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06.08.25

Dear Sir/Madam

The purpose of this letter is to set out my comments in relation to the Albany Street Connection.

Before I do so, I would like to firstly thank [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the DCC for the proactive and professional approach they have taken to try and mitigate the disastrous outcome along with the very public fallout resulting from the unfortunate decision made by the Infrastructure Services Committee chaired by councillor Jim O'Malley. This decision was to remove every carpark (approximately 70) on the northern side of Albany Street from the one-way right down to the Anzac Avenue intersection.

The decision was bewildering given the negative impact the removal of approximately 70 carparks was always going to have on the many small business owners in Albany Street.

The small business owners had neither been consulted about the intended carpark removal or indeed properly notified about the proceedings. The committee's decision can only be viewed as extreme and punitive to those whose livelihoods are derived from their small businesses. There is absolutely no doubt about this complete lack of consultation - no "ifs buts or maybes". The small business owners have been treated very poorly by the DCC and are deserving of a public apology.

My initial position was to plead for the retention of all of the carparks. The latest plan allows for 9 carparks to be saved. Whilst I would have wished for more, I understand the difficult position the council is now facing with the closing of the window to get partial funding from the government for the project and 9 carparks is a big improvement on none. For that reason, I do not intend to object any further.

I would however ask the council to consider adopting a position whereby if there is a possibility of some flexibility to be built in for a reinstatement of carparks in the future, should it be deemed best for the city that more parking is required in Albany St.

It is important that any future decision making in relation to Albany Street be made by a committee which is made up of fair-minded objective councillors.

To that end, I would submit Jim O'Malley should recuse himself from not only chairing but also being a member of the committee as it is clear from his many somewhat ill-judged comments/outbursts in the press as of late that he is no longer able to apply or display any objectivity in relation to the decision-making process. The public perception certainly is that he is determined to "ram home" the complete removal of all of the carparks as this accords with his personal position as a cycleway advocate.

It is vital for the ratepayers of Dunedin and for the future of the city that important decisions are seen to be made in a fair, considered and balanced manner to which due process has been properly followed and for that reason I believe Jim O'Malley must recuse himself from any further involvement in the decisions going forward as to the Albany Street Connection.

Your sincerely

Greg Paterson