Weekly Executive Update Report

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General Updates

1 Waste Futures project named the RMLA's 2026 Project of the Year

1.1 The Dunedin City Council's Waste Futures Green Island Landfill Closure and Resource Recovery Park was named the Resource Management Law Association's 2026 Project of the Year, recognising the long-term approach to managing waste, protecting the environment, and planning for the future.

1.2 The award was formally presented at the RMLA Awards Gala Dinner on Friday 11 September.

1.3 The award acknowledged how DCC had turned the challenge of Green Island Landfill reaching the end of its life into an opportunity to improve the way Ōtepoti Dunedin manages waste. Rather than focusing on a single project, the programme brought together landfill closure planning, a new four-bin kerbside collection system, upgrades to resource recovery facilities, planning for future landfill capacity, and initiatives that helped the community reduce waste.

1.4 A key part of the programme's success was working closely with Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou through Aukaha, as well as engaging openly with neighbours, stakeholders, and the wider community. Clear communication helped make complex technical and environmental issues easier to understand and discuss.

1.5 The judges said the Waste Futures Programme demonstrated four key principles:

- Have a clear long-term vision before tackling individual projects.
- Bring together a wide range of expertise early in the process.
- Tell a consistent story about why change is needed.
- Look beyond compliance to achieve broader community and environmental benefits.

2 Parks and Recreation update

AQUATICS

2.1 St Clair Hot Salt Water Pool experienced a temporary closure due to heating issues. These have now been resolved, and the pool is fully operational again. With a favourable weather at the long weekend, we are enjoying a busy period in the pools.

2.2 We have received positive feedback on the management of the World Surfing event and the associated use of the pool. Users have welcomed the season extension and the proactive communication.

BOTANIC GARDEN

2.3 As part of the inaugural Garden Ōtepoti Festival, the Botanic Garden has hosted a series of sixteen talks, tours and workshops. This has been an exciting series of events celebrating everything about spring, gardening and connecting with the outdoors and nature. Events ran from Monday 19 October and finished with a family picnic day on Monday 26 October, Labour Day.

2.4 Around the garden the team are preparing for a New Zealand Garden Trust assessment in late November 2026. This is the assessment that determines the garden's six-star Garden of International Significance rating.

2.5 The Information Centre at the garden has had 1,786 visitors through its doors from Wednesday 14 October through to Wednesday 21 October.

2.6 In early 2024, the Dunedin Botanic Garden received 9 pots of *Craspedia argentea* and some seed. In the wild at the time there were just a handful of plants remaining at one location. This spring, the overall population ex situ (off site) is at 400 (64 of those are at DBG), the majority of which are seedlings (including cotyledons). After translocations and seed sowing earlier in the year, the numbers in situ were sitting at over 250 at last count.

2.7 The propagation team currently have 27 seedlings and at last count there were 98 glomerules (flowerheads) at different development stages - approximately double the amount we had in our first season (52 for Summer 24/25).

2.8 Nearly half of the flowerheads have finished flowering and are now covered with a mesh bag as we await seed development.

PARKS PLANNING

2.9 Staff have been holding public engagement forums to discuss feedback on the Draft Hereweka Harbour Cone Management Plan.

- Thursday 22 October (5pm – 7pm) at the DCC Plaza Conference Room
- Tuesday 27 October (3pm – 5pm) at the Broad Bay Community Centre

And next week you can attend a final drop-in session:

- Wednesday 4 November (10am – 12pm) at the Portobello Bowling Club

2.10 Staff are rolling out replacement and upgraded signage for a number of parks, cemeteries and coastal structures.

2.11 A report was presented to Policy and Planning Committee on the Thursday 22 October seeking approval to begin Coastal Dunes RMP review. The motion to proceed with consultation was passed.

2.12 To celebrate Aotearoa Play Week, we have launched the Dunedin Playground Map, highlighting a range of playgrounds across the city and encouraging families to explore new play spaces. Copies are available from DCC libraries, the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, and Toitu Otago Settlers Museum. We have also worked with schools throughout Dunedin to help distribute the map within their communities, with strong support and positive responses received.

PARKS OPERATIONS

2.13 The "Mum" Sea Lion Sculpture from St Clair has been refurbished and is back in place.

2.14 The assessment of Karitāne Wharf has been completed, with the report expected in approximately one month.

2.15 All BBQs have been turned on for the season.

2.16 Additional overlay will be installed in designated Freedom Camping areas in time for Labour Weekend, including Thomas Burns carpark, Warrington and Ocean View. This will provide extra toilet amenities to accommodate the expected increase in tourists over the summer months.

2.17 Three Community Rangers employed under a DCC-DOC seasonal partnership will begin their inductions and training during November 2026. Rangers will patrol our freedom camping hotspots, reserves and beaches over the summer, educating visitors on the requirements of DCC's bylaws and how they can enjoy Dunedin's wildlife and public spaces respectfully and safely.

DCC PEST CONTROL CONTRACTS

2.18 The Ungulate Control Operation commenced on Monday 26 October across Mt Cargill, Swampy Summit, Silverstream, Chingford's Bush and Mihiwaka. Full details are on the DCC website.

CITY SANCTUARY

2.19 The annual Ross Creek Rifleman / Tītipounamu Nest Box survey was undertaken earlier this week, and we're pleased to report that 6 of the nest boxes are occupied and another 10 have partial or 'in progress' nests being built. Since 2023, when the programme commenced, we've seen a steady increase in nest box occupancy as well as an increase in natural nests. As New Zealand's smallest native bird, Rifleman / Tītipounamu are vulnerable to predation. The survey results are encouraging and are consistent with the positive outcomes sought through our predator control programme.



Image 1: An open nest box with a variety of leaves and feathers ready for a brood.

2.20 Late last week we had another incident where vandals set one of our traps on fire! This one from Chingford Park was luckily seen by a volunteer and reported to us. We've filed a police report and we're hoping this does not become a trend over the summer months.



Image 2: Damage to predator-control trap

2.21 From Friday 16 to Wednesday 21 October, volunteers contributed 326 hours to City Sanctuary work, the equivalent of 40.8 workdays. Over the same period, 52 predators were removed and staff completed 18 field hours.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOOKINGS

2.21 Weekly data to Wednesday 21 October

Field Bookings	173
Gymnasium Bookings	23
Lights	0
Change facilities	15
Athletics Track and fields	16
Botanic Gardens	2
Reserves & Carparks	2
Pavilions and function rooms	2
Total:	233

3 Council diary

3.1 This week, meetings were held for;

- Mosgiel-Taieri Community Board – Wednesday 28 October at 4pm
- Waikouaiti Coast Community Board – Wednesday 28 October at 5:30pm

And:

- DCC Council meeting Thursday 29 October at 9am & Friday 30 October at 12pm

3.2 Next week;

- DCC Council meeting Thursday 5 November at 9am

3.3 You can watch public Council meetings live on our YouTube channel (99) Dunedin City Council - YouTube

4 3 Waters update

4.1 Our Citywide 3 Waters infrastructure coped well with the rain event on 14 and 15 October, as rainfall stayed well within the capacity of the system. Wastewater flows at Musselburgh and Tahuna peaked at approximately 2,000 L/s, around 50% of hydraulic capacity, while Portobello Road Stormwater Pump Station peaked at approximately 2,100 L/s, around 35% of capacity. Stormwater and wastewater pump stations across the rest of the city, including Mosgiel, also performed well.

4.2 We have completed relining one of the three rising mains between Musselburgh Pump Station and Tahuna Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the main is now back in service. This work improves the condition and resilience of a critical part of the city's wastewater network and reduces the risk of failure.

4.3 We have started up Port Chalmers Water Treatment Plant ahead of summer and the cruise ship season. The plant is now on standby and can produce water within approximately 24 hours when demand increases.

4.4 We have received a number of complaints about the taste and odour of water in the Waikouaiti area. The water remains safe to drink and complies with the relevant water quality regulations. Naturally occurring compounds in the Waikouaiti River, which supplies raw water to this scheme, cause the taste and odour. These compounds occur seasonally, particularly in summer and during periods of lower river flow, and the current treatment process does not remove them. We are installing a new treatment process that will remove some of these compounds and reduce the risk of taste and odour issues. We expect this to be complete and operational within the next 3 to 6 months.

4.5 Mt Grand Water Treatment Plant has been approved by Ministry of Primary Industry (MPI) as a Transitional Facility which restores the Council's capability to receive and offload imported shipping containers directly at the plant. The initiative creates greater flexibility for bulk procurement of treatment chemicals and provides an opportunity to reduce supply costs. The initial focus will be on achieving savings through coagulant imports, with scope to extend direct importing to other treatment chemicals such as fluoride and soda ash. Approximately 10 containers of treatment chemicals and associated equipment are currently imported each year from international suppliers.

4.6 Dunedin metropolitan area water production capacity from Mt Grand and Southern Water Treatment Plants is constrained to approximately 70% of maximum due to operational and maintenance issues at both plants. Production capacity remains well in excess of current demand which was an average of 41.5 MLD (41.5 million litres per day) through September 2026 and remains typical for this time of year.

5 Enterprise Dunedin update

5.1 With 2026 an off year for the Dunedin Masters Games, our Destination Team is working with the Masters Games Board to review and strengthen the foundations and structures that support this biennial event. We are recruiting new Trustees and developing a set of agreed goals and outcomes for future games delivery.

5.2 The Destination Team have been working with the Zero Carbon team to facilitate a carbon reduction planning programme for Dunedin's visitor sector. The programme offers an opportunity to build more sustainable business practices and work towards inclusion in a 'Light Footprint' itinerary. We will promote the itinerary through our destination marketing and tourism trade channels. It will showcase businesses and experiences that help visitors explore Ōtepoti Dunedin while minimising their environmental impact. It will be an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding wildlife, local produce and passionate people making a positive impact on our environment, while inspiring domestic and international visitors to experience a more sustainable side of Ōtepoti Dunedin.

5.3 An Otago Daily Times article recently highlighted a Beijing student's positive experience of living and studying in Dunedin, reinforcing the city's appeal as an international education destination ahead of the delegation travelling to Shanghai on Saturday 18 October.

6 Resource consents

6.1 On Thursday 22 October, the Fast-track expert panel considering the Southern Link Inland Port application released its Draft decision and conditions, granting the approvals sought under the Resource Management Act 1991 subject to conditions. The panel is due to release its final decision on Thursday 12 November.

7 Citywide Climate Adaptation and Resilience at community board meetings

7.1 The Citywide Adaptation and Resilience team has been meeting with community boards across Dunedin to introduce Council's climate adaptation and resilience programme.

7.2 The presentations outlined DCC's approach to building climate resilience. This included understanding natural hazards, assessing climate risks, planning adaptation responses, integrating resilience into Council decision-making, and developing a citywide adaptation plan.

7.3 Community boards were also updated on current work underway, including the development of a citywide climate risk assessment and climate adaptation plan.

8 City of Literature update

ONCE UPON A HARBOUR BOOK LAUNCH

8.1 Dunedin City of Literature and Dunedin Public Libraries recently collaborated to celebrate the creative partnership behind *Once Upon a Harbour*, a beautifully illustrated collection of humorous stories by acclaimed Ōtepoti writer Fiona Farrell and artist David Elliot.

Inspired by Otago Harbour, the picture book features scenes that locals will immediately recognise. Publisher Jenny Hellen of Allen & Unwin travelled from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland to officially launch the book at the free public event.

8.2 Jenny, who has worked with David on children's books for the past 25 years, described the book as the culmination of his life's work to date. She also praised Fiona's clever, funny and rhythmic poetry, calling her a 'genius writer'. Fiona and David hope readers of all ages will discover something of their own homes in the book's celebration of place and imagination.

CASELBERG TRUST MARGARET EGAN WRITERS RESIDENCY

8.3 Multi-award-winning author and poet Siobhan Harvey (Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland) is in Ōtepoti as the Caselberg Trust Margaret Egan Cities of Literature Writers Resident. The Caselberg Trust and Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature jointly award this annual residency, made possible by a generous bequest to the Trust from the late Margaret Egan. Since arriving in early October, Siobhan has been living at Caselberg House in Whakaohorahi Broad Bay and engaging with the local community. She is writing a series of narrative poems about nature, including landscape, wildlife, water and weather, and their longevity and changeability, with the peninsula's distinctive environment providing a rich setting for the work.

8.4 Siobhan will join Airini Beautrais (Whanganui) at the NZSA Otago/Southland Springtime Salon on Monday 9 November at 5:30pm at the Athenaeum Library in the Octagon. The event is free and all are welcome.

9 A new future for 231 Stuart Street

9.1 Following an open-market process, DCC has selected The Fortune Trust's proposal for the future of 231 Stuart Street and is now negotiating the terms of a potential sale. Three proposals were received, with the preferred proposal centred on restoring the Category 1 heritage building and establishing a community-focused performing arts venue.

9.2 The proposal would see the building transferred for $1, subject to the Trust securing the required development funding and other agreed conditions. The Trust would have up to 12 months to secure funding. Its proposal is for an accessible venue of up to 200 seats, capable of accommodating theatre, music, dance, comedy, schools and community organisations.

10 Municipal Chambers exterior heritage restoration moves to Stage Two

10.1 The restoration of the Municipal Chambers is reaching another visible milestone as the project moves into Stage 2. Scaffolding will continue to shift around the building as work progresses into new areas and is completed in others.

10.2 Behind the scaffolding, significant restoration work has been taking place on the building's historic exterior.



10.3 Recent images show repaired and reinstated stonework and architectural details, giving a glimpse of the results that will become increasingly visible as sections of scaffolding are removed.



Image 1: showing repaired and reinstated stonework and detail



Image 2: showing repaired and reinstated stonework and detail

11 Transport team updates

11.1 The upgrade of all Council owned traffic signals from copper and other aged network technologies to the fibre network was completed last week. Connection speed has improved by 33.3 million percent(!), vastly improving the resilience of our network.

11.2 We received a big thank you and some very positive feedback for the Transport Network Team on the collaboration and quick response times to helping facilitate approvals for filming of the Amazon Christmas TV Commercial.

11.3 We heard from Mercury last week on plans to increase resource at the Mahinerangi Wind Farm with an additional 40 wind turbines. Once completed the output will be enough to power the equivalent of 92,000 homes and will be New Zealand's largest wind farm. Mercury will establish a Community Consultive Group, contact details for the Strath Taieri Community Board have been provided.

11.4 Following a recent car versus pole crash on Andersons Bay Road we took the opportunity to consolidate 3 column assets into 1 with a combined signal and light column, improving intersection visibility through less clutter on our footpath. The work was predominantly done at night to minimise disruption to the travelling public.

Image 1: Before





Image 2: After consolidation of the assets

12 Kā Kete Wānaka o Ōtepoti Dunedin Public Libraries

12.1 From Monday 2 November to Friday 18 December 2026, Dunedin Public Libraries will be taking part in the nationwide Public Libraries of New Zealand (PLNZ) Community Impact Survey. This survey invites library users across Aotearoa to share how their local library

contributes to their lives and community wellbeing. Your feedback helps build a real picture of the difference libraries make - from supporting learning and literacy to providing connection, creativity, and inspiration. Results from 2025 here

12.2 Suzanne Paul, the "infomercial queen" and 2007 Dancing with the Stars winner, is coming to Dunedin to talk about her new book, *Your Time is Now*. Free entry on Tuesday 10 November Events | Dunedin Public Library official website

12.3 Two APNK computers have recently been installed on the third floor in Heritage Collections at Dunedin City Library. These new workstations make it even easier for visitors to access family history and local heritage resources while working alongside our specialist collections and staff. One of the most popular resources available on our APNK computers is Ancestry Library Edition**,** the world's largest online family history research database. Free access to APNK computers, Wi-Fi and Ancestry Library Edition is available at all Dunedin Public Libraries branches.

13 City Growth and Advisory Services updates

CENTRE UPGRADE PROGRAMME BRIGHTON

13.1 The first round of community consultation with property owners, business owners and residents regarding the proposed upgrade to the Brighton Commercial Centre closed on Friday 23 October.

13.2 Staff met with members of the Brighton community on Thursday 15 October and Monday 19 October to discuss the project and provided an update at the Saddle Hill Community Board meeting. Feedback was also received by email.

13.3 There will be a subsequent opportunity for the community to provide feedback on a concept design in November 2026.

LORNE STREET PLAZA UPGRADE

13.4 Staff are supporting the community group *Dream South D* with their upgrade of the Lorne St Plaza in South Dunedin. Construction is currently underway.