



45 Tamatea Road

29th April 2025

Tēnā koutou,

Submission to Dunedin City Council 9-Year Long Term Plan

I am writing on behalf of *Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou* to lodge our submission for the road safety improvement project on the Otago Peninsula. This project was designed to deliver significant safety improvements for all users travelling from Vauxhall to the base of Taiaroa Head, which we deem imperative to maintaining connections with Ōtepoti and the wider community. We encourage the council to complete the project.

Increasing impact of climate change - in October 2024 we witness at first hand the impact of climate change where Dunedin had 160mm of rainfall over a 48-hour period – this is 100mm more than the expected range for October. Like most parts of the city, Ōtākou marae was exposed to this downpour streaming down from our urupa, alongside our church, continuing to the main entrance to the marae - causing blockages and excess surface flooding. Instances like these remind us of the importance roading places on connecting the Peninsula to the wider community.

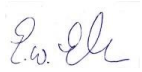
Increasing risks of accidents – most of our members live outside of the Peninsula, this includes some kaimahi that travel to and from the marae daily. The last section of the roading beyond Portobello (*going towards Taiaroa Head*) is noticeably different to the previous sections i.e. original road, narrow spacing, and uneven terrain with numerous potholes. These indicate the potential increase of accidents that can occur, especially with the diverse range of vehicles travelling along this road. This adds to the complexity and severity of potential accidents should the project continue to be halted.

Negative impact on tourism – we are fortunate to have some amazing tourist attractions on the Otago Peninsula: *Royal Albatross Centre, Otago Peninsula Eco Restoration Alliance, Monarch Wildlife Cruises & Tours* and *Ōtākou marae*; they attract international tourists and domestic visitors. The completion of this roading is a crucial part to ensuring tourism continues safely and encourages more visitors to the Peninsula. Tourism provides employment, contributes valuable dollars to the city and showcases Ōtepoti, Dunedin to visitors and tourists. Ensuring the project is completed will encourage safer navigation along this stretch of the Peninsula.

We acknowledge the difficulty the council has in expending the *\$18.5 million* required to complete the project without any assistance from the government. We would like to thank the council for their commitment and endorse them to complete the project as promised in Years 2,3 and 4.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our concerns and we would be happy to speak to this submission at the allocated date and time.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Ellison', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Edward Ellison

Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou

Ūpoko