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Submission on the 9 year plan – DCC 2025

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1. Te Tiriti Partnerships

I fully support the development of Te Taki Haruru (the Māori Strategic Framework) and the role of Te Pae Māori (the mana-to-mana forum) in Council decision-making. The partnership with mana whenua I understand is currently positive and I support every way possible to continue a good functional, genuine and partnership.

2. Smooth Hill Landfill

I do not support proceeding with Smooth Hill as proposed. The reasoning for being the very concerning cost which is likely to end up being more than what was proposed. There should be more consultation on this, with further investigation and discussion with mana whenua to see if there is a workable option that doesn't increase the city debt so drastically. Alternative options need further consideration.

3. 231 George Street

I support retaining 231 Stuart Street as a strategic asset under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. It has heritage and civic value, and the community should have a say in its future. I believe the community would greatly benefit from a full review of all DCC-owned assets. Ratepayers deserve to know what is owned, what condition those assets are in and how they align with the city's long-term goals. A strategic plan for asset retention, repurposing or release should be developed with public input and used to guide future decisions.

#### 4. Entry Fees at Toitū and DPAG

I support a \$20 entry fee for international visitors. It is common practice overseas and creates a practical way to generate revenue without burdening locals.

#### 5. Rates and Debt

I am extremely concerned at not only the growing debt but the inevitable passing on to rate payers. There are significant and increasing issues in NZ regarding cost of living on individuals and businesses, poverty, education and the health system and requiring the community to keep paying significantly increased rates to cover poor decisions on debt is unacceptable. A 10.5% rates rise, especially on top of the economic pressure already felt by whānau, is simply not sustainable. The forecast shows further steep rises in the following years, including 10.2% in year two and 10.1% in year three, with only modest easing after that. This disconnect is eroding public trust.

Council must urgently focus spending on core infrastructure and essential services, cut or pause non-urgent projects and prove to the public that every dollar is being spent wisely and with purpose. This plan, as it stands, does not give that assurance.

#### 6. Cycleways and Climate Action

It is a shame to see projects like the Dunedin Tunnels Trail and further climate action pushed aside. These must be priorities. They allow for more community and tourist experience of the city and actively supporting climate change should be an absolute. I'd support revisiting the capital works pipeline to bring these back into focus.

#### 7. Business and Economic Development

Many Dunedin businesses are struggling. It appears some investment in events and cultural life is included, the draft plan does not have a serious emphasis on economic development. We need to actively engage with local businesses and work together to support economic development in the city through decisive and clear steps.

The Council must actively support the creation of jobs, training young workers and keeping money circulating in our city. We need to attract youth to the city, and retain business as much as possible.

This is critical to supporting rangatahi and a future-focused regional sustainability.

I can see little to no active focus on homelessness, while this is a national issue, it is also a community issue that requires focus and commitment.

## 8. Water Services

Council control of water services is important. In terms of how this is addressed going forward, what matters the most is transparency, accountability and ensuring the best outcomes for Dunedin residents. Before any decisions are made, there must be a thorough review of all options, including costs, service quality and long-term sustainability. Most importantly, any change must come with a clear mandate from the community and active discussions with mana whenua. Ratepayers deserve to understand the implications and have a real say in how such a critical service is managed.