

SOUTH DUNEDIN FUTURE UPDATE

Happy New Year South Dunedin, we hope your summer has been a good one.

It's been a hard time for Thames-Coromandel, Northland and especially Auckland, who have had wild weather and off-the-charts rain and flooding. That has spurred a lot of discussion about climate change and housing and what we need to do to cope with the heavier rainstorms we are seeing all around the globe.

You may have heard about ideas to make cities like Auckland more 'spongey'. This basically means finding creative ways to soak up more of the rain using the ground or holding places so the water does not run straight into the stormwater pipes and overwhelm the system. Some of the ideas are using porous concrete that water can pass through, or sunken basketball courts with walls around that can fill up in a rainstorm, or streams that are designed to grow and spread, so they will flood instead of people's homes.

We have similar challenges in South Dunedin. We had the devastating flood in 2015 which damaged more than a thousand properties. And the growing body of science is pointing towards us having to cope with more water, through rising seas and groundwater and more intense rainfall.

One of the answers might be to make South Dunedin more spongey too. It is one of the things the South Dunedin Future team is looking into as we start to build an adaptation plan for the area. It is shaping up to be a big year.

The plan for 2023 – what you will see

March: launch of new materials about the South Dunedin Future programme explaining what we're going to do, when, and how you can help us work up a plan everyone can support. A new email newsletter direct to the inbox of everyone who wants to stay up to date.

April: South Dunedin Street Festival – we'll have a stall, see you there!

May – July: an easy-to-read wrap up of all the science about the natural hazards we face and what climate change could mean for the area (including pictures).

August – November: 'what matters most?' community workshops, surveys, pop ups, expos – all manner of ways to tell us what is most important now and in the future.

December: a first full list of everything that we could do to give South Dunedin its best possible future (e.g. pipes, pumps, walls, parks, beaches, tracks, streams, wetlands, apartments, townhouses, etc.) Plus the pros and cons of each.

Then 2024 and 2025 will be about working through all those options and finding the best ones. Then making it happen. We'll need your help – please join us!

Get in touch

We would love to hear from you. Look us up at dunedin.govt.nz/southdunedin, email southdunedinfuture@dcc.govt.nz or call us on 03 477 4000.