner Otago Peninsula bays and West Harbour settlements. Combined, these areas provide a significant proportion of the setting, visual containment, and skyline for the harbour, which is enjoyed by residents of Dunedin and thousands of tourists who are attracted to these landscapes. The removal of SNL landscape planning provisions risks undermining the landscape values of these highly valued places.
96. In Australia, there are several comparable examples of regulatory controls on visual and landscape amenity. For example, the Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area Development Control Plan enforces height limits and view corridor protections around Sydney Harbour. In addition, Heritage Conservation Areas (e.g. The Rocks, Paddington) and foreshore building setbacks and public access requirements manage different aspects of the visual quality of the harbour surrounds. These controls have been implemented with an understanding that Sydney Harbour's visual quality underpins its global branding and tourism and that a strong visitor economy (cruises, events, hospitality) relies on managing landscape character and visual amenity.
97. Similar protections are implemented in other regional and tourism focused cities such as the following:
 - Byron Bay: height and character controls to protect coastal town identity;
 - Hobart: heritage and waterfront controls to preserve historic character; and
 - Noosa: low-rise and vegetation protections to support premium tourism.
98. As identified by the New Zealand Institute of landscape Architects (NZILA) in their submission on the Proposed changes to RMA National Direction, through Te tangi a te Manu (the Institute's landscape assessment guidelines) it is identified that people's relationships to landscape are expressed as place-specific character, attributes and values, all of which are necessarily ascribed by people and recognised by communities. This understanding extends beyond places of national importance (ONLs and ONFs) and across ordinary everyday landscapes where people mostly live, work and play.
99. DCC agrees with this NZILA submission, which notes that while addressing such qualitative and intangible matters can generate contested planning issues, effective resource management must continue to engage with communities and support positive relationships with place as an

integral planning outcome (NZILA submission on changes to RMA National Direction, 25 July 2025).

100. As discussed in the introduction, DCC considers that there has been a lack of attention to, and proper analysis of, the importance of landscape, amenity and heritage to New Zealand's tourism economy as well as its ability to attract skilled migrants. The DCC recommends that these matters be narrowed to focus on the tangible contribution these matters make to the visitor economy and migrant attraction, rather than be removed. This would narrow the focus of decision-making on evidence related to the positive effects of protection on the broader economy rather than NIMBY concerns, thereby addressing the root problem to the efficient operation of the resource management system (the ability of the system to be hijacked by NIMBY issues) while maintaining the ability to consider aspects that have broader potential economic effects.

101. For identified landscapes values (other than outstanding) this could be achieved by:

- a. Amending Section 11(1)(b) to read "to support and enable economic growth and change by enabling the use and development of land and by protecting values that are important to economic activity:"
- b. Amending Section 14(2) by adding a new clause (f) "amenity, heritage and landscape effects where these significantly contribute to the visitor experience or migrant attraction.

4.6 Lack of clarity around the exclusion of "the type of residential use"

102. Section 14(1)(f)(i) excludes consideration of the type of residential use. It is unclear what this means and whether it captures anything that has a residential use component, for example air b and b, hotels and motels, working from home (and to what degree), supported living facilities, private hospital, nursing homes etc. There is a risk that it could be argued that the density of residential use falls under this concept.

103. This exclusion needs to be more specifically and accurately defined.

104. DCC recommends that this exclusion is more specifically worded and that s14(2) clearly indicates that it does not preclude management for Reverse sensitivity effects or density of residential use.

4.7 Lack of clarity around the meaning of "demand for or financial viability of a project unless it is a matter to which section 11(1)(b) or (d) relates"

105. While it is assumed that the meaning of Section 14(1)(d) is intended to capture the financial viability of a project for a developer/applicant with regards to the costs borne by them, this is not clearly articulated. It is recommended that this be spelt out to avoid litigation which may seek to argue that any public costs of a project cannot be considered, for example, the capital or operational costs of infrastructure that may fall on ratepayers, which should be able to be considered, particularly in light of the Government's desire to reduce rate increases.

4.8 Lack of clarity around the management of safety

106. Section 5 of the RMA sets out the purpose of the Act, which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Section 5(2) expands on the meaning of sustainable management, which includes “managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety”.
107. As a result, safety is a matter that is currently managed through RMA plans, including in the Dunedin District Plan. Safety considerations apply to a wide range of matters, including transportation (e.g. how activities may affect the safe operation of the roading network for example standards requiring minimum sight distances for a new vehicle access from roads), people’s health and safety from hazardous substances (e.g. ensuring that their type, volume and location ensure that they reduce risks to health and safety), high levels of noise or emissions, and other land-use activities (e.g. ensuring appropriate setbacks are in place to provide a buffer from potentially dangerous activities such a bulk fuel storage).
108. DCC is concerned that the Planning Bill does not include any goals that explicitly refer to safety, other than safety in relation to natural hazards. While safety could likely be considered as a general “adverse effect” under s15 (Considering adverse effects of activities), or through the duty in s25(1) to avoid, minimise, or remedy adverse effects on the built environment, this is not explicitly stated. Although the definition of “built environment” includes people and communities, DCC considers that greater clarity could be provided to ensure that public health and safety, including transportation safety, can be clearly and consistently managed under the new planning system.
109. DCC therefore recommends it important that safety is expressly identified as a matter that can be managed under the Planning Bill. This could be achieved through the inclusion of a specific goal relating to the promotion of public health and safety, including transportation network safety, in in Section 11.
110. This will ensure that aspects of development including high fences and other boundary treatments that may impact on visibility for people and traffic entering and exiting driveways and the placement of driveways can continue to be managed.
111. On a related matter, an area of plan development that resulted in a number of appeals on Dunedin’s district plan was to do with the management of hazardous substances and the relative roles of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO) and Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 legislation and the RMA.
112. Appellants argued that the district plan should not include rules relating to hazardous substances as these are covered by HSNO. DCC’s position was that additional controls may be required to, for example, manage potential effects on sensitive activities and sensitive natural environments, the effects of substances not managed by HSNO, cumulative risks and reverse sensitivity issues.

113. Different district plans have taken different approaches to managing hazardous substances. Clarity is required as to the appropriate approach. DCC recommends that the Act, and any national direction clarifies this matter.

4.9 The need to manage growth based on long-term affordability of infrastructure to communities and the ability to efficiently deliver infrastructure to meet housing and business demand needs

114. Finally, DCC is concerned that it is not clear if the Planning Bill provides for effects of growth and development on the affordability of infrastructure (and therefore the financial sustainability of Councils) or the efficient delivery of infrastructure to be considered.

115. Firstly, the wording of the goal in Section 11(1)(e) to plan and provide for infrastructure to meet current and expected demand is vague and open-ended and ripe for litigation. Dangerously, it could be interpreted to mean that if any developer for any development “demands” infrastructure a Council is obliged to provide it with no ability to consider whether it is affordable to provide or operate.

116. Further, DCC recommends that the planning system enables the consideration of the cost of infrastructure (beyond which will be paid directly by developers or landowners in a growth area directly) and for growth proposals that are inappropriate to service due to relative cost to service or impact on the ability to deliver other infrastructure according to priorities agreed in the regional spatial plan be able to be deferred through transition zoning mechanisms or, if more appropriate, declined.

117. DCC recommends that Section 11(1)(e) is rephrased as “to enable the effective and efficient provision infrastructure to support growth and development.”

4.10 Climate change

118. The DCC is concerned that the Planning Bill does not clearly or strongly address matters relating to climate change. While the Bill’s definition of ‘natural hazard’ includes the effects of climate change, aside from this there are very few references to climate change.

119. From the perspective of climate change adaptation, the DCC notes that the effects of climate can extend significantly beyond natural hazards, for example effects on primary production (e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries) and water availability for both urban and rural land uses.

120. The DCC recommends the Bill should contain a goal that explicitly relates to climate change adaptation. The National Climate Adaptation Framework includes a commitment to amend the Climate Change Response Act, to require local governments to prepare adaptation plans for certain priority areas. If these adaptation areas must be included in regional spatial plans, then inclusion of a goal that relates to climate change adaptation would help promote and strengthen the links between the different legislation and would help ensure that adaptation planning is specifically considered through the hierarchy of resource management documents.

121. The Planning Bill should also include a goal related to Climate Change mitigation. DCC notes that RMA requires decisions on regional and district plans to have regard to any emissions

reduction plan (prepared under s5ZI of the Climate Change Response Act). DCC recommends an equivalent provision should be included in the Planning Bill.

4.11 Enjoyment of land

122. The purpose of the planning bill is ‘to establish a framework for planning and regulating the use, development, and enjoyment of land’. The phrase ‘enjoyment of land’ also appears in Schedule 3 cl.66 in relation to assessing the materiality of impact when developing a regulatory relief framework.
123. DCC is concerned firstly that the term ‘enjoyment of land’ is vague and subjective. Secondly, it is odd that only one aspect of ‘use’ is pulled out and seemingly creates an expectation that ‘enjoyment of land’ must be planned and regulated. Furthermore, it fails to recognise that that allowing one person greater development rights on their property (‘enjoyment of’) can be at the expense of the property rights of neighbouring properties. For example, permitting taller buildings may result in increased shading for adjoining properties, adversely affecting these neighbours’ ability to use and “enjoy” their land and potentially depreciating its value for development. This may lead to arguments around effects on (private) amenity being replaced by arguments around “enjoyment” of land.
124. DCC recommends that the term is removed and the purpose is simplified to “a framework for planning and regulating the use, and development, ~~and enjoyment~~ of land. DCC considers that if there is a desire to have a goal around being able to enjoy land that should be appropriately worded in the goals section.

4.12 Procedural principles

125. DCC supports the inclusion of procedural principles in the bill. These will assist in the efficient functioning of the resource management system and benefit all users. However, DCC is concerned that the 5th principle – ‘act in an enabling manner (for example being solution-focused)...’ is open to interpretation, and has the potential to create more complexity and argument, which seems contrary to the reason for including principles.
126. While providing an example: ‘being solutions-focused’, is welcome, additional guidance is required as to how this phrase should be interpreted. This should be provided through national direction at an early stage, alternatively this principle should be removed.

5 IMPACTS ON IWI MĀORI

5.1 Appropriate wording of Māori interests goal

127. DCC submits that the Māori interest goal is too narrow and results in a reduced focus on matters of concern to Māori. The lack of provisions equivalent to RMA sections 6(e) (in part), 6(g), 7(a), 7(d), 7(f), 7(g), and 7 (j) within the Bill highlights a significant gap in the consideration and understanding of the relationship Māori have with the environment and reduces the focus on environmental protection and sustainability that is imperative for mokopuna-focused thinking.

128.—The Bill, as it stands, does not cover the broad, holistic viewpoints of Māori interests or reflect the appropriate relationship needed to work with mana whenua (through iwi and hapū) in developing regional and national instruments and plans.

129. To ensure that Māori values are appropriately considered through development of the various planning documents, DCC recommends that goal 11(i)(i) is amended to read ‘Māori participation in the development and decision-making on national instruments, spatial planning ...’.

130. DCC also notes the drafting of s11(i)(iii) may mean that sites of significance to Māori is interpreted too narrowly. For example, sites of significance include mahika kai and nohoaka. For clarity, DCC recommends that the wording of s11(i)(iii) is amended to “the identification and protection of sites of significance to Māori (including, but not limited to, wāhi tapu, water bodies, or sites in or on the coastal marine area)”.

5.2 Absence of a specific Treaty provision

131. Section 8 of the Planning Bill outlines how the Treaty of Waitangi is provided for within the new system. This includes a Māori interest goal in s11, and requirements around the development of regional spatial plans and land use plans.

132. However, unlike the RMA (s8), the Planning Bill does not contain a specific Treaty of Waitangi provision that requires all persons exercising functions under the Act to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. DCC understands this is because “...the provisions required interpretation and, along with other aspects of the RMA, created uncertainty and complexity” (p. 33 of the consultation document⁹).

133. However, in DCC’s view, the available legal jurisprudence and case law do provide an understanding of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. DCC agrees with the original Expert Advisory Groups (EAG) recommendations to include a general Treaty principles clause, similar to that in the RMA. This submission also highlights that the RMA has been criticised in the past for not being treaty-compliant, despite the requirement of s8 outlined above. DCC is concerned that the Planning Bill dilutes these commitments even further and represents a step backwards in giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

134. DCC recommends that a general Treaty of Waitangi clause is reinstated into the Planning Bill.

5.3 Opportunities for iwi participation

135. DCC supports provisions that allow for meaningful engagement, recognising Kāi Tahu rakatirataka, that is undertaken in good faith. However, the consultation requirements (including time available for engagement) outlined in the Bill are minimal, and DCC questions whether this level of engagement will in fact be meaningful and enable iwi and hapū to undertake their role as kaitiaki. This approach is reflected in the use of the term ‘participation’ in

⁹ [Better-Planning-for-a-Better-New-Zealand.pdf](#)

goal 11(1)(i). The language used and the consultation requirements should be strengthened to ensure engagement is undertaken appropriately.

136. In relation to regional spatial plan development, s70 requires only that iwi authorities are provided with a copy of the draft regional spatial plan prior to notification and that their views on it must be sought. There is no requirement to involve iwi in development of the regional spatial plan. In addition, there is no mandatory iwi representation on spatial planning committees. This would ensure that Māori values were considered during the preparation process. DCC recommends that these requirements are strengthened.
137. In relation to land use plans, territorial authorities must only 'have regard to' iwi management plans and statutory acknowledgements (s80(4)). DCC recommends that these documents are 'taken into account' (the requirement in the RMA in relation to iwi planning documents) to allow them to better inform planning outcomes.
138. DCC also recommends changing references to "iwi" to "iwi and hapū" to recognise how different iwi structures interact with central and local government. For example, Section 15(2) of the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996 states that "where any enactment requires consultation with any iwi or with any iwi authority, that consultation shall, with respect to matters affecting Ngāi Tahu Whanui, be held with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu". It is the acknowledged practice of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRoNT) that consultation in the first instance is with Papatipu Rūnanga (hapū rūnaka), rather than with TRoNT.

5.4 Sections 9 and 10 – Treaty Settlement Redress or Arrangements

139. DCC notes ss 9 and 10 of the Bill state that Treaty settlement arrangements will operate to the same or equivalent effect "...to the greatest extent possible...". DCC supports the intent to uphold these agreements, preserving the rakatirataka of mana whenua. However, the wording could create uncertainty and potentially allow settlement redress to be diluted if it is inconsistent or incompatible with the new system. It is unclear how "equivalent effect" will be measured.
140. DCC therefore recommends that national instruments provide further direction and guidance on what 'the greatest extent possible' means in practice. It is critical that the context these agreements were entered into is not lost.

6 REGIONAL SPATIAL PLAN PROVISIONS

141. The role of the regional spatial plans will be critical in the new system. DCC supports the purpose and contents of regional spatial plans, including s67(d), which states regional spatial plans must support a co-ordinated approach to infrastructure funding and investment by central government, local authorities, and other infrastructure providers; and s67(e), which promotes integration of development planning with infrastructure planning and investment.
142. In particular, DCC is supportive of the integration of regional spatial plans with the transport planning and funding provisions under the Land Transport Management Act (LTMA) through the requirement for consistency between regional spatial plans and regional land transport plans, and the requirement that the Minister of Transport takes into account regional spatial plans

when developing the government policy statement on land transport (sections 67(d), 68(1)(c) & (d), Schedule 11 changes to s14 and 67 of the LTMA).

143. DCC also supports the ability of spatial plan committees to make minor amendments to the regional spatial plan, as provided for in Schedule 2, cl.35. This will enable the efficient correction of minor errors.

6.1 Incorporation of information from RMA plans

144. Schedule 2, cl.6 allows the incorporation of information from operative land use and natural environment plans into a regional spatial plan, without the need to consider submissions on this information (unless the environment has changed). The DCC supports this approach, as it provides for efficient use of information previously approved in these documents, without unnecessary reconsideration or formality.
145. DCC considers that this provision (with the same caveats) could be extended for the first regional spatial plans to allow councils to incorporate operative parts of a plan made under the RMA, when such material is broadly consistent with new national direction. This incorporation should be a reasonably straight-forward exercise, without the need to provide onerous evidence or re-analysis beyond that undertaken at the time provisions were originally incorporated into the RMA plan.
146. Such an amendment would help ease the transition from current RMA plans to the new regional spatial plans, reducing costs and timeframes, avoiding duplication and ensuring continuity. Efficient regional spatial plan preparation will be particularly important given the tight timeframes in which they must be prepared (see above).
147. Specific examples where this would be helpful is the mapping of areas of outstanding natural landscapes (ONLs) and sites of significance to Māori, which have gone through a public process under the RMA, and will continue to be managed under the Act. Having to produce new comprehensive assessments of these would not be possible in the timeframe allowed for the first regional spatial plans. Provided the methodology used to identify them is broadly consistent with any new national direction, then a direct transfer this mapping into the regional spatial plan, without the ability for submissions (where the site/details have not changed), would improve the efficiency of regional spatial plan development and approval. For the sake of clarity, this process should allow Councils to choose to review any of the provisions/mapping and if changed, allow for submissions on those changes.
148. DCC recommends that Schedule 2, cl. 6 is extended to also apply to operative material in RMA plans, provided this is generally consistent with any national direction produced under the Planning or Natural Environment Acts.

6.2 Affordability testing / financial feasibility

149. As outlined in Schedule 2, cl.3(1)(d) and (e), regional spatial plans will be required to include existing and future key infrastructure, and other infrastructure that may be needed to serve future urban areas. While the broad intent of this is supported, DCC is concerned that the Bill does not explicitly require any affordability testing or financial feasibility assessments as part of

the spatial planning process. While scenarios must be considered for the purpose of testing options, without explicit consideration of financial feasibility, there is potential that regional spatial plans could commit councils to infrastructure obligations that are unaffordable, creating legal, political, and practical pressure on council finances in the future.

150. This is a critical concern in the current fiscal and infrastructure context, where councils are managing significant renewal burdens and resilience challenges and must prioritise investment within constrained funding envelopes. Spatial plans that identify infrastructure without explicit attention to affordability and funding pathways risk becoming aspirational documents that raise expectations but cannot be delivered. That undermines trust and creates pressure for growth in locations that may be inefficient or impractical to service.

151. DCC recommends that the Planning Bill explicitly provides for affordability testing of any infrastructure identified in regional spatial plans. Alternatively, explicitly allow councils to decline or defer infrastructure commitments where funding is uncertain or unavailable. This will better align spatial planning with deliverability, improve credibility, protect financial sustainability, and reduce the risk of implied, unfunded mandates.

6.3 Relationship with water services strategies

152. Section 68 outlines how regional spatial plans integrate with other statutory documents. Long-term plans must set out steps to implement or progress the actions for which the local authority is a lead. However, under the Government's Local Water Done Well reform programme, the enduring regulatory framework for the management and delivery of water services infrastructure is now contained in the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. Amongst other requirements, this legislation will require that water service providers complete a water service strategy every three years, which will replace the water-related aspects of the LTP prepared under the Local Government Act.

153. While Schedule 2 cl.5(2)(a)(viii) of the Planning Bill states that the spatial plan committee must have regard to water service strategies prepared under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025, there is no equivalent reference to this document in s68.

154. Recommendation:

155. DCC recommends that explicit reference to water service strategies prepared under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 is included under s68 of the Planning Bill.

6.4 Mandatory matters

156. DCC supports the mandatory matters listed in Schedule 2 cl.3, subject to a clarification.

157. Item (g) includes 'infrastructure supporting activities'. DCC interprets this as activities that support infrastructure, such as roads that might provide access to power lines (rather than infrastructure that supports activities). However, it would be useful to clarify this.

158. DCC recommends that a definition for ‘infrastructure supporting activities’ is added to the Planning Bill (even if that definition refers to a definition that will be provided in relevant national direction).

6.5 Authority to notify the Spatial plan and decide on IHP recommendations

159. Under s73(e) and (f), the spatial plan committee has the powers to recommend public notification of the draft regional spatial plan to local authorities and also to provide advice to the local authorities in the region on the independent hearings panel’s recommendations on the draft regional spatial plan after submissions and hearings. Under Schedule 2 cl.12 the local authority approves public notification, and under cl.21 it decides whether to accept the recommendations from the independent hearings panel.

160. DCC is concerned that this approach is inefficient, given the representation of all local authorities on the Spatial Planning Committee, and a clear directive for consensus decision-making. It is not inconceivable that, despite the spatial planning committee agreeing on the regional spatial plan content, one or more individual local authorities decide not to notify it. Likewise, different local authorities may chose to make different decisions on the IHP’s recommendations on regional spatial plan submissions. While a dispute resolution process is provided for in Schedule 2, this process may take a significant amount of time to complete. If a decision cannot be reached through that process, the matter must be referred to the Minister, which is also likely to introduce further delays. Given the Government’s desire for rapid implementation of RM reform, such delays would mean the roll-out of the new system could take significantly longer. This could have significant knock-on implications for councils’ work programmes.

161. DCC considers that it would be preferable, and more efficient overall, that any disagreement at a local authority level on the content of the regional spatial plan is addressed through submissions and, if necessary (and provided for), appeals.

162. DCC therefore recommends that the decision to notify the regional spatial plan, and that IHP recommendations on the regional spatial plan, rest with the spatial planning committee.

163. Further, the Act explicitly provides for local authorities to make submissions, and pursue appeals, on the regional spatial plan content. This will be particularly important in cases where costs of regional spatial plan implementation may be borne primarily by one Council who is out voted on a decision relating to that infrastructure.

7 ENABLING THE EFFECTIVE PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

7.1 Infrastructure delivery

164. The DCC supports the broad intention of the Bill in relation to enabling delivery of high-quality infrastructure for the future. One of the Bills’ goals (section 11) requires that all persons exercising functions under the Bill “plan and provide for infrastructure to meet current and expected demand”. This sits alongside supporting economic growth and well-functioning urban (and rural) environments. The DCC supports a system that may reduce unnecessary barriers and regulatory uncertainty as this can have negative impacts on infrastructure investment and

delivery, as long as that improved efficiency of process does not prevent the appropriate management (and protection) of important natural environmental values.

165. In Dunedin, the proposed Smooth Hill landfill provides a local example of how difficult and time-consuming the nature of consenting essential infrastructure has been. Initial studies for a new landfill location were undertaken in the late 1980s and early 1990, and the Smooth Hill site was identified. This site was subsequently designated in the 2006 Operative Dunedin District Plan, and this designation was carried over into the Proposed Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan (2GP). The resource consent application was first lodged in 2020, and further information supplied in 2021. The application was publicly notified in late 2021, with a public hearing being undertaken in mid-2022. Approval for the application was received later in 2022; however, two appeals were received by the Environment Court relating to this decision. By mid-2023, the final appeal had been resolved and the DCC is now able to proceed with progressing the project. However, the costs and timeframes have been significant. Measures that would enable this process to be more efficient, cost-effective, and provide more certainty to applicants, while still ensuring appropriate management of adverse environment effects is undertaken and public input considered, are supported.
166. The DCC also supports the Bill's provisions on regional spatial planning (and specifically the relevant matters listed Schedule 2, cl.3(1)) to require better consideration of existing and future key infrastructure, in order to better coordinate forward infrastructure planning with future urban development areas. In addition, the integration of regional spatial plans with other legislation as detailed in s68 of the Bill.
167. The Bill's provisions on designations are also supported, with the designation process set out in the Bill intended to enable effective infrastructure provision and reduce the cost and complexity of the process. The ability to secure designations through the spatial planning process is particularly supported, as this allows spatial planning to better consider and integrate infrastructure, both existing and planned.

7.2 Growth and the affordability of infrastructure

168. Dunedin faces significant infrastructure challenges, particularly in its 3 waters network. Many of these constraints stem from the age of the city's infrastructure – some areas have pipes over a century old, with much of the network exceeding 50 years in age. There is a consequent lack of capacity, particularly in wet weather, and there is considerable work planned over the next 10 years (and beyond) to maintain or restore minimum levels of service and performance, as well as to provide for the development capacity that is enabled within our existing residentially zoned areas.
169. Due to these constraints, providing for 3 waters infrastructure to service growth, and in particular to new greenfield growth areas, is often more complex and challenging than simply extending existing pipes. Catchment wide programmes of works are often required.
170. DCC is concerned that the new planning system does not provide for an ability to say 'no' to growth where infrastructure constraints may make that growth unaffordable (in the short term due to capital upgrades and/or longer term in terms of increased operational costs) where sufficient alternative growth options are available that provide a more affordable outcome for

communities. This will likely lead to urban expansion in locations where infrastructure is unable to be efficiently or cost-effectively provided, or where provision will delay other planned works from being achieved due to limited resources (money, plant, personnel). Such an approach risks undermining efficient public investment. Further, if this policy drives up the cost of infrastructure provision by limiting council's ability to strategically plan for growth in a way that considers infrastructure affordability, then housing costs will ultimately increase.

171. While privately delivered infrastructure is an option for some growth areas, DCC's experience is that privately delivered infrastructure is typically designed to meet the needs of a specific development and often lacks integration with broader network planning. In many instances urban expansion, unlike intensification and infill, results in fragmented and inefficient infrastructure systems (for example, subdivision-level schemes for stormwater management, local wastewater detention and/or pumping, pumping water supply to higher ground), which are less efficient than broader catchment-wide solutions, or have higher long term operational and maintenance costs that cannot be funded through developer contributions.
172. For example, in the case of 3 waters, responsive planning is likely to result in pressure to establish small-scale, stand-alone water and wastewater treatment, reticulation and disposal systems that are disconnected from larger metropolitan systems. Or alternatively, require long network extensions for 3 waters servicing of rural areas that have been rezoned, distant from the urban boundary. Both of these approaches are less cost-effective or "infrastructure efficient" when compared to intensification of existing urban areas, rezoning within urban limits or at urban-rural boundaries. For example, growth in outlying townships and settlements of Dunedin may need major upgrades to network infrastructure that is likely to be difficult to finance due to relatively low rates of growth and development due to the limited market for people wanting to live that far from the main urban centre. This means that development contributions or similar funding is not an efficient means of paying for a large upfront capital investment where growth is slow and higher operational costs have no proportionate increase in rates in the area. The net effect of this change from a 3 waters perspective would be high levels of infrastructure capital costs relative to the number of services properties, and disjointed and fragmented infrastructure with higher costs to operate and maintain for the future.
173. Given Dunedin's already substantial programme of required 3 waters upgrades, and the city's relatively modest growth – all of which can be accommodated within existing zoned areas – it is essential that development should be able to be directed towards locations that represent the most cost-effective long term infrastructure outcomes (considering both capital costs for new infrastructure and long term operating and maintenance costs). While 3 waters represents the largest infrastructure cost, other infrastructure provided by councils such as roads, parks, recreation, public transport etc also all represent significant costs.
174. Providing for unanticipated or out-of-sequence development proposals can significantly affect the funding and delivery of public infrastructure. If Councils no longer have discretion to decline such proposals based on infrastructure or only approve them if they are fully funded (capital and operation) from the landowners without subsidising from other parts of the city, there is a heightened risk of inefficient and costly infrastructure solutions that may have an impact on rates for decades.

175. From a transportation perspective, growth in outlying townships and settlements and even in many parts of the urban-rural fringe is usually not affordable to service by public transport under current Government funding and cost sharing policies meaning those growth areas become car dependent and lead to increased traffic volumes that require roading upgrades to maintain safety and efficiency in the network.
176. The need to ensure infrastructure is cost effective to operate and has effective means of financing capital costs particularly relevant in light of central government’s proposal to implement a rates cap for councils. While this is currently proposed to exclude water charges, provision of other infrastructure still represents a considerable expense for councils. In Dunedin, the forward capital programme for infrastructure provision/upgrades over the next 10 years is substantial, and rates costs are projected to increase. These costs would be increased further still if Council was now required to service growth that requires expensive infrastructure upgrades and extensions and higher costs to operate. Now, with the potential for a rates cap, the reality is that DCC will simply be unable to afford the necessary infrastructure upgrades.
177. DCC considers that, if growth and urban expansion is to be promoted, there must be an ability to decline inappropriate and inefficient growth areas, and that there are suitable funding and financing mechanisms available, as discussed in the next section.
178. However, it is noted that even if appropriate funding mechanisms are in place, physical infrastructure upgrade works on the ground can still be constrained by what is delivered by the market. This matter is amplified when the infrastructure upgrades might be undertaken in a piecemeal and isolated manner.
179. It is recommended that Section 11 of the Planning Bill include a goal “to support the cost effective delivery of infrastructure and public services by government and communities” (preferred) or, if that is not supported, that this concept is included in a definition of a well-functioning urban environment that is national direction which presumably will define this term that is used in Section 11.

7.3 Funding and financing mechanisms

180. The DCC supports managed growth where this occurs in infrastructure-appropriate locations (refer to the discussion in section 0 above) and endorses the principle that growth should pay for growth. However, this support is conditional on the availability of effective and flexible financing options to fund the infrastructure required to support growth. proposals
181. Many infrastructure projects deliver both private and public benefits, which creates funding challenges. Councils have limited mechanisms to fund the public share of infrastructure costs. For example, infrastructure must be included in the Long Term Plan (LTP)—updated every three years—to be eligible for Development Contributions. If not included in the LTP, projects must be added through the annual plan process—an administratively complex approach, particularly for smaller projects. The system must provide Councils the ability to fund upgrades in a timely manner.
182. A recent example in Dunedin illustrates the funding challenges associated with infrastructure delivery in submitter-proposed growth areas (i.e. responsive planning). Four landowners sought

a relatively large expansion to the urban boundary that was likely to require infrastructure upgrades. A transition zone was applied, subject to several technical studies to be completed (particularly related to stormwater management and discharge to a flood prone waterway). The integrated transport assessment showed the need for an intersection upgrade outside the site, which would have both public and private benefits. Funding for that project was included in the LTP. However, at the point of requesting the transition zone uplift, the landowner identified that the internal roading also had public benefits and requested a Council funding contribution. Because this public component of internal roading was identified too late for inclusion in the LTP, determining a funding mechanism for the public share presented a challenge.

183. As the proposed reforms are resulting in a far more permissive planning system, it is crucial that Councils are equipped with appropriate funding tools to deliver infrastructure. The costs (and fair distribution of costs) of servicing growth will vary by location, and there must be an ability to recover higher costs from growth areas which have higher infrastructure costs. While targeted rates are one option, in our experience they are often administratively complex and burdensome. Any new funding mechanisms introduced should be simple to implement, adaptable to different situations, and capable of providing timely and reliable funding.

184. DCC also consider it essential that Councils have an ability to discount (or cap) development charges in certain areas. In our experience, smaller rural townships located outside the main urban area often incur significantly higher infrastructure servicing costs compared to growth areas within or near the city. If full infrastructure costs were passed on, charges in these townships would likely be prohibitively high—effectively preventing development. To ensure growth remains viable in these smaller communities, Councils must retain the discretion to limit the infrastructure costs charged in such circumstances.

7.4 Stormwater infrastructure and increased run-off

185. Section 14(1) outlines the effects outside the scope of the Act. Of note, s14(1)(a) includes that the internal and external layout of buildings on a site (for example, the provision of private open space) is excluded. Currently the Dunedin district plan requires a minimum amount of outdoor living space be provided, which works in conjunction with rules related to maximum building site coverage, and maximum areas of impermeable surfaces to manage effects on the stormwater network. This is effectively a win-win type framework as it ensures that parts of the required areas of impermeable surfaces (which are necessary to avoid pluvial flooding – a widespread issue in Dunedin) are able to be used for outdoor living and/or contribute to street amenity. This win-win outcome presents minimum additional costs on housing development than just having areas with gravel soak pits for stormwater that have no co-benefit for amenity or outdoor living.

186. Further, if local authorities no longer have the ability to require a minimum amount of outdoor living space as is proposed in the Bill currently, then it will be critical that impermeable surfaces standards are designed to deliver the same outcomes for stormwater management (the definition of impermeable surface does not allow for compacted gravel or other surfaces with poor permeability). However, a better outcome would be to keep the win-win of the required areas of permeable surfaces also contributing to housing amenity and liveability outcomes.

8 REGULATORY RELIEF PROVISIONS

187. The proposed regulatory relief provisions are a matter of particular concern for the DCC. Requiring councils to provide regulatory relief where a 'specified rule' in a plan has a 'significant impact on the reasonable use of land' represents a substantial and impractical departure from the current planning system.

188. To be clear, regulatory relief means compensation in one form or another. Under the Public Works Act 1981, councils are already required to compensate landowners if they need to purchase land for a public work. However, here, regulatory relief would apply even though no land is being acquired or taken. This would be a new and unfunded financial obligation on councils.

189. DCC strongly opposes these provisions for the following key reasons:

- a. **Financial impact on councils** – It is unclear how councils will be expected to fund regulatory relief as there is no obvious funding mechanism. If the funding is to be through rates, then there would be less funding available for other council services, especially if there are rates caps.

Councils are already operating under constrained budgets, and providing relief to a potentially large number of landowners would impose additional costs. This concern is further amplified if the proposed rates cap is enacted, placing additional pressure on council finances.

There is no doubt that regulatory relief would have a significant financial impact on local authorities. In addition to the costs of relief/compensation itself, there would be substantial staff costs to implement the regime, costs for valuations and other costs.

The uncertainty and unquantifiable nature of regulatory relief is highly problematic for councils' financial planning. DCC is already facing significant financial challenges that will need to be addressed as part of the next long-term plan (2027-2037).

- b. **Conflict with councils' statutory obligations** – There is a conflict between councils' regulatory responsibilities and compensatory obligations. While councils will be required to regulate and manage matters such as outstanding natural features and landscapes, the obligation for regulatory relief is a potential disincentive for environmental and other protections. Councils will obviously need to meet their statutory obligations, but regulatory relief has the potential to disincentivise councils from doing more than the bare minimum in terms of protecting the environment.
- c. **Unfairness to councils through requirements in national standards** – Through the development of national instruments, central government may require councils to manage and protect certain matters. However, if these requirements constitute a 'significant impact on the reasonable use of land,' councils would still be obligated

to provide regulatory relief, despite having no discretion over these centrally mandated measures.

- d. **Unfairness to councils through regulations** – Although councils are tasked with developing a regulatory relief framework, that framework must comply with regulations that councils have little to no control over. The regulations can include methodologies for defining levels of impact within a relief framework, classifying types of impact, setting the types of relief for different types and levels of impact, and identifying impacted landowners.
- e. **Scale of regulatory relief** – The potential number of landowners eligible for regulatory relief is substantial. In Dunedin alone, there are:
- 915 scheduled heritage buildings
 - 1,335 ha of Areas of Significant Biodiversity Value (ASBV) on private land
 - 144 ha of Urban Biodiversity Mapped Areas (UBMA) on private land
 - 56,289 ha of Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL) on private land
 - 17 ha of Outstanding Natural Coastal Character (ONCC) on private land
 - 424 ha of High Natural Coastal Character on private land.
 - 32,517 ha of wāhi tupuna (sites of significance to Māori) on private land.

This demonstrates the potentially enormous scale and corresponding cost associated with implementing regulatory relief.

- f. **Retrospective nature** – The Planning Bill applies to specified rules in a proposed plan or plan change, and retrospectively where the requirements in clause 68(7) of Schedule 3 in the Planning Bill apply. DCC opposes the retrospective nature of the regulatory relief framework as it is administratively burdensome and the rules in the RMA operative plan have been through a robust process that involved public notification, hearings, and rights of appeal to ensure that the rules were appropriate. Repeating work seems counter-productive. It would be time-consuming and costly.
- g. **Administrative burden** – The work required to assess every individual property affected by a specified rule is enormous. Apart from the cost of providing regulatory relief itself, there will be substantial staff costs associated with developing a regulatory relief framework, checking the history of ownership of each individual property that is potentially affected, assessing the impact on the “reasonable use of land”, considering applications for review, and managing objections to the Planning Tribunal. There will also be other costs, such as title searches and consultants’ costs (such as valuers and potentially planning or

economic experts). This volume of work and the associated costs should not be underestimated. Resourcing is likely to be a major issue.

- h. **Potential effect on other council services** – As mentioned above, funding regulatory relief through rates would mean less funding availability for other council services, especially if there are rates caps. Funds for regulatory relief would need to be diverted from other council services, such as libraries, parks, pools, waste collection, roading etc.
- i. **One sided nature of the regime** – Although regulatory relief would allow landowners to be compensated if specified rules have a significant impact on the reasonable use of their land, there is no corresponding payment by landowners to councils when a landowner gets the benefit of a planning rule (e.g. if rural land is zoned residential).
- j. **Potential for increased disputes and litigation** – Given the contentious nature of regulatory relief, it is highly likely that disputes will arise, leading to litigation. This would create additional costs and uncertainty for both councils and landowners.

Disputes and litigation have the potential to arise in relation to many aspects of the process. For example:

- There may be judicial review of the regulatory framework itself. It is difficult to know how a court would approach this given that the regulatory framework would inevitably involve decisions by councils regarding the competing allocation of public funds. This is an area where there has traditionally been judicial restraint, which is appropriate if councils are having to choose between funding for regulatory relief and funding for other public services (such as libraries, parks, pools, waste collection, roading etc).
- There will inevitably be disputes around what is “reasonable use”, what is a “significant impact” and what is “reasonably likely”. Although the regulatory relief framework will need to identify what is “a significant impact on the reasonable use of land”, the councils’ decision on this will be subject to judicial review and will probably not be consistent across New Zealand.

Given the Planning Tribunal will have the ability to alter the regulatory relief awarded to landowners, there is again financial uncertainty for councils.

- k. **Voluntary incentives** - Regulatory relief has the potential to disincentivise landowners from applying to voluntary incentives (where Council has some ability to ensure that funds are used for the intended purpose) as this will adversely affect their access to regulatory relief. DCC (directly or indirectly) has several voluntary incentives, and the benefit of these is that the funds must be used for a specified purpose. It is unclear whether a regulatory relief framework could include such requirements for the funds to be used for a specified purpose. For example, the

Dunedin Heritage Fund makes grants in relation to specified works intended to strengthen or enhance heritage buildings.

- l. Heritage buildings** – As mentioned earlier in this submission, regulatory relief has the potential to adversely affect New Zealand’s heritage buildings. This is a matter of particular concern for DCC as Dunedin is renowned for its historic buildings, and this attracts visitors to the City. The financial burden associated with regulatory relief (i.e. compensation) has the potential to discourage the identification of significant historic heritage, which may lead to some properties not being recognised in the way that they should.
- m. Status quo** – Even without all the above downsides to regulatory relief, it is questionable whether regulatory relief can be justified given the uncertainties and financial risk for local authorities. There are already some mechanisms in place to prevent unreasonable planning rules (e.g. through application to the courts). Also:

 - Clause 105 of the Planning Bill partially overlaps with Part 4 of Schedule 3.
 - Landowners are already compensated, at least to some extent, as rates are predominantly based on land values. If a planning rule impacts the value of a property, then this will often be reflected in the property’s rateable value, which means that those landowners pay less rates than they otherwise would.

190. Given the above, DCC recommends that:

- a.** Section 92 and Part 4 of Schedule 3 of the Planning Bill should be removed in their entirety. They are highly problematic.
- b.** If the regulatory relief provisions are to remain (which is not supported), then they should be funded by central government, or there should be clear funding mechanisms available to councils (other than rates), for example the ability to collect funding where land is rezoned to enable higher levels of development.
- c.** If the regulatory relief provisions are to remain and be funded by councils (also not supported), then:

 - Regulatory relief should only apply to new specified rules in a proposed plan or plan change. The relief regime should **not** be retrospective, as it will involve relitigating existing plan provisions. It is arguably unworkable. At best, it will stretch resources and divert funding from other council services.
 - The onus should be on landowners to apply for relief. A portion of the population may support the rules or at least not be concerned about the rules applying to their land.

- It should be clear that compensation will only be payable once in respect of a property. For example, if a landowner is compensated and then that landowner sells their land, the new landowner should not be entitled to compensation. It would be helpful for councils to have the ability to have a memorial on a record of title recording that compensation has been agreed/paid so a subsequent purchaser is aware of this prior to purchase.
- There should be greater clarity and guidance around what will constitute a “significant impact on the reasonable use of land”. For example, does “reasonable use” in clause 105 mean the same thing in Part 4 of Schedule 3? Why is “materiality” rather than “significance” used in clause 66(2) in Part 4 of Schedule 3. Are they intended to mean the same thing? What is an “impact”?
- There should be consideration of aligning the language in clause 105 with the language in Part 4 of Schedule 3. Otherwise, there will be disputes regarding the difference and whether they mean different things. For example, why does clause 105 refer to “severely impair” whereas Part 4 of Schedule 3 refers to “significant impact”. Are they intended to be the same level of impact?
- Clause 68 in Part 4 of Schedule 3 should be amended so that:
 - Clause 68(1)(a) refers to “...land that is *significantly* impacted....”
 - Clause 68(7)(c) refers to “...land is *significantly* impacted....”
- To avoid duplication and “double dipping”, there needs to be alignment between clause 105 of the Planning Bill and Part 4 of Schedule 3. For example, while clause 105 accounts for any relief granted under Part 4 of Schedule 3, there should be an equivalent requirement so that Part 4 of Schedule 3 accounts for any relief granted under clause 105.

9 NATIONAL PLANNING DIRECTION

191. The DCC is, in principle, supportive of a resource management system that is more accessible to developers and communities and recognises that standardisation can help contribute to that outcome.

192. DCC also support standardisation where it can reduce unnecessary variation (e.g. to manage effects that are the same in all contexts) both for plan usability and to reduce the cost of plan making. An example is the cost to Councils that have occurred to develop standards for things like renewable energy generation and network utilities, Port activities, construction vibration, Māori land, roading and railway activities, and storage and use of hazardous substances that have been contentious and costly around the country.

193. However, for some issues there are advantages of flexibility in planning to enable bespoke provisions that can most effectively manage site level issues and effects with the least

administrative and regulatory costs. Moving to a coarser set of options inevitably will lead to situations where the choice gets limited to either a too lenient regulatory approach which may be unacceptable or the next option being something that is more strict/regulated than necessary. Care is needed so as not to reduce options so much that plans end up over-regulating as there is no 'in-between' option.

194. A common example is determining an appropriate zone for sites with historic lawful activities that are out of place with the surrounding zone. For example, in Dunedin there was a plan appeal for a site containing an historic brick works that was being used for a range of light industrial activities but was in the middle of a residential environment near a school. It was inappropriate to do a 'spot' industrial zone as the effects of a broader range of industrial activities would have been unacceptable in the residential environment but some light industrial with limited heavy vehicle movements could continue. The land owner appealed the residential zoning to enable them to have flexibility for future tenants and a bespoke structure plan with specific rules was agreed through the plan appeal mediation process.

195. Another example was a former air force base outside Mosgiel that contained a mixture of residential and light industrial activities (due to variance in buildings and sites) that were managed through a bespoke zone and structure plan provisions.

196. There is also a risk with standardisation – that if you do it once you need to do it right, otherwise instead of a problem that only affects one district that can be resolved through a change involving a single community – a problem that sits at the national level will affect the whole planning system and potentially require a more expensive and lengthy process to resolve, and one that is far less likely to be agile and responsive in a timely way to the issue it has created.

197. If a nationally standardised system is to succeed the development of the national framework, including national planning standards must have a comprehensive internal quality assurance process with appropriate input from experienced practitioners and critical reviewers and must be subject to effective submissions and hearing processes.

9.1 Need for options for standardised plan provisions

198. DCC is highly supportive of opportunities for territorial authorities to choose from options and / or set content from within parameters set out in national direction. Having some choice or variation in standardised plan provisions will better allow these provisions to be applied and potentially tailored to a local context. For example, plan provisions that are suitable for high growth areas (e.g. Auckland) may be far less suitable for lower growth councils such as Dunedin and even less so for small towns.

199. The DCC is concerned that the focus of much of the standardised plan provisions would be designed to address problems in fast growing parts of the North Island and will mean that less time and attention will be given to addressing issues that are important for towns and cities in the South Island. For example, even a detailed matter such as appropriate building height planes should account for the different sun angles, shorter winter days, and colder temperatures in the lower South Island compared with other parts of the country.

200. Another key example is impermeable surfaces provisions – there need to be a range of settings for impermeable surfaces limits and other provisions to manage stormwater discharge from sites. These options need to include the ability to require no change from the status quo (for example through on-site detention) in areas that are currently or likely to become increasingly prone to pluvial flooding or that may exacerbate flooding issues down stream. This is critically important for places like Dunedin whose topography and infrastructure age makes stormwater management particularly challenging.
201. Overall, DCC would strongly support national instruments providing options and variation to different territorial authorities, in order to better account for the local contexts in which the standardised provisions would need to be applied. DCC also request meaningful opportunities to submit on national directions to ensure flexibility is provided appropriately.

9.2 Bespoke provisions

202. DCC is supportive of the ability for councils to be able to make bespoke provisions in land use plans (s79) and is also generally supportive of the need to support introducing such provisions through a justification report, explaining why a departure from the national approach is necessary.
203. As alluded to in the above section, DCC considers that bespoke provisions will be important to allow land use plans to respond to local issues and contexts. This matter is important not just for councils, but also for developers. To illustrate this, Dunedin’s district plan contains a number of structure plans, which have been developed through recent plan changes and appeals, which contain site-specific rules and controls for individual growth areas. In many cases, agreement of these bespoke rules was critical for enabling a particular growth area to be included in the Plan, and without individual structure plans it is likely that a majority of these areas would be considered as unsuitable for development due to the presence of site specific environmental constraints.
204. While the Bill appears to allow structure plan type rules to be incorporated into new plans via bespoke provisions, DCC also considers that it would be beneficial and cost effective if there was a mechanism to transfer certain existing bespoke provisions (e.g. structure plans) over from RMA plans through to the new land use plans made under the Planning Bill. These structure plans are often complex, and have been agreed between multiple parties through a time consuming and expensive process, in some cases with a final determination by the Environment Court. Having to re-justify (and potentially re-litigate) such provisions would be extremely costly, for both councils, developers, and relevant other parties (e.g. s274 RMA parties in the case of appeals). DCC recommends that consideration should be given to providing a mechanism to transfer over certain provisions (e.g. structure plans for discrete growth areas) into the new land use plans without having to go through a (re-)justification process in cases where this might be appropriate to do so.

10 DESIGNATIONS

205. DCC supports the ability to secure designations through the spatial planning process outlined in Schedule 5 Part 4. However, DCC would like more clarity around the provisions related to construction project plans in Part 5. At the time of regional spatial plan development, key

infrastructure may be identified that is needed to support future growth; however, this infrastructure may not be intended to be delivered in the short term, and will generally require business case development, securing investment and detailed design before a construction project plan could be developed. Rather than having construction project plans as a requirement for all proposed designations (albeit with an ability to waiver), DCC recommends that the provisions could be amended to require that only projects planned to be delivered in the short term would be required to produce a construction project plan at the time of designation. Other designations (not delivered in the short term) could have a period of time to produce a construction project plan and, if not completed within an applicable timeframe, the designation could lapse.

206. DCC also recommends that, for the avoidance of doubt, the definition of infrastructure in Schedule 5 cl.1(h) should be amended to “structures for transport on land by cycleways, rail, roads, walkways, or any other means, and also structures over water including bridges, boardwalks, and ferries (where these exist as a substitute for bridges)”.

207. Amending the definition in this way would allow designations for a wider range of relevant transportation infrastructure (e.g. the Tuapeka Mouth Ferry). As part of adaptation to climate change it may become increasingly difficult to provide roads to some coastal communities, and alternative options including the use of ferries may be necessary to provide a transport connection.

11 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

11.1 Amendments to s104 of the RMA – language used

208. Schedule 11 of the Planning Bill outlines proposed amendments to other legislation, including amendments to s104 of the RMA, which provide for the proposed transitional arrangements. These amendments list a number of effects that a consent authority must not have regard to when considering a resource consent application during the transitional period. The intent of these amendments is to provide consistency with s14 of the Planning Bill, which identifies effects that are outside the scope of the Planning Bill.

209. However, the amendments to s104 of the RMA introduce language and terminology that is not currently used in many operative RMA plans. This will lead to uncertainty as to how these terms should be interpreted and applied in practice, and so introduces litigation risks and costs for councils. Three examples of this are discussed below.

210. Firstly, the term ‘significant historic heritage’ (s104(1A)(g)(iii)) is not used in section 6(f) of the RMA or in current plans (including the 2GP). As a result, there could be delays, costs and potentially litigation in determining which of the protected heritage items in district plans are ‘significant’ historic heritage, during the transition period.

211. DCC recommends that it is made clear that all protected heritage buildings and areas in RMA planning documents are considered ‘significant historic heritage’ during the transitional period, until a new methodology is released that provides a clear pathway for how ‘significant’ historic

heritage is identified and assessed and this is implemented through the first land use plans (unless there is time to implement this reassessment built into the regional spatial plan stage).

212. Secondly, 'Areas of high natural character within the coastal environment...' (s104(1A)(g)(i)). In the 2GP, there are three categories of coastal character overlays:

- a. Natural Coastal Character;
- b. High Natural Coastal Character; and
- c. Outstanding Natural Coastal Character.

213. These have all been identified because they are special areas, important to the community, and are worthy of protection. While Outstanding Natural Coastal character areas and High Natural Coastal Character (HNCC) areas could be expected to fit meet the classification of 'Areas of high natural character', without a methodology or direction as to what constitutes a 'high natural character', it is uncertain as to whether the 2GP's Natural Coastal Character areas would meet the threshold, and therefore how they should be treated in consent processes.

214. Similarly, DCC recommends that until guidance is issued to clarify how these new terms are to be used and interpreted in the context of existing RMA plans and these changes are implemented through the first land use plans (unless there is time to implement this reassessment built into the regional spatial plan stage), any existing mapped area of coastal character should be captured by s104(1A)(g)(i).

215. Thirdly, 'sites of significance to Māori' (s104(1A)(g)(iv)). Sites of significance to Māori in the 2GP are called 'wāhi tupuna' and have been identified by mana whenua. However, without clear understanding or guidance on how sites of significance are to be identified, or what they may comprise (see comments in Section 0 of this submission), it may be open to challenge whether these areas (which are more than just 'wāhi tapu, water bodies or sites in or on the coastal marine area') meet this classification. DCC recommends that the legislation is clarified to ensure any sites or areas of significance to mana whenua identified in existing RMA planning documents are included under this clause, regardless of the titles used.

216. DCC further recommends that the drafting of s104(1A) of the RMA should include wording such as 'or equivalent provisions / terms', to ensure that relevant plan provisions and overlays that use different terminology, but have the same intent and effect, can be appropriately recognised.

11.1.1 Processing of consents during the transitional period

217. The Planning Bill proposes a transitional period for the processing of resource consents until the RMA is fully replaced. That includes making amendments to section 104 of the RMA, requiring certain effects to be disregarded (which almost exactly follow the effects outside scope listed in proposed s14) when deciding a consent application lodged during the transition period.

218. Firstly, one month between Royal assent and commencement of this transitional period is extremely short, particularly when processes, templates and documents need to be reviewed and updated to accommodate the changes.

219. More importantly, this change seemingly only applies to the substantive decision. There does not appear to be any accompanying amendments changing the adverse effects that can be considered when making the notification decision. DCC recommends that any relevant changes to the substantive decision are replicated for the notification decision, noting also the concerns above about the interpretation challenges with these provisions.

12 CONSENTING PROCESS

220. This section of the submission examines the proposed consenting process in greater detail. While it addresses a range of consenting-related matters (some of which are also discussed elsewhere in the submission), the primary focus is on consent processing and how this is expected to operate in practice, given that this will be a core function of DCC under the new resource management system.

12.1 Consenting – context and overarching comments

221. The resource consent system under the RMA is often described as being overly complex, costly and slow. The DCC's view is such criticism is unfair and often focusses on a small number of anecdotal examples. In Dunedin, the majority of resource consents get processed smoothly, very few proceed to a hearing, and it is extremely rare for applications to be declined.

222. The new consenting regime will be a significant departure from the current one under the RMA, which will potentially be disruptive for both applicants and Council staff during the transition. Past the transition period, it is important that the consenting system is designed correctly from the beginning, to minimise the need for large changes subsequently. Continued monitoring of the new system needs to be undertaken, with a view to implementing regular incremental improvements over time. Use of regulations to prescribe certain consenting processes is supported, as they are much easier to update, but proper consultation with those expected to implement and follow those regulations needs to occur.

223. Best practice in consent processing is dependent on many things beyond the legislation itself. To make the new consenting system work as expected, the DCC recommends that:

- National rules (being the equivalent of national environmental standards) are drafted so that they are clear, simple and easy to understand and to avoid any ambiguity or risk of different interpretations. National standards should never seek to rely on clarification through user guides as these are not considered by the Court to have legal standing. All drafting must be critically reviewed by experienced legal practitioners with a view to minimising any litigation risk.
- It should be a mandatory requirement for any national rules that permit, restrict or prohibit activities to be included in the land use plan. That is to reduce complexity and inefficiency by ensuring applicants and Council staff only need to refer to one document to determine whether planning consent is required. (A less preferred alternative would

be a requirement for the land use plan to have cross references in all appropriate locations to relevant national rules.)

- Ongoing support should be given by central government to the interpretation of national rules and standardised plan rules. That support should include the ability for councils and applicants to apply for a determination as to the correct interpretation of a particular provision (similar to the determination process under the Building Act 2004), and for this to be shared amongst all councils.
- Drafting of standardised plan provisions is undertaken to reduce the areas of contention that might arise during the consent process. That includes ensuring information requirements for consent applications are precisely defined, making extensive use of notification and non-notification provisions, and having clear assessment criteria.
- Standardisation of consent application forms, assessment templates and decision reports across the country, along with standardised conditions of consent. This will help ensure consistency between applicants and amongst councils.

224. The proposed nationwide digital planning and consenting platform is supported, particularly as it will remove the burden of having to maintain our own consenting database. However, it needs to be built in a way that integrates with the Council's property database, GIS and filing systems.

225. One other thing that needs to be appreciated is that allowing one person greater development rights on their property can be at the expense of the property rights of neighbouring properties. For example, permitted greater building heights may result in increased shading for adjoining properties, adversely affecting these neighbours' ability to use and "enjoy" their land. The Council often gets caught in the conflict between these competing parties, and this may increase under the new regime where fewer consents will require neighbour involvement. The drafting of national rules and standardised plan provisions needs to minimise the need for Council staff to be drawn into ill-founded disputes, for example by being absolutely clear about effects on neighbouring properties that will and will not be considered.

12.2 Specific comments relating to planning consent processing

12.2.1 *Quality of planning consent applications*

226. One key frustration in the current system for both applicants and consent authorities is the level of information required in a consent application. There is an inherent tension between applicants wanting to avoid unnecessary costs when preparing their consent documentation and councils needing to ensure that they have all the information required to process the application.

227. Unfortunately, the information requirements in Schedule 6, specifying what needs to be included in planning consent application, is unlikely to significantly resolve this tension. Having standardised consent application forms that have greater detail than the current prescribed form for resource consents (Form 9 from the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Regulations 2003) will help. However, to address this issue effectively, land use plan

rules should also be required to detail what information is required for an application under that particular plan rule (for example, the situations under which a specialist report is needed, the methodology for its preparation and the required content of the report). This is particularly necessary given that consents required under the Planning Bill are expected to be more towards the complicated end of the scale.

228. Examples of this type of requirement (Special Information Requirements) can be found in Dunedin's 2GP (district plan). The use of these types of provisions removes uncertainty for applicants and means consents are processed faster.
229. Section 119 of the Bill requires the consent authority to consider the cost and feasibility of obtaining further information before requesting it. DCC considers this provision as unworkable as it is not in the position to assess the cost of commissioning a report or the availability of specialist staff. Additionally, it is presumed that the consideration of cost and feasibility of obtaining the information in proposed s119, along with the additional requirement to consider the scale and significance of the matter, would need to be documented by the Council, which creates an administrative cost to councils that would need to be passed on to applicants or covered by rates.
230. Instead, if the intent is to reduce unnecessary or unreasonable further information requests, a better solution is the one offered above, as this both ensures that the type of information required is clear, removing uncertainty for the applicant and allowing them to consider the cost of preparing the application before making it, and it ensures councils receive adequate information to process the application and reduces the chance of applications being declined due to lack of information. Furthermore, it allows the appropriateness of requiring that information to be assessed and submitted on as part of the development of any national standards (or bespoke provisions if used).

12.2.2 **Mandatory application of the permitted baseline**

231. Sections 95D(b), 95E(2)(a) and 104(2) of the RMA state that a consent authority may disregard an adverse effect of an activity if a rule or national environmental standard permits an activity with that effect. This is known as the 'permitted baseline' and it can be applied when deciding whether to notify an application and when deciding whether to grant consent. Its purpose is to allow effects that are permitted on the site as of right to be disregarded or discounted in the assessment of the application, meaning the focus is only on the additional effects that will be generated.
232. Sections 127(2)(b), 128(3) and 138(1)(c) of the Planning Bill propose to make the application of the permitted baseline mandatory for both the notification and substantive decisions when processing a planning consent. That removes the current discretion that councils possess to apply or not apply the baseline.
233. The DCC supports this change, provided firstly that it explicitly incorporates the current exclusion of fanciful activities as established by under the RMA (refer to the Court of Appeal judgment in *Smith Chilcott Ltd v Auckland City Council* [2001] NZCA 210). otherwise, uncertainty and potentially litigation will result.

234. Secondly, it needs to be recognised that more permitted activities will be allowed in the new land use plans. This will potentially create multiple permitted baselines that must be considered when assessing a planning consent application. This could make the assessment process more complicated and less efficient than it needs to be.
235. To help address that, the DCC recommends that Schedule 6 in the Planning Bill, which specifies information requirements for planning consent applications, is amended to require the applicant to detail the permitted baseline in their application, and for the effects assessment to be carried out against that.
236. Thirdly, that exceptions to the permitted baseline can be identified in plan provisions in cases where it is considered they are inappropriate to apply. For example, it is uncertain whether plans will still be able to contain scheduled permitted activities, which are often historic activities that do not have current consents but are difficult to manage under existing rights provisions (for example quarries). It would be inappropriate for these permitted activities to set a permitted baseline for future activities (for example for a new quarry to set up adjacent to a neighbouring sensitive activity).
237. Finally, careful drafting of the standardised plan provisions is required, so they are explicit about the adverse effects of concern. For example, the restricted discretion for a height limit contravention could be written as “*adverse effects of shading from exceedance of maximum height limit*”, essentially incorporating the baseline into it. For discretionary activities, assessment criteria can tease out the key effects for consideration.

12.2.3 **Consideration of affected persons**

238. In terms of affected persons, the Planning Bill excludes the consideration of certain effects under proposed s14, and s128 raises the threshold for affected persons to only adverse effects that are more than minor. This means that fewer people will be involved in the resource consent process.
239. However, deciding whether persons are to be treated as affected will still be a difficult decision and one that potentially exposes the Council to the risk of challenge (whether that be an informal challenge, judicial review in the High Court, or a review in the Planning Tribunal as proposed under the Bill). To help mitigate this, considerable effort needs to be made in the drafting of the standardised plan provisions, particularly in the liberal use of rules determining whether particular applications must be processed notified or non-notified, or determining how affected parties are to be decided.
240. One aspect that does not appear to be covered in the Bill nor in the existing RMA is the situation where a decision is made for targeted notification to identified affected persons, and written approval is received from one or more parties prior to the request for submissions being sent out. There is a legal argument that once a Council’s notification decision has been made, it cannot be later changed or altered, as the Council is said to be *functus officio*. Specifically allowing notification decisions to be rescinded and replaced with a new decision could help resolve this.

241. Another matter that has arisen under the RMA is how does affected persons approval work in the case of natural hazards provisions where an argument is mounted that risk to property or safety is borne by the landowner and therefore that effect should be disregarded if affected party approval is given to oneself. It would seem illogical that this should be allowed and then a property on-sold to a person who is unaware that the consideration of risk was effectively waived.

242. DCC recommends that provisions specifically address, and prevent, this situation.

12.2.4 *Disregarding of effects that are less than minor*

243. Clause 15 provides that a less than minor adverse effect must not be considered unless the cumulative effect of 2 or more such effects creates effects that are greater than “less than minor”. Clause 15(5) defines a “less than minor adverse effect” as meaning an adverse effect that is “acceptable and reasonable in the receiving environment with any change being slight or barely noticeable”.

244. DCC is concerned that the definition of less than minor adverse effect lacks clarity, and the use of the subjective terms “acceptable” and “reasonable” introduces uncertainty and is likely to result in inconsistent interpretation and increased litigation.

245. DCC also notes that determining whether less than minor effects may cumulatively lead to more significant effects as part of the assessment of planning consents could be challenging and time consuming. This assessment must be made for both the notification decision and the substantive decision, and it is only at the end of the effects assessment, once cumulative effects have been considered, that any less than minor effects can be disregarded.

246. To reduce uncertainty and focus the assessment on key matters, DCC recommends that restricted discretionary activities in the standardised plan provisions should, where practicable, identify which cumulative effects must be considered and assessed, noting that this must be flexible enough to deal with spatial variation of issues. For example, breaches of impermeable surfaces rules may have a low risk of less than minor effects accumulating into a significant effect in some parts of an urban area, but a high risk in other areas where pluvial flooding is already an issue. This clarification should make it easier to dismiss certain less than minor effects in restricted discretionary activities. For discretionary activities, solutions are not so clear, but having assessment criteria guiding the cumulative effects process could be beneficial.

12.2.5 *Time limit for the processing of non-notified planning consents*

247. Section 117 of the Bill amongst other things specifies a maximum processing time frame for non-notified planning consents of 45 working days, irrespective of whether there is a hearing.

248. This provision is supported for non-notified planning consents without a hearing. Under the new regime, more activities will be permitted, meaning those that need consent are likely to be more complex in nature. The existing 20 working day time limit in the RMA can sometimes be insufficient for complicated proposals, so increasing the time frame to 45 working days is appropriate.

249. For non-notified applications that do need to go to a hearing, the 45 working day limit is too short. Under the RMA as currently, two time frames are specified. The date for the commencement of the hearing must be within 35 working days after the date the application was first lodged. And the notice of the decision must be given within 15 working days after the end of the hearing. That totals 50 working days, not including the time for the actual undertaking of the hearing that has no time frame assigned to it.
250. Mandatory evidence exchange is not required under the RMA for non-notified hearings, but it is best practice because it enables the matters of contention between the applicant and the consent authority to be narrowed beforehand. Submitters are not involved if it is not notified, but the need for the officer's recommending report to be provided well in advance, and for the applicant's response to be provided 5 or 10 working days prior to the hearing can add about 15 working days to the process. Accordingly, DCC recommends that a timeframe of around 60 working days for non-notified applications with a hearing would be more appropriate.
- 12.2.6 *Obligation to hold a hearing***
251. Section 135 of the Bill states that hearings must not be held for deciding a planning consent unless various exceptions apply.
252. The provision appears to have been drafted dealing with planning applications that have been notified, whether that be public notification or targeted notification. For non-notified applications, it is unclear how the clause is intended to apply.
253. DCC staff do not have the delegation to decline non-notified applications. That means that if an officer recommendation is to decline, the application has to proceed to a hearing (in theory, it could be considered on the papers by an independent commissioner, but it is more likely that the commissioner would still require a hearing for natural justice reasons). In such a case, the applicant would not be the one requesting a hearing. As to whether the hearing can proceed, this then comes down to the consent authority deciding whether the hearing is the "*most effective and efficient means to test the information*". DCC recommends that further guidance should be provided on this subclause. For example, would a lack of staff delegation to decline non-notified applications be sufficient to mean that a hearing is the "*most effective and efficient means to test the information*"?
254. The clause could also be improved by having separate criteria for non-notified and notified planning applications. For non-notified applications, it should be because the applicant has requested or agreed to the hearing, or because the consent authority considers it necessary. The reasons for the consent authority to require a hearing do not need to be spelt out in the legislation, but can include situations such as diverging views between the applicant and council staff in terms of policy interpretation, the requirements of council departments (for example, in regards to servicing requirements), or the general imposition of conditions.

12.2.7 *Consideration of planning consent application*

255. Section 139(1)(a)(ii) of the Bill requires the consent authority to have regard to "*the built environment*". This is to a certain degree similar to the requirement in section 104(1)(a) of the

RMA the requires regard to be had to “any actual and potential effects on the environment of allowing the activity”.

256. Case law under the RMA has established that the environment that should be considered is the “existing and reasonably foreseeable future environment”, both in relation to the subject site and to surrounding properties (refer in particular to the Court of Appeal judgment in *Queenstown Lakes District Council v Hawthorn Estate Ltd* [2006] NZCA 120). The existing environment includes lawfully established activities; the reasonably likely future environment includes activities permitted as of right in the plan, and unimplemented resource consents where they are likely to be given effect to.
257. If the intention was for this case law to continue to be relevant, then the clause should be amended to say so, and outline what the existing and reasonably future environment includes. That will provide certainty to applicants and consent authorities as to what must be assessed when processing the planning consent.
258. Section 139(1)(b)(i) of the Bill requires the consent authority to have regard to any effect that is positive. It is noted that the intention under the Planning Bill is for less than minor adverse effects to be dismissed (refer s15), however in terms of positive effects, no such restriction has been imposed. That could mean undue attention being put on slight or barely important positive effects in the assessment. It is accepted that this is more of an issue for discretionary activities, because the positive effects for restricted discretionary activities will not be relevant unless they are included in the discretion.
259. For fully discretionary activities, it is uncertain whether the positive effects are expected to be considered in such a way that they allow an overall judgement or balancing approach against the adverse effects. This should be clarified. The expected role of positive effects in the consent assessment needs to be properly described when drafting standardised plan provisions for discretionary activities.
260. In regards to Schedule 6, which specifies the information to be included in a planning consent application, this makes no mention of positive effects. This should be rectified, to ensure that applicants include a statement on positive effects where relevant, with that statement presumably needing to be connected to the Planning Bill’s goals in s11. It is not clear if it is intended that positive effects are also meant to be covered by the excluded effects listed in s14. This seems improper as an application, for example, may have a positive effect in enabling the preservation of a heritage building that has not yet been assessed as significant, or on landscape values (for example through provision of landscaping) and these positive effects should be able to be considered.
261. On a broader matter, there is potentially a disjunct between the decision making matters and in the information requirements in Schedule 6, which should be reviewed.
262. For discretionary activities, proposed s139(1)(d)(ii) requires regard to be had to any relevant provisions of the regional spatial plan. That requirement is understandable where there is a regional spatial plan and either no land use plan, or the land use plan does not implement the regional spatial plan. However, if the land use plan does indeed implement the regional spatial plan as required by proposed s12, it is unclear what benefit looking at the regional spatial plan

would be (and it appears to contradict proposed s12(3)(b) that states the provisions of a higher order instrument must only be considered if the instrument beneath it does not address the relevant matter).

12.2.8 Issuing of record of title for separate allotment on existing survey plan

263. Schedule 7 clause 31(2)(c) of the Bill is from section 226(1)(e) of the RMA (which in turn comes from prior legislation). The clause allows the Registrar-General of Land to issue a record of title for a separate allotment shown on an existing survey plan, if the council has provided a certificate confirming the allotment is in accordance with the requirements of the land use plan.

264. The existing provision in the RMA is problematic, and the Planning Bill makes no improvement.

265. In terms of the problems with the provision, firstly it does not make any mention of the balance land having to comply with the requirements of the land use plan. When the Registrar-General issues a new title for the certified allotment, a second title is automatically generated for the balance land but no certificate is required for it. That means that land owners can obtain title for that balance land that does not comply with the land use plan, and might be undersized, unserviceable or unsuitable for future use.

266. Secondly, the provision does not describe what “the *requirements of the land use plan*” are. Is it all provisions of the plan that happen to apply to that site? Or is it intended to be for things like minimum lot size and shape factor, infrastructure servicing, and legal and physical access? What if there is an existing land use non-compliance, authorised by way of resource consent or existing use rights? What if the provisions in a proposed land use plan have not come into legal effect, do they need consideration as well?

267. A third issue is that natural hazard considerations are not available to be considered for either the certified allotment or the balance land under proposed s146 that allows refusal to planning consent because of natural hazard risk. That is because the process does not involve a subdivision consent.

268. In terms of potential solutions, one option is to remove the provision completely, because a normal subdivision consent should be a very simple process if the land use plan is being complied with. Alternatively, the provision in the Bill could be amended to specify precisely what is meant by “the *requirements of the land use plan*” and to ensure that a certificate is also required for the balance land as well. Another possibility could be to make it a mandatory requirement for the land use plan to identify the specific provisions that need to be met for the provision to be used.

12.2.9 Establishment of Planning Tribunal for objections to consent processing procedures

269. The RMA currently allows consent applicants to object to the Council against various determinations or decisions made during the processing of an application. That includes objections against conditions that might be imposed on a consent, or to additional charges for the processing of consents.

270. Once a consent decision is released, the consent authority has no ability to rescind that decision, other than to correct minor mistakes or defects in the consent (currently this is allowed under section 133A of the RMA; the equivalent provision in the Planning Bill is s174). The scope for making amendments is extremely small. In our experience, the vast majority of objections to resource consent decisions are for very minor matters that happen to fall outside the scope of a minor mistake or defect. These are dealt with quickly under delegated authority without any contemplation of a hearing, with minimal information required from an applicant, and with no application fee.
271. The new proposal will take away the ability for simple objections to be easily and cheaply resolved between the applicant and the Council, and it is unclear whether that has been properly considered in the proposed establishment of the Planning Tribunal. One option would be to amend the Planning Bill so that objections to conditions could be lodged initially with the Council if the Council agrees. Otherwise, to avoid having to involve the Planning Tribunal, applicants might encourage consent authorities to process consent variations for free, or re-lodge their application requesting a re-issue of the consent for a nominal fee, however both of these alternative options are inefficient and inevitably more costly to both the consent holder and the Council.
272. Schedule 10 clause 16 of the Bill allows certain parties to challenge the decision made by a consent authority to notify or not notify a planning consent. This is a significant departure from the existing situation whereby such challenges have to be made by way of judicial review in the High Court.
273. The DCC understands why this change is being made, and sees how it allows applicants and third parties to hold the Council to account when it makes notification decisions on resource consents. However, the DCC is concerned about the time and cost that might be involved in defending such challenges, and whilst the Planning Tribunal might be able to award costs to the successful party, those are unlikely to cover full expenses.
274. The number of consents might be less under the new regime, but the test for involving third parties will be higher, meaning more potentially aggrieved neighbours wanting to review the notification decision. If those challenges are frivolous or vexatious, significant time could be diverted to those matters, taking staff away from the processing of consents.
275. To help minimise this situation, the standardised plan provisions need to liberally include rules specifying what consents must be notified and what consents must be processed non-notified. When it comes to affected parties, if these are required, rules should either state which third parties must provide written approvals, or specify a clear methodology for determining those. That will help reduce unjustified challenges, and provide certainty for everyone in the process (the applicant, third parties and the Council) about who can participate.
276. One thing that is not clear is what happens in the situation where a challenge to the notification decision is lodged prior to the final decision on the planning consent being made. Clarification as to whether the Council is required to continue processing or not would be beneficial, and what the impact on statutory timeframes would be.

12.2.10 *Changes to permitted activity rules*

277. DCC supports the continuation of the permitted consent category. However, unlike the RMA, the Planning Bill (s38 and s180) now requires that permitted activity rules must require an activity to be registered (unless it relates to a matter described in section 151 or Part 1 of Schedule 7). In addition, the person carrying out the permitted activity must either provide written approvals and/or certificates demonstrating compliance with specified standards and/or pay a fee and/or meet any other specified requirements.

278. Before an activity subject to a permitted activity rule can take place, the person undertaking it must notify and register the activity with the consent authority (s180). The consent authority must then consider the information provided to ensure that the permitted activity rule will be met, notify the applicant, and carry out any monitoring required. This appears to be an extension of boundary activities currently in the RMA. No effects assessment is required; instead, there is a verification process to ensure the required matters have been supplied or completed.

279. The definition of 'permitted activity rule' is 'a rule that specifies conditions for carrying out a permitted activity (see section 30(a)(ii))'. It appears, therefore, that two types of permitted activity may be intended – those that are subject to 'permitted activity rules' (i.e. the requirements outlined above) and those that are not. However, this is not explicit and needs to be clarified.

280. DCC broadly supports the proposed permitted activity rules for straightforward activities that currently require consent, as they enable simple development proposals to be dealt with efficiently, provided all relevant parties have given their approval. However, as discussed below, DCC does not support activities that are currently permitted with minimal effects to be subject to a more onerous registration and compliance process.

281. The benefits of a more enabling approach to straightforward development include:

- a. Councils are informed of an activity before it proceeds, and can check on it then, rather than having to deal with complaints after the development has commenced or been completed; and
- b. Councils can charge a fee for monitoring the activity, and for the fee to be easily collected.

282. However, the DCC's support of this is subject to:

- a. Extending the proposed 10 working day time limit in s180, which would be difficult to meet if information needs to be checked by Council departments;
- b. Requiring the applicant to tell Councils when they intend to start work;
- c. Enabling Councils to ensure that the fees paid by the applicant are sufficient for Council to cover its costs for both the checking of the initial registration and the required monitoring; and

- d. Clarification about what happens if an activity fails to comply with the requirements. One option would be for it to become a restricted discretionary activity. Alternatively, each permitted activity rule would need to be written in a way to accommodate that situation.

283. However, as noted above, DCC does not support requiring minor activities that are normally permitted (including those permitted where performance standards are met) to be subject to this process. The requirements for these activities are significantly more onerous than the current approach, which requires no involvement from consent authorities.

284. For example, erecting a fence is typically a permitted activity subject to a height limit under RMA plans. A permitted rule with a height condition would appear to meet the definition of a 'permitted activity rule' under the Planning Bill, and so would also be subject to the other requirements under s38. Under the RMA, someone can simply build the fence, ensuring the height limit was met. Under the Planning Bill, they would have to file a notification with the Council, potentially pay a fee, obtain approval from the neighbour, wait while Council considers the notification and issues a determination, build the fence, and then potentially obtain a certificate from a qualified person that the fence complies with the rule. This is not efficient or effective compared to the status quo and so will not achieve the aims of the reform to remove red tape and enable development.

285. DCC is concerned that, unless the 'permitted activity rule' approach in s38 is limited to activities that currently require resource consent under the RMA, it will be frustrating and bureaucratic for landowners undertaking low-impact activities, and their costs will increase. Councils will also need significantly greater resources to process these activities.

286. DCC recommends that s38 / s180 are amended, so that either:

- a. it is clear that there are two types of permitted activity – those subject to the requirements in s38 and those that are not (in this case DCC suggests using clearly different terms); and/or
- b. clarifying that permitted activity rules may contain requirements for registration, fees etc, and that these powers are applied lightly when permitted activity rules are drafted.

287. A further alternative (which may be simpler for plan users to understand), is to reinstate the controlled activity status (with minimal or no effects assessment required), and identify activities that genuinely require registration and additional scrutiny (those that typically require consent under current RMA plans) as controlled activities, while permitted activities remain as they are under the RMA.

288. DCC also notes a further issue that should be considered in relation to permitted activities. If more activities are permitted or have simplified pathways, this is likely to result in an unplanned increase to infrastructure load. Permitted intensification and simplified consents may not provide councils with the information required to assess infrastructure impacts, particularly with respect to 3 waters and transport.

12.2.11 *Removal of non-complying status*

289. Under the Planning Bill, activity classification will be one of four categories: permitted, restricted discretionary, discretionary, and prohibited activities. This change means that the new system will no longer include the current RMA categories of non-complying and controlled activities.
290. Under the RMA (s104D), consent for a non-complying activity can only be granted if the adverse effects of the activity are minor, or the activity will not be contrary to the objectives and policies of a plan. A non-complying activity status has a number of benefits. Firstly, it signals to applicants and affected parties that an activity significantly departs from the intent of the plan provisions. Secondly, it provides a clear statutory test for decision making, and ensures that activities with potentially significant adverse effects are more rigorously assessed.
291. Removing the non-complying activity status eliminates a key mechanism for distinguishing activities of higher risk or strategic importance in the planning framework. Having a non-complying status gives applicants a clear indication of how these types of activities will be assessed and decided upon. Removal of this category may undermine the ability of plans to drive outcomes consistent with broader strategic objectives and policies, and may undermine environmental outcomes.
292. While the Planning Bill will retain prohibited activities (s33), no application for planning consent may be made for these types of activities. This means that activities which would previously have been non-complying under the RMA, will now likely be reclassified as discretionary or restricted discretionary under the Planning Bill. These activity statuses represent a less onerous hurdle for approval compared to non-complying activities in RMA Plans, and may lead to worse environmental outcomes. Additionally, if prohibited status becomes the only mechanism to absolutely preclude activities from occurring, then there is potential that this activity classification will be over-used.
293. Overall, the DCC recommends that maintaining a non-complying activity pathway has benefits to both applicants, councils, and the environment, and that reinstatement of this activity status should be considered.

12.2.12 *The ability to apply for plan changes via consent (s98, s144) areas*

294. Under s144 of the Planning Bill, a consent authority may, if certain conditions are met, grant a planning consent that authorises a change to the plan provisions that apply to an area in accordance with s98. Section 98 allows, in certain circumstances, a territorial authority to change its land use plan provisions to those authorised by the planning consent, where the change would result in plan provisions that are more appropriate for the area than the operative plan provisions that apply to that particular area. Essentially, under the proposal, it would become possible to amend a land use plan via a planning consent.
295. DCC is concerned that allowing changes to plans via consent risks undermining the role of the regional spatial plans in strategically considering overall growth needs and future land use patterns and integrating that with infrastructure planning and funding. It also undermines the

land use chapter plan-making process as the primary mechanism for plan changes with appropriate decision-making and public participation processes.

296. As detailed in Schedule 3 of the Planning Bill, the process for preparing and changing plans is significant, and includes broader consultation, notification, strategic evaluation, and generally integration with wider infrastructure and funding considerations. On the other hand, consent-based pathways are generally inherently site-specific and more effects-focused. Allowing for consent-driven plan changes may reduce transparency, weaken wider community input, and over time lead to piecemeal decision-making that can cumulatively erode plan coherence and long-term certainty for councils, infrastructure providers, and the community.

297. DCC is supportive of retaining the ability for applicants to undertake private plan changes as detailed in Schedule 3, Part 2, but are concerned, and do not support, the ability for applicants to change land use plan provisions through the consenting process unless this is purely to align plan provisions with pre-existing lawfully established land use activities.

12.2.13 *Miscellaneous matters*

298. Below are brief comments on a range of miscellaneous matters related to consenting for consideration.

299. Section 122 of the Bill allows applications to be returned to an applicant as incomplete if the applicant takes too long to respond to further information or report commissioning requests, to pay additional charges or to provide written approvals. This provision could potentially be moved to regulations, making it easier for the list of matters to be extended or altered in the future. In addition, the requirement for there to be an agreed date for paying of additional charges and to provide written approvals should be removed. This is because the need for the applicant to agree to a date will sometimes be unachievable, and will render the provision ineffective. Furthermore, the requirement regarding additional charges should be extended to the more usual situations where extra fees are required for a deposit to proceed with public or limited notification, which is different from additional charges that can be sought over and above a deposit.

300. Section 152 of the Bill essentially repeats the process in section 107G of the RMA where applicants can make a request to review draft conditions of consent. Both the existing provision and the proposed provision are silent as to what happens if the applicant and/or any submitters do not provide comments by the date specified by the consent authority. DCC recommends that this is clarified.

301. Section 165 of the Bill relates to the lapsing of unimplemented consents (similar to s125 of the RMA). It is noted that the caselaw on “given effect to” is confusing and open to interpretation. Consideration should be given to trying to clarify or amend this. One option would be to provide a date for commencing establishment of an activity and another date for completion, not dissimilar to the implementation of building consents under the Building Act 2004. Both the proposed provision and the existing RMA are silent on whether a consent can be given effect to in part. This needs to be resolved. Consideration should also be given to amending the provisions to make it clear that an application to extend a lapse period must be lodged prior to the lapse date, but the decision to extend can be made by the Council after that.

302. Section 177 of the Bill states, like section 87BB of the RMA, that the Council can treat an activity as a permitted activity if there is a marginal or temporary non-compliance with conditions or requirements. However, there is no definition of ‘marginal’ or ‘temporary’. The Ministry for the Environment publication *A Technical Guide to Deemed Permitted Activities* (2017) indicates that the policy intent was for ‘marginal’ to mean “*barely exceeding minimum requirements*”, with ‘temporary’ intended to mean “*of a short duration rather than less than permanent*”. Incorporating these into the Bill should be considered.
303. Schedule 7 clause 29 of the Bill requires a certificate for cross lease and unit title subdivisions confirming that buildings will comply with the Building Code in respect of fire rating and access requirements. Consideration should be given to whether freehold subdivisions that involve new boundaries being created closer to existing buildings should be assessed in terms of fire rating.

12.3 Enforcement

304. The provisions in the Planning Bill relating to compliance and enforcement are largely a carry-over from provisions already in the RMA (including recent changes from the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025), and provisions that were in the Natural and Built Environment Act 2023. These changes are supported, particularly as they provide a wider range of enforcement tools to DCC staff for dealing with non-compliance. Additionally proposed s272 which requires councils to prepare and publish a compliance and enforcement strategy is also specifically supported.
305. Whilst not part of this Bill, part of the wider reform process is the proposed future transfer of local authority compliance, monitoring and enforcement functions to a national regulator. For the record, the DCC does not support that proposal. Investigation of complaints and non-compliances involves examining records held in our files, liaising with other internal Council departments, and dealing with the public. As such, DCC is best placed to carry out these tasks. Instead of transfer to a national regulator, DCC recommends that providing stronger support and guidance to the councils that need it most would lead to better outcomes. The new required compliance and enforcement strategies will also help ensure consistency and performance in compliance and enforcement, reducing the need for a central regulator to take over.

13 PLAN MAKING

13.1 Legal effect of rules in proposed plans

306. Schedule 3 clauses 57 to 61 deal with the legal effect of rules in proposed plans and are largely identical to the existing provisions in the RMA.
307. Clause 61(1)(a) states that rules in proposed plans that have no submissions in opposition are treated as operative from the day after the submission period closes. This is similar to RMA section 86F(1)(a). This has proved problematic where there have been many submissions lodged on a plan or plan change as it is time consuming to work through them to identify whether they are challenging a rule or not. Submissions opposing objectives or policies can also be deemed to be challenging the rules associated with those provisions. That means it is not possible to make

an immediate determination on what rules are operative (and what previous rules are inoperative), leading to a period of uncertainty for applicants and the Council.

308. Amendments to the provision therefore need to be considered. One option is to set a later date after which rules with unopposed submissions are deemed operative. Logically that could be the date upon which the call for further submissions is made, being no later than 20 working days after the closing date for submissions. Consideration could also be given to making it mandatory for submitters to identify all rules that they are opposed to, if they are challenging an objective or policy in the plan.
309. An alternative is to reconsider when rules in proposed plans come into force. Requiring that all rules have legal effect upon notification of the land use plan would have benefits in that it would allow weight to be given to land use plans earlier in the transition to the new regime. Another option is to delay all rules having legal effect until the issue of decisions on the plan or plan change. While this would be easy to administer, that benefit may be outweighed by the delays in the effect of changes.

13.2 Clarity of submissions

310. Schedule 3 cl.18 outlines requirements for the form and content of submissions. DCC recommends that these provisions could be expanded to better manage the detail provided within submissions. DCC has had difficulty assessing submissions on its district plan in the past where requests for changes are vague, for example requests to rezone a poorly defined area of land, or to “schedule the remnant podocarp trees at X address” without providing a map or other detail on which trees. These have caused delays and confusion as the exact nature of the request is confirmed. In addition, submissions without adequate supporting information are difficult to assess and provide an informed recommendation at the hearing. Time is wasted as hearings are adjourned to allow time to assess evidence or additional detail provided late in the process, particularly where technical review of evidence is required.
311. These issues could be avoided by including minimum requirements for submissions and supporting information. The details around timing of exchange of evidence, and any requirement for council officers to provide a report and recommendations (similar to s42A of the RMA), do not appear to be in the Bill, and will presumably be provided through national instruments. These should include, for example, all submissions relating to an area of land, or seeking a change that is best described spatially, to include a map; and all submitters to provide adequate supporting information in a timely manner prior to a hearing, to enable submissions to be assessed appropriately. This would improve the efficiency of the submission and hearing process, reducing costs for councils and submitters, and avoid time wasted on submissions that contain insufficient information to be properly assessed and decided on, and that in the past have been used by some to provide a pathway to an appeal (and mediation process) that puts pressure on councils to carry the costs of assessment rather than a genuine attempt to provide evidence to support a submission at a hearing.

14 MISCELLANEOUS CLARIFICATIONS AND ERRORS

312. Section 73(f) currently says ‘see section 18’. This should be “see clause 18 of Schedule 2”.

313. There is a wording issue in s14 (1)(j) where it refers to “any matter where the land use effects of an activity are dealt with under other legislation”. This is poorly expressed grammatically as the subject of the sentence “any matter” is not clear with respect to “where the land use effects of an activity are dealt with under other legislation” as it could be an unrelated matter. Instead reword so the subject is clear, for example: “An effect of land use that is managed under other legislation”.

15 CONCLUSION

The DCC thanks you for the opportunity to submit on the Planning Bill. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to clarify any of the issues or comments raised in this submission. The DCC looks forward to working with the Government and other entities on this new chapter of resource management reform in New Zealand.

The DCC wishes to be heard in respect of this submission.

Nāku noa, nā



Sophie Barker
MAYOR
DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL

- 17 Both campaigns utilised posters, online advertising in the Otago Daily Times (ODT), and screensavers on Dunedin Public Libraries' homepages.
- 18 Both campaigns were promoted through the DCC's social media, including LinkedIn and Instagram
- 19 Both campaigns were promoted on the DCC website and web mobile homepages.
- 20 The "Stand" campaign included a targeted advertorial drive for candidates in Community Board areas, and a candidate information evening hosted on the DCC's Facebook page
- 21 Generic messaging around the voting process was promoted in September in community newsletters, including: the Blueskin News, POWA (Progress of Waikouaiti Area), Green Island Informer, Rothesay News, and the Valley Voice.
- 22 Print media advertising ran in each of: The Star, Critic Te Ārohi, and the ODT, through until the last edition of each closest to the election closing date.
- 23 The election was advertised on local radio on NZME and Mediaworks stations, Otago Access Radio (OAR), and Radio 1.
- 24 Candidates were offered the opportunity to record a video to promote their campaigns, speaking to a standard set of questions. The videos were produced by Allied Media for the DCC, and were available on the DCC's website and You Tube channel.
- 25 57 candidates took the opportunity to record a video, which have had a combined total of approximately 74,000 views.

DISCUSSION

- 26 The DCC draft submission to the Inquiry speaks to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference in the context of the 2025 local elections in Ōtepoti Dunedin.

Voting Processes, including the following:

- **Reports of people being removed from rolls or switched between them**
- 27 Removal is actioned by Electoral Commission staff and is then reflected in the roll build for the council election, with the affected electors then not being mailed voter packs.
 - 28 For the 2025 election, electionz.com received approximately two dozen calls or emails to its election helpline noting this problem for electors in Dunedin City. There were higher numbers of reports of this across social and printed media channels.
 - 29 When the DCC was able to investigate this during the 2025 election the removal was triggered by an address change or mail being returned undelivered from the elector's address.
 - 30 Rates of undelivered/returned mail reflect the transient and large student population of Ōtepoti Dunedin.
- **The number of disallowed special votes**
- 31 The purpose of special voting is to facilitate the voting process for those who did not receive a voting paper in the mail.

- 32 This includes: voters on the unpublished roll; voters who may have moved and did not receive their papers; people who are not on the roll and want to go on the roll and vote; people who have lost or accidentally destroyed their papers; and people who own a second property and are ratepayer voters as well as residential voters.
- 33 Approximately 14% of special votes were disqualified in Dunedin City in the 2025 local elections, which the DCC understands is relatively low for council elections in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 34 The main reason for disqualification of special votes is that the elector has not updated their enrolment details with the Electoral Commission before the close of voting.
- **DX Mail and orange bins in supermarkets**
- 35 DX Mail handled the majority of the outgoing mail deliveries, with the bulk of those deliveries achieved within four days, which was within target.
- 36 DX Mail also provided a clearance service for some of the DCC orange bins and engaged NZ Couriers to clear the balance up to Thursday 9 October 2026.
- 37 To counter changes in the postal system, DCC increased the number of orange bin locations within Dunedin City to 25, including libraries and book buses.
- 38 Overall, feedback received about the use of the orange bins and the bin locations was positive.
- **Use of telephone dictation voting for voters who are blind, vision-impaired, or physically unable to mark their voting paper**
- 39 To meet the Local Election Amended Requirements 2023, a telephone dictation service was set up by electionz.com to handle requests from blind or vision-impaired electors or disabled electors within its contracted councils who were unable to mark their own voting papers.
- 40 Details of the dictation service were circulated to appropriate disability support groups to pass onto their members. It was noted in that circulation that the service would only cover vote dictation and not extend to assisting with candidate selection by reading candidate profiles etc.
- 41 Overall, 20 vote dictation calls were received by electionz.com during the 2025 election period, one of which was from a Dunedin City elector.
- **The appropriateness of the use of mobile voting booths**
- 42 The DCC operated seven pop-up voting booths, at the University of Otago campus and DCC Libraries across the city.
- 43 The pop-up voting booths were provided to fill either potential high-volume areas or areas beyond easily commutable distance from the main special vote issue point in the DCC Civic Centre building in the Octagon.
- 44 While the pop-up voting booths, which were only open on certain days of the week, were not well-patronised they encourage elector participation.

Electoral integrity, including disinformation or misinformation

Option Two – Does not approve the draft submission to the Justice Committee on its Inquiry into the 2025 Local Elections

51 Does not approve the draft submission to the Justice Committee on its Inquiry into the 2025 Local Elections, with any amendments.

Advantages

- There are no advantages identified for this option.

Disadvantages

- Missed opportunity for the DCC to participate in government discussions about future roles and responsibilities in regard to running local elections.
- Missed opportunity to present the unique context of Ōtepoti Dunedin in discussions about the democratic process at a local level.
- Missed opportunity engage with central government about local government decision making in alignment with the Local Government Act 2002.

NEXT STEPS

52 If the Committee approves the draft DCC submission on the Inquiry into the 2025 Local Elections, DCC staff will submit it the Justice Committee by 27 February 2026.

Signatories

Author:	Danielle Tolson - Policy Analyst Berkay Kocak - Policy Analyst
Authoriser:	Nicola Morand - Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy)

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Dunedin City Council submission to the Inquiry into the 2025 Local Elections	125

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Environment Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Future Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The submission aligns with Dunedin’s Social Wellbeing Strategy and its strategic direction of “Connected People”, wherein Dunedin people participate in community and city-wide affairs which is reflected in voter turnout and people’s desire to have a say in Council decision-making. The submission aligns with Te Taki Haruru, the DCC’s Māori Strategic Framework, and its principle of Autūroa.

Māori Impact Statement

Te Taki Haruru, the DCC’s Māori Strategic Framework, includes the principle of Autūroa, whereby Māori will participate and demonstrate leadership in the community.

There are currently 3,796 people enrolled on the Māori electoral roll in Dunedin city compared to 91,539 on the general roll. For context, 85.5% of eligible voters in Dunedin city are enrolled to vote on either the general or Māori electoral rolls.

Sustainability

There are no implications for sustainability.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no implications for the LTP or the Annual Plan.

Financial considerations

There are no financial implications.

Significance

This decision is considered low in terms of the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

Electionz.com, the DCC’s contracted provider for election services in 2025, supplied the DCC with information relevant to the Inquiry’s Terms of Reference.

Engagement - internal

The submission has been prepared by the Corporate Policy team and the DCC’s Deputy Electoral Officer for the 2025 local election, with input from the Communications and Marketing team.

- processes and protocols through which all councils can participate in identifying, delivering, and funding facilities and services of significance to more than one district within the region.
- 5 Triennial agreements may also include commitments to establish joint governance arrangements to give better effect to the matters set out in paragraph 5 above.
 - 6 A triennial agreement may be varied by agreement between the parties and remains in force until local authorities ratify a new agreement.

DISCUSSION

- 7 The Triennial Agreement was prepared by the Otago Mayoral Forum secretariat, in consultation with staff across the region, the Otago Chief Executive Forum, Otago Mayoral Forum, and attendees at the Zone 6 meeting in November 2025.
- 8 The Triennial Agreement acknowledges the benefits of working together for Otago's local authorities, communities and natural environment. Parties to the Triennial Agreement recognise that working together enables councils to build stronger relationships, share information and resources, coordinate responses to cross-boundary issues, and strengthen collective advocacy for the region.
- 9 The Triennial Agreement outlines a cross-council partnership framework for Otago, encompassing various governance and operational arrangements. Covered are the Otago Mayoral Forum, Otago Chief Executives Forum, Hui for Otago, joint committees including statutory joint committees, and staff working groups.
- 10 The final sections acknowledge a partnership with Kāi Tahu ki Otago through Te Rōpū Taiao Otago, convened under a separate charter of understanding; notes support arrangements for Otago's cross-council framework, including a secretariat hosted by the Otago Regional Council; and sets out the required process for addressing any proposals by the regional council to undertake activities already performed by territorial authorities.

Otago Mayoral Forum 'regional focus areas'

- 11 While the Triennial Agreement is focussed on arrangements for working together across Otago, its benefit comes from applying these arrangements to issues and opportunities for Otago.
- 12 The Triennial Agreement states that the Otago Mayoral Forum is responsible for confirming a set of 'regional focus areas' and a direction of travel for each. Under the Triennial Agreement, the Forum is required to oversee a regional response to the focus areas through Otago's cross-council partnership framework, involving and escalating to Otago's Councils as needed.
- 13 Similarly, the Otago Chief Executives Forum will be responsible for supporting the Otago Mayoral Forum to undertake this role.
- 14 An Otago Mayoral Forum workshop to develop regional focus areas is scheduled for 6 March. The agenda for this workshop will contain high-level information about those areas likely to require (or benefit from) a regional and cross-council approach, with this content informed by staff working groups and reviewed by the Otago Chief Executives Forum. Forum members will be invited to seek input from Councillors before attending the workshop.

Proposed Local Government reform

- 15 On 25 November 2025, the Government announced a proposal to simplify local government. The proposal includes a collective role for mayors in each region through a ‘Combined Territories Board’ (CTB). The CTB would oversee two key deliverables: a ‘regional reorganisation plan’, and a regional spatial plan. If the proposal proceeds, it is highly likely that these deliverables will each become a focus area for the Forum.
- 16 The Triennial Agreement is prepared under current legislation and does not attempt to accommodate the proposed reforms. The Triennial Agreement may, however, be varied at any time by agreement between the parties, should this be required as and when the reforms progress.

OPTIONS

- 17 As this report is for administrative purposes, no options are presented.

NEXT STEPS

- 18 The Triennial Agreement was reviewed at the Otago Mayoral Forum on 5 December 2025. Forum members agreed that it should be referred to Otago’s Councils for ratification. Council is invited to approve the Triennial Agreement at today’s meeting.
- 19 The Triennial Agreement for the local authorities of the Otago region is signed by the Mayor on behalf of Council.
- 20 Information on proposed regional focus areas will be shared once available, ahead of the Otago Mayoral Forum workshop on 6 March.

Signatories

Author:	Jackie Harrison - Manager Governance
Authoriser:	Nicola Morand - Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy)

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Otago Local Authorities' Triennial Agreement 2026-2029	134

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arts and Culture Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Spatial Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Māori Impact Statement

There are no known impacts for Māori.

Sustainability

There are no known implications for sustainability.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no implications identified.

Financial considerations

There are no known financial implications.

Significance

This matter is considered of low significance in terms of the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

The Triennial Agreement has been discussed by the Mayors/Chair and Chief Executives of the Otago region.

Engagement - internal

There has been no internal engagement.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no identified risks.

Conflict of Interest

There are no known conflicts of interest.

Community Boards

There are no implications for Community Boards.

community outcomes through the next Annual Plan process, where supported by Council's agreed policy settings.

BACKGROUND

- 7 The 2025 Grants Review was initiated to assess whether DCC's grants system remains fit-for-purpose. Feedback was gathered through community hui, a sector survey, and facilitated workshops.
- 8 The review highlighted strong support for Council's ongoing role in funding the community sector, alongside consistent feedback that the current system would benefit from:
- Greater clarity and transparency;
 - Improved alignment with Council strategies and outcomes;
 - Reduced fragmentation across grant categories;
 - More consistent governance and decision-making; and
 - Increased ability to provide multi-year, sustainable funding.
- 9 Feedback also indicated that while the grants system is valued and broadly effective, it lacks a coherent policy foundation. DCC currently operates ten grant categories, only some of which are clearly defined in the Grants Management Policy (2019), resulting in strategic and operational inconsistency. Current grant categories and 2026/27 budgets are summarised in **Attachment B**.
- 10 On 11 December 2025, Council resolved to direct staff to continue the grants review and return with options on:
- The preferred approach to determining the grants funding quantum;
 - Grant categories
 - Governance and decision-making arrangements (including the Grants Subcommittee); and
 - Timing of procurement for a grants management system.
- 11 Under DCC's 9-Year Plan (2025-2034), grants are administered across seven services and activities:
1. City Properties
 2. Community recreation
 3. Creative and Cultural Vibrancy
 4. Resilient City
 5. Treaty Partnership
 6. Vibrant Economy; and
 7. Waste Minimisation
- 12 There is one level of service under the Resilient City activity that relates specifically to contestable grants and is reported on annually (Dunedin City Council (2025) 9-Year Plan 2025-2034, P .152).

DISCUSSION

- 13 This report seeks Council to agree core policy settings to ensure that grant-making decisions are aligned with Council's strategic intent and administered in a consistent, transparent and defensible manner.
- 14 The six core policy settings for Council's considerations are:
- i) **Definition of a Council grant** – what qualifies as a grant and how it differs from other funding tools.
 - ii) **Council's role and purpose in grant-making** – the intended function and responsibilities of Council as a funder.
 - iii) **Council's priorities for grant-making** – the outcomes and focus areas Council wishes to advance.
 - iv) **Council's preferred approach to delivering grants** – how grants are structured and administered.
 - v) **Governance structure for grant decisions** – who makes decisions and at what thresholds.
 - vi) **Determining the overall grants budget** – how the overall grants quantum is determined.
- 15 Options related to the six core policy settings are summarised in Attachment A 'Summary Table of Grant Options'.

I. Definition of a Council Grant

- 16 A clear definition of a Council grant is essential to improve transparency, ensure consistent practice, and distinguish grants from other forms of financial support such as contracts, sponsorships, and procurement.
- 17 Across New Zealand local government, grants are widely recognised as a strategic governance tool rather than a transactional funding mechanism. While wording varies, best practice definitions consistently emphasise:
- Public benefit over private gain;
 - Non-repayable funding (except in cases of non-compliance);
 - Clear purpose and accountability;
 - Alignment with Long-Term Plan (LTP) outcomes;
 - Primary focus on not-for-profit organisations, with limited and controlled exceptions.
- 18 Most Councils restrict grant funding to not-for profit (NFP) or voluntary organisations to ensure public funds are directed toward community outcomes rather than private profit. Some Councils, however, permit limited eligibility for for-profit (FP) entities where:
- The funded activity delivers a significant public benefit;
 - The activity would not be commercially viable without support;
 - The community benefit is clearly defined, subsidised and reported; and
 - Public funding does not underwrite private profit margins.

- 19 Examples include free public events, sustainability initiatives, or capacity-building projects with demonstrable community impact.
- 20 Drawing from common practice, an optimal definition typically includes:
- a) **Non-Repayable Status** – Grants are not loans or investments and do not require repayment if conditions are met.
 - b) **Public Benefit Requirement** – The primary purpose is for public good, with transparent reporting.
 - c) **Purpose-Specific Use** – Grants are tied to funding a defined activity, with accountability mechanisms for unspent or misused funds.
 - d) **Strategic Alignment** – Grants advance LTP priorities (e.g., wellbeing, sustainability, resilience).
 - e) **Clarity on Applicant’s Legal Status** – Grant criteria should clearly state whether eligibility is based on an organisation’s status (NFP or FP) or on the nature of the activity being funded.
- 21 Two options are presented for consideration. Option One (excludes FPs), prioritises simplicity, consistency, and risk management. Option Two (includes FPs), offers greater adaptability but requires stronger governance controls to maintain public trust and ensure ratepayer funds deliver demonstrable community benefit.
- 22 If Option One is preferred, FP entities may continue to receive Council funding through other mechanisms, such as contracts, sponsorship, or service agreements.
- 23 Under *both* options, Council grants are:
- Approved by Council or its delegate;
 - Provided to external organisations;
 - Non-repayable, except in cases of non-compliance; and
 - Focused on delivering community benefit.
- 24 For both options to be effective, they need to be clearly defined, consistently applied, and supported by robust assessment and accountability mechanisms.

Option One: Excludes For-Profit Entities

“A grant is a non-repayable financial contribution to an external not-for-profit organisation for a specific project that advances strategic goals the Council cannot deliver alone. It supports community-led activities and services that deliver a measurable public benefit, as outlined in the Council’s Long-Term Plan, without expectation of commercial return.”

Advantages

- Clear and simple eligibility criteria.
- Strong protection against private gain.
- Aligns with common practice across NZ Councils.
- Minimises reputational and legal risk.

Disadvantages

- Limits flexibility for innovative or emerging community solutions.
- Excludes some high impact projects delivered by social enterprises or small businesses.
- May require parallel funding mechanisms for similar outcomes.

Option Two: Includes For-Profit Entities in limited circumstances (Status Quo).

“A grant is a non-repayable financial contribution to an external organisation or individual for a specific project that advances strategic goals the Council cannot deliver alone. It supports community-led activities and services that deliver a measurable public benefit, as outlined in the Council’s Long-Term Plan, without expectation of commercial return. While primarily targeting not-for-profit organisations, grants may support for-profit activities where a clear and distinct community benefit is delivered and is demonstrably separated from private gain.”

Advantages

- Greater flexibility and responsiveness.
- Enables innovations, pilot projects, and sustainability initiatives.
- Reflects practice used by some large councils for targeted funds.

Disadvantages

- Increased complexity in assessment monitoring.
- Higher risk of perceived or actual subsidisation of private profit.
- Requires strong safeguards, clear criteria and transparent reporting.
- Greater administrative and reputational risk if boundaries are unclear.

II. Council’s Role and Purpose in Grant-Making

- 25 Council’s role in grant-making is one of strategic investment rather than gifting. Two role-statement options are presented for consideration, reflecting different approaches used across Councils.

Option One: Governance-Focused Role

Council’s role is:

- 1) **Stewardship** – ensuring public funds are allocated fairly, transparently, and strategically.
- 2) **Accountability** – maintaining oversight and alignment with Council’s priorities.

Advantages

- Clear, simple articulation of Council’s core responsibilities
- Strong emphasis on prudent investment and risk management
- Clarifies Council’s relationship with funded organisations.

Disadvantages

- Less supportive of community-led innovation.
- May be perceived as transactional rather than collaborative.
- Limited emphasis on reducing barriers for applicants.

Option Two: Partnership- Focussed Role (Status Quo)

Council’s role is:

- 1) **Stewardship** – ensuring public funds are allocated fairly, transparently, and strategically.
- 2) **Partnership** – working with community organisations as co-deliverers of community outcomes.
- 3) **Enabler** – reducing barriers and administrative burden.
- 4) **Accountability** – maintaining oversight and alignment with Council’s priorities.

Advantages

- Encourages collaboration and strengthens community relationships.
- Supports innovation, flexibility, and community-led delivery.
- Reduces administrative barriers, improving accessibility for smaller organisations.

Disadvantages

- Requires stronger relationship management and clearer expectations.
- Higher administrative effort to balance partnership with accountability.
- May increase perceived or actual risk if partnership boundaries are unclear.

- 26 This framing aligns with common practice across New Zealand local government and reinforces the legitimacy of Council’s investment via grant-making in the community sector.
- 27 If approved, the grant definition and role statement will inform the update of the Grants Management Policy.

III. Council’s Priorities for Grant-Making

- 28 The DCC currently operates ten grant categories (Attachment B). This structure provides stability and continuity over time and has supported a wide range of community organisations. However, the current framework is relatively fixed and can be challenging to adapt in response to emerging priorities or changing community needs. Alignment between existing categories and the community outcomes in the 9-Year Plan is also not always explicit.
- 29 Of the total grants budget, \$3.39 million is available through fully contestable grants processes, with the balance largely committed through longer term commissioning or ongoing arrangements. While this approach provides certainty for essential services and facilities, it limits that proportion of funding that can readily redirected toward new initiatives, innovation or areas of emerging need.
- 30 Current grants predominantly provide partial operational funding to organisations delivering services, programmes, venues, and events that contribute to community wellbeing. These grants play an important role in sustaining the city’s social and cultural infrastructure and often enable organisations to leverage funding from other sources. While these investments support the Council’s community outcomes, their contribution is frequently indirect and not always clearly attributable.
- 31 **Key Policy Question:** Does Council wish to place greater emphasis on developing grant approaches that more directly advance its community outcomes, and, if so, is Council open to refining grant structures and budget settings over time to support this direction?
- 32 **Decision sought:** That Council confirms whether it wishes staff to further explore options to strengthen the alignment between grant-making and Council’s community outcomes.

- Aligns strongly with review feedback on partnerships and long-term outcomes.
- This approach supports multi-year, strategic investment in key community services.
- More impact-focused and reduces uncertainty for critical services.
- Increases flexibility for staff and applicants.

Disadvantages

- May require additional staff capability and capacity to design and manage partnerships and commissioned grants that focus on community outcomes.
- Budget implications will occur with this option as 'new community outcomes grants' have not been included in the 9-Year Plan.

V. Governance and Decision Making

- 35 Four governance models are presented, ranging from reinstating the Grants Subcommittee through to Council-wide decision-making, with two hybrid options combining staff delegations, Grants Subcommittee oversight, and Council approval for larger or multi-year grants.

Option One: The Grants Subcommittee and delegations are re-instated for the primary decision-making role.

The Grants Subcommittee makes allocation decisions for all grants above staff delegations, if any.

Advantages

- Maintains continuity and specialist governance.
- Smaller group enables more consistent decision-making.
- Can build expertise over time.

Disadvantages

- Feedback indicated the former Grant Subcommittee's composition may need to be reviewed for consistency.
- Less visibility and broader political input than Council or Committee of the Whole.
- May limit diverse perspectives depending on the Grant Subcommittee's composition.

Option Two: Council or a Committee of the Whole determines all grant allocations (Status Quo)

All councillors are involved in funding decisions related to grants above staff delegations, if any.

Advantages

- High transparency and broad political mandate.
- Ensures alignment with broader Council priorities.
- Helps address concerns about governance legitimacy.

Disadvantages

- More resource-intensive; slower decision-making.
- Risk of politicisation of grant allocations.
- Potential for inconsistent decisions due to diverse perspectives.

Option Three: Hybrid Model One – Grants Subcommittee + Staff Delegations + Council Oversight

Under this option:

- a) Staff allocate small grants under delegation.
- b) A Grants Subcommittee allocates mid-tier grants.
- c) Committee of the Whole approves multi-year or large grants.

Advantages

- Balances efficiency, governance oversight, and transparency.
- Supports a tiered, principle-based system.
- Aligns with feedback seeking stronger governance and reduced administrative burden.

Disadvantages

- Requires clear, agreed grant thresholds and criteria for small, medium and large grants.
- More complexity in governance structure.
- Still requires review of who sits on the Subcommittee as representatives.

Option Four: Hybrid Model Two – Staff Delegations + Council Oversight (No Grants Subcommittee)

Under this option:

- a) Staff allocate (small-medium) grants under delegation.
- b) Council or a Committee of the Whole approves all other grants including multi-year or commissioned agreements.

Advantages

- Provides governance oversight and transparency.
- Supports a tiered, principle-based system.
- Aligns with feedback seeking stronger governance and reduced administrative burden.

Disadvantages

- Requires clear thresholds and criteria.
- More complexity in governance structure.
- May reduce opportunities for diverse community perspectives in decision making.

VI. Council's preferred method for determining the overall grants budget (quantum).

- 36 Historically, the grants budget has been set through the Annual Plan and LTP processes. While there have been occasional adjustments to individual grant categories, such as the introduction of the Event Attractions grant category, the overall structure has remained largely unchanged.
- 37 Some grants have been reduced or removed through the 9-year plan process. For example, Rates Relief Grants were reduced from \$711,000 to \$525,000. However, most grant budgets have remained static for many years, with no inflationary adjustments.
- 38 This creates pressure on contestable grants when new priorities emerge, either from Council or from community need.

NEXT STEPS

- 44 The next steps will depend on Council’s preferred options:
- a) Update the Grants Management Policy (2019) to reflect Council’s agreed policy settings, ensuring future grant-making decisions are consistent, transparent, and defensible. Public consultation may be required under the Significance and Engagement Policy, depending on the scale and nature of the changes.
 - b) Develop implementation plans including transitional arrangements where required.
 - c) Draft and update governance delegations and terms of reference, including any changes to committees or subcommittees, for Council consideration.
 - d) Undertake pre-procurement analysis to identify suitable technology options for a grants management system, informed by the agreed policy settings.
 - e) Prepare indicative timelines implementation, including any structural or budget implications to be considered through future Annual Plan and Long-Term Plan processes.

Signatories

Author:	Gina Hu'akau - Community Partnerships Manager
Authoriser:	Nicola Morand - Manahautū (General Manager Community and Strategy)

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Summary of options presented	154
↓B	Grants 2025-2026	156

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities. This decision promotes the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Future Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Identifying grant policy settings will strengthen the administration and decision-making processes for grants, thereby supporting the outcomes outlined in the above strategies.

Māori Impact Statement

Identifying grant policy settings will strengthen the administration and decision-making processes for grants, thereby supporting the outcomes outlined in Te Taki Haruru for Māori.

Sustainability

Identifying grant policy settings will strengthen the administration and decision-making processes for grants, thereby supporting sustainability outcomes as committed to by the DCC.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

Depending on which option Council selects, there may be implications for the Annual Plan or LTP budgets in related to the grants budget.

Financial considerations

If Council agrees to include new grants, then this will have implications on the current grants budget. Any new grants that are not detailed in Attachment B, will be unbudgeted.

Significance

Updating the Grants Management Policy (2019) to align with Council’s policy intent may require public consultation under the Significance and Engagement policy, depending on the scale of the proposed changes.

Engagement – external

Limited public engagement has occurred to date, as the primary focus has been on determining Council’s intent in regard to grants, and identifying its core policy settings.

GRANTS ALLOCATED \$5K AND UNDER

Department: Waste and Environmental Solutions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This report provides details of the Waste Minimisation Community grants that were awarded under the Chief Executive Officer's delegation in the September 2025 round, and the Waste Minimisation Small grants awarded by the former Grants Subcommittee Chair during the period March 2025 and October 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** that the Waste Minimisation Grants are funded by Waste Disposal Levy funds provided by the Ministry for the Environment and are not rates funded.
- b) **Notes** the approved funding allocated to organisations for Waste Minimisation Small Projects and Waste Minimisation Community grants.

BACKGROUND

- 2 On 27 November 2025 a report to Council sought approval for an amendment to the Chief Executive Officer's delegations to enable staff assessment and approval of applications for grants of up to \$5,000 (excluding Rates Relief grants) that are funded and administered by the Dunedin City Council.
- 3 The report noted that to satisfy Council's granting procedures, and to enable applicants to meet project and event deadlines, it was necessary to make decisions on grant categories before the end of 2025.

Moved (Cr Marie Laufiso/Cr Christine Garey):

That the Council:

- a) *Amends the Chief Executive Officer's delegations to enable approval of Dunedin City Council-funded and administered grant applications (excluding Rates Relief) valued at \$5,000 or less, as follows:*
 - 1) *The Chief Executive is delegated the power to approve or decline applications for grants that are funded and administered by the Council, provided that:*
 - i) *The grant was within an approved budget; and*

- ii) *The maximum possible grant value awarded to an applicant does not exceed \$5,000; and*
 - iii) *The power to approve or decline the grant has not been reserved to the Council under this Manual or by resolution.*
 - 2) *The Chief Executive may sub-delegate this authority to any other officer of the Council, subject to:*
 - i) *The sub-delegation being in writing and suitably recorded; and*
 - ii) *The grant being signed off by the relevant General Manager.*
 - 3) *This delegation would expire on 31 December 2025*
 - b) *Notes that staff will provide a report to the 11 December 2025 Council meeting on the allocation of the grants funding.*

Division

The Council voted by division

For: Crs John Chambers, Christine Garey, Doug Hall, Marie Laufiso, Cherry Lucas, Mandy Mayhem, Benedict Ong, Jules Radich, Mickey Treadwell, Steve Walker, Brent Weatherall and Mayor Sophie Barker (12).

Against: Crs Russell Lund, Andrew Simms and Lee Vandervis (3).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared CARRIED by 12 votes to 3

Motion carried (CNL/2025/323)

DISCUSSION

- 4 The Waste and Environmental Solutions Team were not able to provide a report for the 11 December 2025 Council meeting in relation to the Waste Minimisation Community and Small grants due to staff annual leave.
- 5 The Chief Executive under delegation has approved the grants as outlined in the attached memorandum (Attachment A).
- 6 Two Waste Minimisation Small Project Grants have been approved under delegated authority since March 2025. In the 2024/25 financial year a total value of \$1,940.00 was allocated, with the remainder being returned to the Waste Levy fund reserve. Thus far in the current financial year, two grants totalling \$704.00 have been approved with \$9,296.00 remaining for allocation. The former Grants Sub Committee Chair under delegation approved the Waste Minimisation Small Project Grants which are summarised in Attachment C.

OPTIONS

- 7 This report is for noting only.

Signatories

Author:	Catherine Gledhill - Waste Minimisation Supervisor
Authoriser:	Chris Henderson - Group Manager Waste and Environmental Solutions Scott MacLean - General Manager, City Services

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Waste Minimisation Community Grants Sept 2025 MEMO	163
↓B	Small Waste Minimisation Projects Grants Spreadsheet - September 2025	171

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision promotes the social well-being, economic well-being, environmental well-being and the cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and Culture Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Future Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This report supports the Council’s Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025.

Māori Impact Statement

Mana whenua had representation on the Grants Subcommittee and provide guidance and advice on allocations of funding.

Staff are working to develop relationships with the Māori community and ensure DCC grants are accessible and supportive of the needs of the Māori community.

Sustainability

Waste Minimisation Grants provide community with a funding opportunity for new waste minimisation projects and initiatives.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

Budget is set aside from Waste Levy revenue for waste minimisation grants in accordance with the Dunedin City Council Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025. This money is received from the Ministry for the Environment and has been approved to use for grants funding in accordance with section 47 of the Waste Minimisation Act.

Financial considerations

Grants will be expended from the Waste Minimisation Funds within approved budgets.

Significance

This decision is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

A variety of newsletters, social media, Otago Access Radio, as well as advertising in local media were used to promote these grants.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Engagement - internal

Internal engagement was carried out with other grant funding departments to check applicants were not doubling up on applications. Departments relevant to the organisations applying for funding were also engaged to check on the best fits in funding criteria for applicants.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

By funding consenting costs for applicants, the risk of funding non-compliant activity can be managed.

Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interests have been identified.

Community Boards

Funded waste minimisation projects may develop in community board areas.

APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY PANEL TO CONSIDER DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE COMMISSIONER APPLICATIONS

Department: Corporate and Regulatory

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act) requires Council to have a District Licensing Committee (DLC) and to maintain a published list of approved DLC members.
- 2 The current DLC has eight members: two commissioners, four community representatives and two councillors. The Act does not limit membership numbers.
- 3 DLC members can be appointed for terms of up to five years. Both commissioners' current terms expire on 31 May 2026. Attachment A lists current members and term expiry dates.
- 4 To maintain continuity and ensure adequate hearing capacity, staff propose Council seek applications for up to three commissioner positions.
- 5 This report recommends the Council appoints an Advisory Panel (the Panel) of three councillors to assess applications and to make recommendations to the Chief Executive for appointment. The proposed Terms of Reference for the Panel is at Attachment B.
- 6 Once the new commissioners are appointed, the Panel will then appoint a chairperson for the DLC. The Panel may also appoint a deputy chairperson.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** that applications will be invited for District Licensing Committee commissioner roles.
- b) **Appoints** an Advisory Panel of Councillor Lucas (as Chair), Councillor Garey and Councillor Walker to consider the applications received to be commissioners of the Dunedin District Licensing Committee.
- c) **Approves** the draft Terms of Reference for the Advisory Panel (with any amendment).
- d) **Requires** the Advisory Panel to:
 - i) make recommendations for appointment to the Chief Executive, and
 - ii) appoint a chairperson for the District Licensing Committee and
 - iii) (if desired) appoint a deputy chairperson.

- 18 Remuneration is set by the Minister of Justice at \$408 per day or \$51 per hour for members, \$624 per day or \$78 per hour for commissioners, and reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

OPTIONS

- 19 There are no options to this report given the requirements of the Act.

NEXT STEPS

- 20 Once the Council appoints the Panel and approves the Terms of Reference:
- a) Applications for commissioners will be invited
 - b) The Panel will assess applicants and recommend to the Chief Executive preferred candidates for appointment
 - c) The Panel will then appoint a chairperson and may also appoint a deputy chairperson.

Signatories

Author:	Anne Gray - Policy Analyst Bonnie Wright - Manager Compliance Solutions
Authoriser:	Paul Henderson - General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Current District Licensing Committee membership	177
↓B	Terms of Reference for Advisory Panel	178

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities. This decision promotes the social and economic well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Future Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓

This decision contributes to democratic decision making to support priorities of the Social Wellbeing and Economic Development strategies.

Māori Impact Statement

Engaging with our mana whenua partners will be part of the expressions of interest invitation process.

Sustainability

This process is aimed to ensure that the DLC is sustainable for now and the future with adequate representation at alcohol licensing hearings and succession planning.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no implications for these documents.

Financial considerations

There are no financial implications. DLC members are entitled to remuneration, and this is provided for within alcohol licensing budgets.

Significance

This decision is considered low in terms of the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

There has been no external engagement.

Engagement - internal

There has been internal engagement with In-House Legal Counsel and Governance.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no identified risks.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Conflict of Interest

Councillors Vandervis and Hall are current DLC members. While it is not the norm in the interests of maintaining political neutrality, if they were to consider applying to be commissioners to the DLC, it would be a conflict for them to sit on the Panel.

Community Boards

There are no implications for Community Boards. The DLC operates across all areas of the city, including the Community Board areas.

REVIEW OF DANGEROUS, INSANITARY AND AFFECTED BUILDINGS POLICY

Department: Corporate and Regulatory

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This report updates the Council on the review of the Dangerous, Insanitary and Affected Buildings Policy (the Policy) and asks the Council to approve a statement of proposal for consultation. Minor amendments are proposed, and these are shown as tracked changes to the current Policy at Attachment A.
- 2 The Building Act 2004 (the Act) requires the Council to adopt a policy on dangerous, insanitary and affected buildings and to review it at intervals of not more than five years. The Policy is due for review.
- 3 The special consultative procedure must be used for this review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** the review of the Dangerous, Insanitary and Affected Buildings Policy
- b) **Approves** the proposed Dangerous, Insanitary and Affected Buildings Policy at Attachment A and the statement of proposal at Attachment B for consultation.
- c) **Notes** that Hearings Committee members to hear and consider submissions for this review will be appointed by the Chair of the Hearings Committee in due course.

BACKGROUND

Building Act 2004

- 4 The Council is required under section 131 of the Act to adopt a policy on dangerous, insanitary buildings. The policy must take into account affected buildings and it must state:
 - The approach that Dunedin City Council will take in performing its functions under the Act
 - Its priorities in performing these functions and
 - How the policy will apply to heritage buildings.

- 5 Policies must be reviewed within five years of the policy being adopted and then at intervals of not more than five years. A policy does not cease to have effect because it is under review or being reviewed.
- 6 The special consultative procedure must be used if the policy is amended or replaced.

Policy history

- 7 The Council adopted its first Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy in 2007. It was reviewed in 2011 in light of lessons learned from the 2010-2011 Canterbury earthquakes.
- 8 It was reviewed again in 2017/2018 following the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2016 which introduced major changes to the way earthquake-prone buildings were identified and managed by territorial authorities. The Amendment Act 2016 removed the requirement for territorial authorities to have earthquake-prone building policies and instead created a national policy framework. Because of this the earthquake-prone buildings section became redundant and was removed.
- 9 The policy was reviewed in 2021 to include affected buildings when it became the Dangerous, Insanitary and Affected Buildings Policy.

DISCUSSION

Current Policy

- 10 The Policy was developed in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Act which seek to ensure that:
 - People who use buildings can do so safely and without endangering their health
 - Buildings have attributes that contribute appropriately to the health, physical independence and wellbeing of people who use them and
 - Buildings are designed, constructed and able to be used in ways that promote sustainable development.
- 11 The Council is committed to ensuring that Dunedin is a safe and healthy place to live. The Act provides the means to ensure that buildings that become dangerous, insanitary or affected are managed in a timely manner to remove the danger and fix the insanitary conditions. The Policy aims to administer the Act in a fair and reasonable way.
- 12 Policy provisions are implemented when a complaint or advice is received, and an investigation takes place. If a building is dangerous, insanitary or affected, then staff aim to work with building owners to address the problem without delay.
- 13 The Policy is limited in its scope by the provisions of the Act. For example, the Policy is not able to provide for rental property minimum standards (these are managed by the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment under the Residential Tenancies Act 1986) or demolition by neglect.

Policy review

- 14 The Policy is working well to address dangerous, insanitary and affected buildings in Dunedin. Minor changes are proposed to make the Policy easier to understand and to update language.

Heritage buildings

- 15 The Ōtepoti Dunedin Heritage Action Plan (HAP) included an action to review the heritage provisions of the Policy (Action 13 of the HAP Implementation Plan). The Policy has been reviewed to provide greater clarity when dealing with protected heritage buildings deemed dangerous or insanitary, or when protected buildings are affected by neighbouring buildings.
- 16 This includes explaining the DCC’s preferred outcomes for heritage buildings and identifying the available support for building owners. The Policy specifies that Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga will be notified when a building listed with them becomes subject to a notice requiring building work or restricting entry to that building.

Summary of proposed changes

- 17 Details of proposed changes are:

Section	Proposed change	Reason
<i>Policy history</i>		
Policy history	Adding the history of the policy including dates of adoption and review.	Greater clarity and in response to audit.
<i>Definitions</i>		
Heritage definition	Updating this definition	To align with updated terminology.
<i>Section 1: Taking action on dangerous, insanitary and affected buildings</i>		
Section 1.3	Additional section on how Council may respond to a dangerous, insanitary or affected building including examples.	To provide greater clarity.
<i>Sections 2 and 3: Heritage buildings</i>		
Sections 2 & 3	Providing additional explanatory information for buildings that are also heritage buildings.	To provide greater clarity and information for owners of these buildings.
Section 2.6	Adding that the Council will notify New Zealand Heritage Pouhere Taonga (NZHPT) of any notice requiring building work or restricting entry to a building that is included on the NZHPT list.	To be clear about this requirement of the Building Act 2004.
<i>Section 6: Review</i>		
Review	Adding reference to the special consultative procedure that is required when this policy is amended or replaced.	To be clear about this requirement of the Building Act 2004.

Community engagement

- 18 The special consultative procedure must be used to amend or replace the Policy. Consultation will be open for at least one month via the DCC website and it will be advertised in the Otago Daily Times. There will be the opportunity for people to make submissions and present their view at a hearing should they wish.
- 19 See Attachment B for the Dangerous, Insanitary and Affected Building Policy statement of proposal.

OPTIONS

- 20 As this review is required by legislation, there are no options.

NEXT STEPS

- 21 Next steps are to carry out consultation on the proposed Policy during March using the special consultative procedure before the Hearings Committee considers and hears any submissions. Following that, the Hearings Committee will report back to the Council with a recommendation to adopt a reviewed Policy.

Signatories

Author:	Grant Sutton - Principal Advisor
Authoriser:	Mike Hart - Acting Manager, Building Services Customer & Regulatory Paul Henderson - General Manager Corporate and Regulatory Services

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Proposed tracked changes to Dangerous, Insanitary and Affected Buildings Policy	185
↓B	Statement of proposal for Dangerous, Insanitary and Affected Buildings Policy review	190

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities. This decision promotes the social well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Future Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓

This policy review contributes to the priorities of healthy and safe people within the Social Wellbeing Strategy, and compelling destination within the Economic Development Strategy.

Māori Impact Statement

No specific impacts for mana whenua have been identified. However, in recognition of the Autūroa and Autakata pou in Te Taki Haruru, the two rūnaka will be advised of the review and given the opportunity to provide feedback in a way they deem appropriate.

Sustainability

There are no specific implications for sustainability.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no implications for these documents.

Financial considerations

There are no financial implications.

Significance

This review is considered low in terms of the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

There has been no external engagement to date. However, the special consultative procedure will be used to review the Policy.

Engagement - internal

In-House Legal Counsel has contributed to the advice in this report and the Communications and Web teams are aware of the upcoming consultation with no issues identified. The Heritage Team has reviewed and provided input to the proposed Policy.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no identified risks.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Community Boards

There are no specific implications for Community Boards.

RESOLUTION TO STOP PART OF NEILL STREET, ABBOTSFORD

Department: Property

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 This report recommends concluding the road stopping process for 182m² of land adjoining 26 Neill Street, Abbotsford, as the public notification process has been completed and no objections were received.
- 2 The owners of 26 Neill Street, Abbotsford applied to have a section of unformed legal road stopped. Council agreed to public notification of its intention to stop a portion of legal road and subsequently the property has been surveyed, valued and a sale and purchase agreement has been signed.
- 3 This report concludes the formal part of the Council's decision-making process in this matter.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Resolves** that under Section 342 of the Local Government Act 1974 the part of unformed road described as Sections 1 & 2 SO 619506 are stopped.
- b) **Notes** that no objections were submitted during the public notice period.
- c) **Authorises** a public notice declaring that the road is stopped.

BACKGROUND

- 4 The owners of 26 Neill Street, Abbotsford, applied to stop an unformed part of legal road adjoining their property, in order to better align the boundary of their section. Their garden and retaining wall were partially located within the road stopping area.
- 5 The road stopping application was considered by the Infrastructure Services Committee on 14 June 2021, which resolved as follows:

Moved (Cr Jim O'Malley/Cr Steve Walker):

That the Committee:

- a) **Approves** the public notification of the intention to stop a portion of legal road adjacent to 26 Neill Street, Abbotsford, subject to the applicants agreeing to:

Option Two – Status Quo

11 The Council may decided not to declare the part of the unformed legal road to be stopped.

Advantages

- There are no identified advantages.

Disadvantages

- This option would be inconsistent with the Infrastructure Services Committee decision on 14 June 2021.
- This option would not establish a practical legal boundary for the adjoining property.
- This option would result in no receipt of proceeds of sale and no increase in the rateable area of private land.

NEXT STEPS

12 If Council resolves that Sections 1 and 2 SO 619506 are stopped, a public notice formally declaring the road stopping will be published in the Otago Daily Times. A new Record of Title will be raised for the land, which will be transferred to the owner of the adjoining land at 42 Glengyle Street and amalgamated with their Record of Title.

Signatories

Author:	Paula Dickel - Strategic Property Advisor
Authoriser:	Anna Nilsen - Group Manager, Property Services David Ward - General Manager, 3 Waters, Property and Urban Development

Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Survey Plan SO 619506	200
↓B	Aerial Photo	204

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Economic Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Environment Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Future Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓

There is no contribution to the Strategic Framework.

Māori Impact Statement

Staff reviewed the District Plan, and the land is not identified as Wāhi Tupuna. There are no known impacts for Māori.

Sustainability

There are no known impacts for sustainability.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no implications for these plans/strategies.

Financial considerations

Costs incurred in the process are recovered from the applicant. A modest financial sum will be received as proceeds from the sale of land.

Significance

This decision is considered low in terms of the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

A full public notification process as carried out and no objections were received.

Engagement - internal

Transport, Legal Services, Parks and Recreation Services, Customer and Regulatory Services, City Planning, City Development and Three Waters were consulted when the process was initiated.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no risks identified.

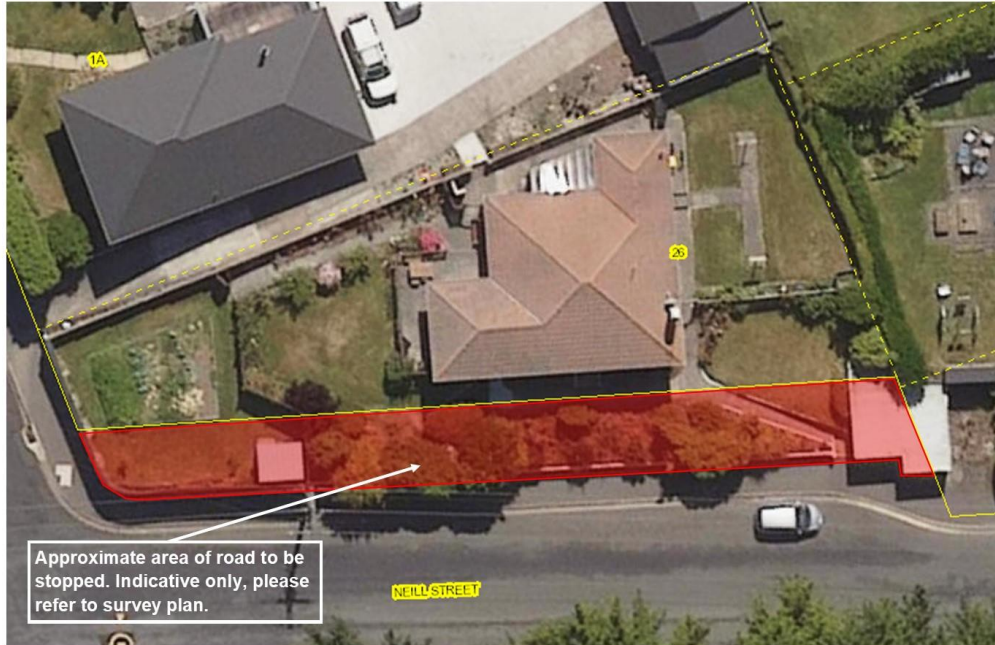
Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest has been identified.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Community Boards

There are no implications for Community Boards, a full public notification process was undertaken.



WAIPORI FUND - QUARTER ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025

Department: Finance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The attached report from Dunedin City Treasury Limited provides information on the results of the Waipori Fund for the quarter ended 31 December 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** the report from Dunedin City Treasury Limited on the Waipori Fund for the quarter ended 31 December 2025.

DISCUSSION

- 2 The Waipori Fund Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) requires quarterly reporting on the performance and financial position of the fund.
- 3 Dunedin City Treasury Limited has provided the Waipori Fund report for the December 2025 quarter. The report is provided as Attachment A.

SIPO Review

- 4 The Letter of Expectation to the Dunedin City Holdings Ltd (DCHL) Board for the 2026/27 financial year, approved at the 11 December 2025 Council meeting, included the following request:

“Review the Waipori Fund Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives (SIPO), and present options to Council for consideration, with different risk appetites along with expected returns, with a view to maximising return on investment.”

OPTIONS

- 5 As this is a noting report, no options are provided.

NEXT STEPS

- 6 Quarterly reporting on the performance and financial position of the fund will be provided to future Council meetings.
- 7 Council will be updated on the timing of the SIPO review once this is known.

Signatories

Authoriser:	Carolyn Allan - Chief Financial Officer
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Attachments

	Title	Page
⬇️A	Waipori Fund Report - December 2025 quarter	207

NEXT STEPS

8 Month end financial reports continue be presented to future Council meetings.

Signatories

Author:	Lawrie Warwood - Financial Analyst
Authoriser:	Hayden McAuliffe - Financial Services Manager Carolyn Allan - Chief Financial Officer

Attachments

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↴A	Financial Update	213
↴B	Statement of Financial Performance	226
↴C	Statement of Financial Position	227
↴D	Statement of Cashflows	228
↴E	Capital Expenditure Summary	229
↴F	Capital Expenditure Detailed	231
↴G	Operating Variances	237
↴H	Debt Graph	238

PROPOSED EVENT ROAD CLOSURES

Department: Transport

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 The DCC has received temporary road closure applications relating to the following events:

- i) Graduation Parade
- ii) South Dunedin Street Festival
- iii) Three Peaks Running Race
- iv) Baseline

2 This report recommends that Council approves the temporary closure of the affected roads.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Resolves** to close the roads detailed below (pursuant to Section 319, Section 342, and Schedule 10 clause 11(e) of the Local Government Act 1974 (LGA 1974)):

i) Graduation Parade

Friday, 13 March 2026	10.30am to 11.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great King Street, between Frederick Street and Albany Street
	10.40am to 11.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederick Street, between Great King Street and George Street • Filleul Street, between Moray Place and St Andrew Street
	10.40am to 12.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moray Place, between George Street and upper Stuart Street • George Street, between Frederick Street and Moray Place

ii) South Dunedin Street Festival

Saturday, 14 March 2026	7.00am to 4.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King Edward Street, between Hillside Road and Macandrew Road • Lorne Street, between Rankeilor Street and King Edward Street • McBride Street, between Rankeilor Street and King Edward Street • Sullivan Avenue, between Glasgow Street and King Edward Street
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carey Avenue, between Glasgow Street and King Edward Street
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iii) Three Peaks Running Race

Sunday, 15 March 2026	6.00am to 6.10am AND 9.00am to 9.10am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodhaugh Street - entire length
	9.00am to 3.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leith Valley Road, between Islay Street and Pigeon Flat Road

iv) Baseline

Saturday, 28 March 2026	10.00am to 11.59pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logan Park Drive, between Anzac Avenue and Butts Road
Sunday, 29 March 2026	12.00am to 10.00am	

BACKGROUND

- 3 Council’s Dunedin Festival and Events Plan supports the goal of a successful city with a diverse, innovative, and productive economy and a hub for skill and talent.
- 4 The areas proposed to be used for these events are legal roads and can therefore be temporarily closed to normal traffic if statutory temporary road closure procedures are followed. The procedures are set out in Section 319 of the LGA 1974 and give Council the power to stop or close any road (or part of a road) within the parameters of Section 342 and Schedule 10 of the LGA 1974 (Schedule 10 is included as Attachment A).
- 5 These procedures include:
 - Consultation with the New Zealand Transport Authority Waka Kotahi and the Police.
 - Public notice being given of the proposal to close any road (or part of a road), and public notice of a decision to close the road.
 - Council being satisfied that traffic is not likely to be unreasonably impeded.
- 6 A resolution of Council is required where a proposal to temporarily close a road relates to public functions.
- 7 Council is required to give public notice of its decision. This notice will be published after this meeting and prior to the event, if approved.

DISCUSSION

Consultation and Notification

- 8 The Police and the New Zealand Transport Authority Waka Kotahi have no objections to the proposed road closures.
- 9 On Saturday, 10 January 2026 the proposed temporary road closures were advertised in the Otago Daily Times (Attachment B) with a deadline for feedback.
- 10 Schedule 10 clause 11(e) states a road cannot be closed more than 31 days in the aggregate in any one year. This limit will not be exceeded by the approval of the proposed temporary road closures.

Traffic Impacts

- 11 The event locations of these events have had identical road closures for the same, or similar event(s) in prior years without causing unreasonable delays to the travelling public.
- 12 Emergency services and public transport services will be managed through the temporary traffic management process.
- 13 The Temporary Traffic Management Plan process ensures that other issues such as temporary relocation of certain parking (e.g. taxi, mobility and Authorised Vehicles Only) are managed.

OPTIONS

- 14 Note any amendment to this report's recommendations cannot be implemented without further consultation with the affected parties, New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, the Police, and verifying that traffic impacts are acceptable.

Option One – Recommended Option

- 15 That the Council closes the sections of road as recommended in this report.

Advantages

- Roads can be closed, and the event will be able to proceed.
- The closures will assist in realising the economic, social, and cultural benefits associated with the events.

Disadvantages

- There will be temporary loss of vehicular access through the closed areas. However, there are detours available, and safety can be assured using temporary traffic management.

Option Two – Status Quo

- 16 That the Council decides not to close the roads in question.

Advantages

- There would be no detour required for the travelling public, and the roads would be able to be used as normal.

Disadvantages

- The events would not be able to go ahead, and the benefits of the events would be lost.

NEXT STEPS

- 17 Should the resolution be made to temporarily close the roads, Council staff will accept the temporary traffic management plans that have been received for the events and notify the public of the closures.

Signatories

Authoriser:	Jeanine Benson - Group Manager Transport Scott MacLean - General Manager, City Services
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Attachments

	Title	Page
↓A	Local Government Act 1974, Schedule 10	245
↓B	ODT Advert - 10 January 2026	250

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision promotes the social well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Future Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Events contribute to the Strategic Framework. Events contribute to the Economic Development Strategy, the Social Wellbeing Strategy. There is a Festival and Events Plan 2018-2023.

Māori Impact Statement

Mana whenua have not been directly engaged with in relation to these road closures.

Sustainability

There are no implications for sustainability.

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

There are no implications, as the decision is a regulatory one and there are no direct costs to Council.

Financial considerations

There are no financial implications. The cost of the proposed road closure is not a cost to Council.

Significance

This decision is considered low in terms of the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Engagement – external

There has been external engagement (as required by the LGA 1974), with the Police and New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi. Affected parties were notified and provided a time period for feedback.

Engagement - internal

There has been engagement with DCC Events and Transport. There is support for the events to proceed.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no identified risks should the recommended resolution be made.

Conflict of Interest

There are no known conflicts of interest.

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

That the Council excludes the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting (pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987) namely:

General subject of the matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	Reason for Confidentiality
C1 Confirmation of the Confidential Minutes of Ordinary Council meeting - 11 November 2025 - Public Excluded	S7(2)(h) The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	.	
C2 Confirmation of the Confidential Minutes of Ordinary Council meeting - 11 December 2025 - Public Excluded	S7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.	.	
C3 Establishment of a transition steering group – Enterprise Dunedin	S7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.		

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act, or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as shown above after each item.