

### **231 Stuart Street and DCC's strategic assets list.**

I support keeping the Fortune Theatre. We need a proper strategy for saving, repurposing, or letting go of assets — one that includes public input and isn't just driven by short-term budget concerns.

### **Charge an entry fee for international visitors at Toitū and Dunedin Public Art Gallery support**

I support introducing an entry fee for international visitors at Toitū and the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. This approach is common in many cities around the world and helps support the ongoing operation and maintenance support the introduction of an entry fee for international visitors at Toitū and the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. This is a common practice in many cities around the world, and the revenue generated will help support the ongoing operation and maintenance of these facilities.

### **Smooth Hill Landfill**

I don't support moving ahead with Smooth Hill as it's currently proposed. There are still too many unanswered questions — especially around environmental impact, the threat to protected wildlife, transparency in the process, and whether this is really the best use of ratepayer money.

### **Rates;**

A 10.5% rates increase just doesn't feel realistic — especially with so many whānau and local businesses already doing it tough. And it's not just a one-time thing. With another 10.2% hike planned next year and 10.1% the year after, it feels like we're being locked into years of big increases.

### **Business and Economic Development.**

The draft plan lacks any serious focus on economic development. Dunedin's businesses are struggling. We need more than vague strategies and passive references to growth – we need action.

The Council needs to take a much more active role in supporting our community by creating jobs, training young people, and keeping money circulating locally. While it's good to see investment in events and cultural life in the draft plan, there's not nearly enough focus on real economic development. Local businesses are struggling — they need more than just vague strategies and mentions of growth; they need tangible support. I'm also seriously concerned about Council projects being taken out of Dunedin. Now more than ever, we need to be investing in our own city and our people.

Our residents — and our business community — need change, support, and a reason to trust in the decisions being made by Council. Many of us are doing our best to keep our doors open, retain staff, and contribute to the city's economy, but it often feels like we're working against the tide.

Running a business in Dunedin should be something we feel proud of — not something that feels like a constant uphill battle. Rising costs, limited support, and a lack of clear economic development strategy are making it harder than ever to survive, let alone grow. We're not asking for handouts, but we do need the Council to actively back local businesses through practical support, policy decisions that reflect our reality, and a real commitment to keeping money circulating in our city.

Ngā mihi,

Georgina Guthrie-Murray, Managing Director, Ratepayer.