

Recommendations for both the DCC 9 Year Plan and South Dunedin Future programme 29 April 2025

The Surrey Street Flood Action Group submit the following South Dunedin flood prevention actions be taken by the DCC under both the **DCC 9 Year Plan** and the **South Dunedin Future programme**: Our submission while for the whole of South Dunedin is of particular importance to the people of **Surrey Street**. We are continually flooded with sewage from the diversion of the hill suburbs waste water. This sewage filled stormwater flows into surrounding streets and increases the volume of water in the streets and thus the level of damage to properties. The health risk is appalling and is a moral duty for the council to immediately address.

Local residents have complained to the DCC for years, urgently requesting the overflows stop. This problem has not started or worsened by rapid Climate Change onset. Evidence we have received based on infrastructure analysis and rainfall data clearly points to undersized piping systems and pumping stations. This reason has been ignored by the DCC in favour of the climate change narrative. To then divert part of the city's wastewater into South Dunedin's Surrey St and knowingly cause any flooding or ponding to worsen, or even more shameful, to put Dunedin's largest suburb's citizens at risk of disease could be called criminal. Surrey Street residents have also had enough of the negative publicity in news outlets much of which is speculative. This affects their property values and along with the continual flooding risk also affects their psychological well being.

Surrey Street Flood Action group has formally requested the DCC to begin urgent action to reduce the risk of any further wastewater overflow to zero within 12 mths, but preferably 6 mths. In addition the ORC has been asked to begin immediate enforcement action under the Resource Management Act against the DCC to prevent the illegal non-consented discharges. Similarly, Health New Zealand (Southern) has been requested to begin immediate enforcement action under the Health Act.

Our Submission

1. **DCC stop the Surrey Street wastewater and / or sewage overflows within 12 mths, preferably 6 mths**
2. DCC admit the reason for South Dunedin being flood prone is due to an undersized stormwater system for decades, not Climate Change. No scientific site specific (South Dunedin) data relating to climate change in any form has been shown to the public as a reason for continuing flooding in South Dunedin.
3. DCC apologise to the people of South Dunedin for delaying / avoiding implementing engineered flood prevention works after the 2015 flood, for 10+ years, which directly contributed to the 2024 flood.
4. DCC commit to 'South Dunedin Stormwater Justice'. The goal is dry flood free land.
5. DCC create a South Dunedin media policy (with ORC, ODT, RNZ and others) which is 'mana enhancing', treating local residents and business owners with dignity and respect. This will promote South Dunedin as a valuable flat land area city asset and a great place to live, close to amenities and businesses. The goal is to avoid 'click bait' headlines referring to South Dunedin as a 'Poster child for managed retreat' or 'Choosing between fight and flight', resulting in anxiety, social stigma and loss of house values.
6. DCC in all future public consultations (including this one), distinguish between (i) South Dunedin based resident or business responses, and (ii) People from outside South Dunedin responses. The goal is to reduce bias from outside interests (eg: Climate Change alarmists, deep greens, academics, social researchers) who may ideologically prefer 'managed retreat' and 'working with nature' leading to the reestablishment of wetlands and open water ways.
8. DCC commence urgent staged engineered flood prevention works, beginning with pipes and pumps, making South Dunedin flood-free within 5 years.

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