



P.O. Box 629
Dunedin

24 April 2025

Local Water Done Well
Dunedin City Council
PO Box 5045
Dunedin 9054

SUBMISSION TO THE DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL 9 YEAR PLAN

The board of Dunedin Netball make a submission to Dunedin City Council 9 year plan and also support the Edgar Centre submission to include provision in the plan to re-roof the main hall of the Edgar Centre.

Netball was a founding member and has been a constant user of the Edgar Centre since 1994. These are the only court facilities available to utilise in Dunedin with no other venues either indoors or outdoors available to accommodate over 3500 players, coaches and officials every season.

Problems with the Edgar Centre leaking roof and condensation issues have been well publicised over the years with articles in the Otago Daily Times since 2010. Meetings with various Dunedin City Council staff have been attended over the years with maintenance plans proposed and some remedial work completed on the roof over the last couple of years. The work that has been done however, has not prevented roof leaks in any kind of rain event, including persistent drizzle and heavy downpours, making any number of courts unavailable. When leaking appears on courts, either wood or turf, it creates a dangerous health and safety slipping hazard.

In 2024, Dunedin Netball held six season competitions across four days of the week with a total of 293 teams. We hosted eight tournaments and festival days including the Netball New Zealand U18 National Championships with a total of 209 teams, the majority of those teams from outside of the Dunedin area. During the local competition season, due to unsafe court conditions caused by the leaking roof, we were forced to cancel 34 games, and 54 games had to be moved or delayed. A further 23 games were moved during tournaments held inside the Edgar Centre.

The Edgar Centre is a critical and integral part of the Dunedin City Council's community facilities. Hundreds of thousands of people pass through the Edgar Centre doors every year and Dunedin City Council has a responsibility to ensure the accessibility and safety of the venue for all users. The Dunedin City Council's Parks and Recreation Strategy 2017-2027, Sport and Recreation Action Plan as published

on the council website has an objective: 2 Open spaces and facilities support Dunedin's communities to thrive and a priority to provide appropriate, quality, fit-for-purpose open space, sport and recreation facilities at regional, sub-regional and local levels and also maintain and invest in major event infrastructure to attract sporting events that bring domestic and international participants and visitors to Dunedin.

The continued issues with the Edgar Centre main hall roof are preventing our community from participating in physical activity. The facility is not fit for purpose, an indoor venue should be able to be utilised in all weather and not be affected by cancellations due to unsafe conditions caused by rain. Our sporting organisations are overlooking Dunedin as an appropriate national event indoor venue due to the issues encountered with leaking courts, limiting the ability to attract sporting events that bring domestic and international participants and visitors to Dunedin.

Dunedin City Council staff publicly stated to Edgar Centre and Dunedin Netball in a reply to questions from the Otago Daily Times on 20 June 2024 that, "Ultimately, the Edgar Centre needs a new roof and venue-wide mechanical ventilation system to resolve weather-related issues at the venue. This would come at significant cost, estimated to be more than \$15 million, and we need more information about investment in multi-sports facilities first." If this is the solution, the expense must be included in the Dunedin City Council 9 Year Plan 2025-2034 to ensure one of the most used community sport, recreation and event facilities in the city can continue to provide a safe and dry indoor space that is accessible to all.

The current draft Dunedin City Council 9 year plan indicates investment in other community recreation facilities like Moana Pool and Forsyth Barr Stadium. The Edgar Centre sport, recreation and event community including Dunedin Netball implore Dunedin City Council to consider including provision for the replacement of the Edgar Centre main hall roof in the 9 year plan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee-Anne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lee-Anne Anderson

General Manager
Dunedin Netball