Weekly Executive Update Report

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Table of Contents

General Updates 2

1 DCC website improvements 2

2 Community Partnerships meetings this week 2

3 City of Literature update 2

4 New Dunedin Hospital Outpatient Building 2

5 Council diary 3

6 Community events supported by the Events Team 3

7 Drop, cover, hold at the DCC today 3

8 Kā Kete Wānaka o Ōtepoti Dunedin Public Libraries 4

9 Community engagement for Lindsay Creek flood hazard study 4

10 Implementing changes to local government legislation 4

11 Property Services update 5

12 Ara Toi / Creative Partnerships news 5

13 The Residents' Opinion Survey 2025-26 6

14 Kā Tae Colours published by the Dunedin Public Art Gallery 6

15 3 Waters update 6

16 Transport highlights and matters arising 8

17 Pools, playgrounds and sportsgrounds 9

18 Unmarked graves project media briefing 9

19 City Sanctuary update 10

20 Bookings for Parks and Recreation services this week 10

21 Enterprise Dunedin update 11

22 Zero Carbon update 12

23 Building Amendment Bill 2026: Development of Council's Draft Submission 12

General Updates

1 DCC website improvements

1.1 The Track Directory web page has been refreshed with new functionality. Users can now check in advance if a DCC track is accessible for wheelchairs and prams, whether dogs are allowed and whether it can be reached using public transport.

1.2 The Fix It request form has been updated with a click-through menu and geo-tagging functionality, allowing users to identify the location of an issue when they report it.

2 Community Partnerships meetings this week

2.1 Key meetings with community and DCC Council groups this week

- Ōtepoti Community Support Network – Thursday 22 October
- Otago Youth Wellness Trust – 30-year celebration – Friday 23 October
- Keep Dunedin Beautiful Trust Meeting – Tuesday 27 October
- Task Force Green – Community volunteers working on various community jobs across the city throughout the week
- Our Enviroschools team are out visiting schools this week

2.2 Operations

- Analysis of Community Grants and Rates Relief Grant Applications are underway.

3 City of Literature update

3.1 Okayama City of Literature has contracted a Dunedin writer-translator to translate three iconic Japanese stories into English for the first time. The project acknowledges Dunedin's role as Okayama's mentor city when it joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. The first translation is now complete, with Okayama planning to spotlight the publication and the ongoing connection between the two Cities.

3.2 Highly acclaimed children's writer Kyle Mewburn has a junior fiction series scheduled for release in China in 2027, following her earlier Nanjing City of Literature Residency. During the residency, Kyle met local publishers who subsequently offered her a publishing contract. The four-part series, Smalltown Dragons, has progressed through the publishing process and will be released as a dual-language hardcover boxed set, raising the profile of Kyle and Dunedin at international publishing industry trade fairs.

4 New Dunedin Hospital Outpatient Building

4.1 A significant milestone has been reached for the New Dunedin Hospital Outpatient Building, with all Code Compliance Certificates (CCCs) now issued by Dunedin City Council. This confirms that the building work covered by the various consents has been completed to the required standards and complies with the approved building consents and the Building Code. The completion of the CCC process marks an important step in bringing the facility into full operational readiness and reflects the considerable effort of all parties involved in delivering this complex project.

5 Council diary

5.1 This week, Community Board meetings were held;

- Otago Peninsula Community Board meeting – Tuesday 20 October
- Saddle Hill Community Board – Wednesday 21 October
- Strath Taieri Community Board – Wednesday 21 October

5.2 Upcoming meetings;

- West Harbour Community Board – Wednesday 21 October at 6pm
- Policy and Planning Committee meeting – Thursday 22 October at 9am
- Mosgiel-Taieri Community Board – Wednesday 28 October at 4pm
- Waikouaiti Coast Community Board – Wednesday 28 October at 5:30pm
- Council meeting Thursday 29 October at 9am & Friday 30 October at 12pm

5.3 Did you know that you can watch public Council meetings live on our YouTube channel? (99) Dunedin City Council - YouTube

6 Community events supported by the Events Team

6.1 The Events Team collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to produce a diverse programme of civic, community and destination events across the city and are busy preparing for the upcoming summer event season.

6.2 Applications are now open for George Street Market 2027. Vendors, makers, artists and local businesses can apply here.

6.3 More information can be found on our website https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/news-and-events/whats-on and pop these dates in your diary!

11 November 2026	Remembrance Day at the Queens Gardens Cenotaph
5 December 2026	Christmas in the Garden in the Botanic Gardens
31 December 2026	New Years Eve in the Octagon
6 February 2027	Waitangi Day in the Botanic Garden
30 January – 7 February 2027	Foundations Festival
7 February 2027	George St Market / Bath St Eats & Beats / Poptagon
7 February 2027	Chinese Cultural Festival Launch at George Street Market
7–21 February 2027	Lantern Festival (within the festival)
13 February 2027	Chinese New Year (Chinese Cultural Festival runs 7-21 February)
7, 14 and 27 March 2027	Sunday Sounds at Botanic Gardens
16–21 March 2027	World Surf League
25 April 2027	Anzac Day in Queens Gardens Cenotaph
26 June 2027	Matariki
11 November 2026	Remembrance Day at the Queens Gardens Cenotaph

7 Drop, cover, hold at the DCC today

7.1 We took part in the nationwide ShakeOut 2026 exercise on Wednesday 21 October at 1.30pm. You can practice your drills and find out more information here: How to ShakeOut — Get Ready (NZ Civil Defence) — Emergency preparedness in New Zealand

8 Kā Kete Wānaka o Ōtepoti Dunedin Public Libraries

8.1 Dunedin Public Libraries' mobile app has received a significant update with a new self-checkout function. The app enables users to renew items, place holds, access eBooks and manage their library account from their device. It is available by searching Dunedin Public Libraries on the App Store or Play Store, with further information available at https://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/services/free-mobile-app.

8.2 Dunedin Public Libraries hosted the closing event for the Spiral Collectives 50th anniversary exhibition at the Reed Gallery on the third floor of the City Library on 18 October. The exhibition was the libraries' first collaborative exhibition with a community group.

8.3 An upgrade of our library management system software (Kōtui) was undertaken on 20 October. Kōtui is shared resource discovery service that we subscribed to as part of a consortia agreement through National Library. https://natlib.govt.nz/librarians/kotui/about-kotui-services

9 Community engagement for Lindsay Creek flood hazard study

9.1 ORC is engaging with the community on its updated Lindsay Creek flood hazard study, with a drop-in session and presentation scheduled in North East Valley on Wednesday 21 October. The sessions will present the study findings, provide an update on the Lindsay Creek Flood Risk Reduction Programme, and seek feedback on proposed next steps. While ORC-led, the project is relevant to DCC's climate adaptation, resilience, and flood risk management work. It also represents the type of hazard and risk work that will inform the Citywide Risk Assessment and Climate Adaptation Plan, both of which are currently in development. Update provided by Climate Adaptation and Resilience Team. More information: https://www.orc.govt.nz/get-involved/projects-in-your-area/lindsay-creek-flooding-hazard

10 Implementing changes to local government legislation

10.1 Dunedin City Council is undertaking a programme of work to implement changes introduced by the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026. The changes affect how councils make decisions, manage finances, deliver services and report on performance. The work programme includes reviewing Council policies, processes and delegations to reflect the updated legislative requirements, strengthening elected members' access to information, reviewing committee membership and voting arrangements, and updating financial and public reporting practices. The changes will also be considered as part of the development of the 2027–2037 long term plan.

10.2 Implementation will be staged, with immediate changes prioritised and further work progressing through 2026 and into 2027. This will include working with mana whenua, community representatives and other affected parties on changes to governance arrangements, while maintaining opportunities for meaningful participation in Council processes. The Council will continue to assess the implications of the legislation for its

activities and services, with any significant policy or governance changes considered through the appropriate decision-making processes.

11 Property Services update

11.1 New public toilet facilities at Marlow Park are now open and available for community use. The new amenities provide much improved facilities for park users, sports clubs and visitors and enhancing the overall experience for those accessing the park.



11.2 Property Services has been working alongside the Youth Hub team to explore potential property opportunities that could support their future accommodation needs. This includes identifying, visiting and assessing a range of options to help facilitate a long-term solution for this important community service.

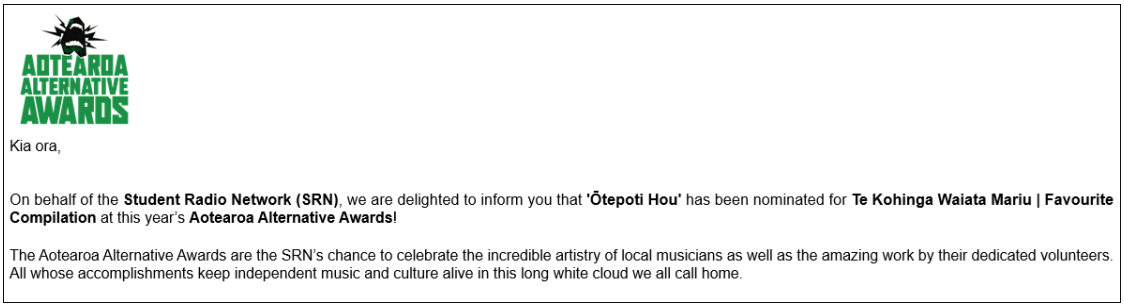
11.3 Property Services is working with the Transport team to investigate opportunities to improve accessibility and disability parking arrangements around the Civic Centre, supporting easier access for residents and visitors who use Council facilities.

11.4 The annual maintenance programme at Lan Yuan, Dunedin Chinese Garden, has been completed ahead of the upcoming cruise ship season. The work ensures the garden is presented to a high standard and ready to welcome the significant number of visitors expected over the summer months.

11.5 The contract for roof improvement works at the Sargood Centre has been awarded to BGIS. The planned work will help protect the facility and support its long-term performance as a valued community asset.

12 Ara Toi / Creative Partnerships news

12.1 The *Ōtepoti Hou* vinyl compilation, which was released during NZ Music Month this year, has been nominated for an award for the Aotearoa Alternative Awards, which will be hosted by the Student Radio Network on Saturday 14 November. Full nominations here.



Kia ora,

On behalf of the **Student Radio Network (SRN)**, we are delighted to inform you that **'Ōtepoti Hou'** has been nominated for **Te Kohinga Waiata Mariu | Favourite Compilation** at this year's **Aotearoa Alternative Awards!**

The Aotearoa Alternative Awards are the SRN's chance to celebrate the incredible artistry of local musicians as well as the amazing work by their dedicated volunteers. All whose accomplishments keep independent music and culture alive in this long white cloud we all call home.

12.2 This album (free download here) realises several implementations that sit under the Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan. We share this category with local DUN Records "4EPS".

12.3 Ara Toi tautoko the following Ōtepoti Dunedin nominations across these categories:

Categories	**Band / group name**	Song name
Te Tohu Puoro o te Reo Māori i kawea mai ki a koutou nā MĀORI + Favourite Song featuring Te Reo Māori	**Tough Guy**	Whakapapa
	Cuck	Ngā Rīwai
Te Tōtahi Toa i kawea mai ki a koutou nā Sublime Studio Favourite Single	**Sogg**	Argument
	IVY	Gutter
Te Rōpū Mariu i kawea mai ki a koutou nā Tuning Fork & San Fran Favourite Group	**SEEK HELP!**	
	U-No Juno	
Te Tohu Kaipuoro Toa i kawea mai ki a koutou nā SAE Creative Media Institute Favourite Solo Act	**Phaedra Love**	
Te Tohu Hopunga Puoro Mariu Roa i kawea mai ki a koutou nā APRA AMCOS Aotearoa Favourite Album	**Bunchy's Big Score**	Wanda's Bicycle

13 The Residents' Opinion Survey 2025-26

13.1 The DCC Residents' Opinion Survey Annual Report has been finalised and is on the agenda for Policy and Planning Committee being held on Thursday 22 October. The report was prepared by Enlighten Me Research Ltd alongside our Corporate Policy staff.

13.2 The full survey results will be online following the committee meeting including identified priority areas for residents, key takeaways, and satisfaction ratings across service areas and facilities.

14 Kā Tae Colours published by the Dunedin Public Art Gallery

14.1 Kā Tae Colours, a new baby board book published by the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, was delivered last week and will be distributed nationally in the next few weeks. Designed to introduce very young children to colours through artworks from the Gallery's collection, the beautifully illustrated board book encourages early learning, creativity, and engagement with visual art from an early age. The publication represents an exciting extension of the Gallery's commitment to making art accessible to audiences of all ages, with families across Aotearoa now able to enjoy this uniquely Dunedin-inspired resource.

15 3 Waters update

15.1 Tahuna sludge incineration operations were disrupted last week following the failure of two critical pieces of equipment in the sludge incineration process: the stack extracting

fan and conveyor system. As a contingency measure, approximately 90 tonnes of sludge was transported offsite to AB Lime in Winton. The affected equipment has now been repaired and normal operations have resumed.

15.2 The Southern Water Treatment Plant experienced an unplanned shutdown for approximately 10 hours on Saturday 3 October, following a critical hardware failure in the ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system. Reservoir storage levels temporarily decreased during the outage, but public service levels were not affected. Water supply has been maintained while the hardware replacement is progressed, with the plant operating without UV treatment in the interim. Water quality, public health protection and regulatory compliance have not been compromised, as UV treatment is a secondary disinfection process at this plant. Filtration and chlorination remain the primary treatment processes for providing safe drinking water.

15.3 The Water Services Authority, Taumata Arowai, has issued a letter of expectations to Dunedin City Council following three events where drinking-water supply was interrupted and alternative water was not provided. The 3 Waters team are reviewing the events and implementing improvements, including stronger watermain shutdown planning, clearer decision-making responsibilities, alternative supply planning, improved customer communications and consistent incident reporting. The revised requirements will be incorporated into Council's watermain livening process and communicated to contractors.

15.4 A sinkhole on Glenpark Avenue was reported on the evening of Wednesday 14 October with contractors responding immediately and fencing the area to ensure public safety. Initial investigations indicate that the nearby water main is not damaged and water supply to surrounding properties has not been affected. A stormwater pipe in the area has failed, although the cause is not yet known. The site is complex, involving a deep historic stone culvert, and repairs may take several weeks to fully resolve. There is no current risk to surrounding houses, and residents' access to their homes is being maintained while a small section of Glenpark Avenue remains closed for repair and road reinstatement works.





16 Transport highlights and matters arising

16.1 Consultation opened on Monday 19 October on proposed speed limit changes for five roads across Dunedin. The consultation details, including maps, supporting information and the submission form can be found at www.dunedin.govt.nz/consultation, with hard copies available at DCC Customer Services. Consultation closes 5pm Monday 30 November.

INAUGURAL CYCLE HUI

16.2 An inaugural Cycle Hui was hosted by Transport Strategy staff. A collaborative, positive and well attended event that brought together people passionate about walking, cycling, wheeling and improving connectivity across Dunedin and New Zealand. Presentations highlighted strong momentum around active transport, trail development, micromobility, tourism and creating a more connected city. This will be an annual event to strengthen connections across organisations and the wider network.

16.3 Key themes included:

Ōtepoti Pathways Strategy: A collaborative, long-term vision for Dunedin's walking, cycling and wheeling network, with an emphasis on being bold and planning for the next 30 years.

Dunedin Tunnels Trail: Currently attracting 300–400 users per day, with potential for up to 120,000 users annually once fully connected to Dunedin.

Trail network connections: The Dunedin Tracks Network Trust is progressing connections into the wider Great Rides network and addressing gaps in Dunedin's cycling network.

University of Otago: Master planning supports active transport, accessibility and a more connected campus, including the Albany Street upgrade.

Micromobility: Flamingo is recording approximately 1,000 e-scooter trips per day in Dunedin, demonstrating the increasing role of micromobility.

Business accessibility: Dunedin Host highlighted opportunities and challenges around improving active-transport access and connectivity for businesses.

End-of-trip facilities: Locky Dock demonstrated the importance of secure parking and charging infrastructure for bikes and electric mobility.

Cycle tourism: Cycle Journeys highlighted significant potential for cycling and trail-based tourism, while stressing the need for urgency, ambition and action.

International perspective: Global Cities Design Initiative examples challenged Dunedin to look beyond individual projects and consider the type of city the community wants to create over the next 30 years.

Breakout sessions: Participant ideas and feedback are being reviewed to help shape the final Ōtepoti Pathways Strategy.

16.4 Family Bike Day was run at Marlow Park on Sunday 11 October. The event was well attended by over 100 families with staff assisting with bike servicing, helmet fitting and safety checks, bike decorating and a sausage sizzle.

16.5 An aerial drone survey of St Clair to Lawyers Head Beaches is being commissioned to assess sediment loss and inform the implementation of the geobags to minimise dune erosion at St Clair and in front of Kettle Park.

16.6 The Mosgiel Park n Ride and Albany Street projects will be completed in February 2027.

16.7 Over the week, several community reports were received of pronounced coastal erosion along the Anderson's Bay Inlet affecting 3 Waters, Transport and Parks assets.

17 Pools, playgrounds and sportsgrounds

AQUATICS

17.1 The Just Swim team has had a busy first week back following the school holidays, with strong enrolment numbers recorded for the final term of 2026.

17.2 Tiling work on the spa pool at Te Puna is scheduled to begin on Monday 19 October. The project remains on track for completion in early December 2026.

17.3 Ongoing work to repair tiles in the deep end of the main pool at Moana is underway. This work is being completed using our "tile tank", which allows isolated tile repairs to be carried out without needing to drain the entire pool. The tank will be progressively moved across the pool lanes over the coming weeks.

17.4 The recent spell of good weather has contributed to strong usage of the St Clair Saltwater Pool.

MARLOW PARK PLAYGROUND

17.5 Marlow Park design work continues, with a strong focus this week on value engineering and identifying the most cost-effective variations of play equipment options.

17.6 Procurement for the remaining contract management and quality assurance roles, including the independent certifier, is being finalised so the construction team can mobilise quickly once Council approval is confirmed.

PLAYGROUND RENEWALS

17.7 Renewal work is underway at Riselaw Road playground, including replacement of the softfall under the swings and installation of a new slide and climbing frame.

17.8 Mosgiel Memorial Park swings are undergoing maintenance.

TRACK REPAIRS

17.9 Track repairs are underway at Mt Cargill and Flagstaff following recent rain events.

SPORTSGROUNDS

17.10 Cricket starts this week, with approximately 20 grounds marked and all games scheduled on artificial wickets.

17.11 Touch also starts this week, with 33 grounds marked across The Oval, Bishopscourt and Peter Johnstone Park.

18 Unmarked graves project media briefing

18.1 A media briefing for the unmarked graves project was held on site at Waitati Cemetery with consultant archaeologist Emma St Pierre. The briefing aimed to raise awareness of the project and encourage people with connections to Dunedin’s former institutions to

share their stories. The project seeks to acknowledge people who died in care and are buried in unmarked graves. Radio NZ, the ODT and TVNZ attended, with Emma St Pierre demonstrating how ground-penetrating radar is used to verify grave locations. Radio NZ and the ODT have reported on the briefing and indicated interest in future follow-up. The coverage has already resulted in a number of people coming forward, and TVNZ is following up with a family connected to the project.

19 City Sanctuary update

19.1 City Sanctuary staff are progressing pest control contract work, including planning for the DCC city-wide wasp control programme, development of the Pest and Ecological Procurement Plan, weekly night shooting across reserves and cemeteries, and ongoing contractor management.

19.2 City Sanctuary management has received the Predator Free Dunedin funding letter and Delivery Partner Agreement for DCC and CEO signing.

19.3 Operations this week included predator trapping on reserves and in residential backyards, biodiversity monitoring through five-minute bird counts, and volunteer management involving 135 volunteers. Volunteer contributions totalled 267.75 hours, equivalent to 33.5 workdays, with 59 predators removed and 20 staff field hours recorded.

19.4 City Sanctuary met with DOC at Tūhura to plan a combined March 2027 community event involving City Sanctuary, DCC, DOC, community groups, volunteers and the public. The event will showcase collective conservation efforts and encourage more people to get involved.

19.5 City Sanctuary attended the Aroha Kaikorai Valley Adopt a Drain launch to support the community group's expansion into stream health activities.

19.6 One City Sanctuary staff member participated in a national DOC communications and media workshop this week.

19.7 City Sanctuary provided equipment and guidance to two key community groups operating on DCC reserves and is redeveloping a DCC Volunteer Working Arrangement to support the expansion of a community group's operating area.

19.8 City Sanctuary liaised with DOC regarding the West Taieri Environmental Care Trust Interim Working Arrangement.

19.9 City Sanctuary is preparing community outreach activity for the Botanic Garden Family Picnic Day on 26 October 2026.

20 Bookings for Parks and Recreation services this week

Total resources Booked	219
Field Bookings	91
Facilities Booked	45
Gymnasium Bookings	24
Lights	3
Change facilities	17

Athletics Track and fields	9
Botanic Gardens	2

21 Enterprise Dunedin update

21.1 The Destination team attended the Ōtepoti Dunedin Cycle Hui, engaging with stakeholders on cycling and its role in the city's visitor offering. Despite the variety of individuals and groups present from across Dunedin and the wider country, it was heartening to see momentum towards shared understanding and outcomes from speakers, representatives and interactive activities.

21.2 The team attended Accelerate South, Business South's conference for the local and regional business community. The programme explored opportunities to optimise Dunedin's business ecosystem and considered the broader economic outlook for New Zealand. Strong attendance from businesses and organisations across the region reflected the value of bringing the business community together to share insights, strengthen connections and discuss opportunities for economic growth.

21.3 Staff received and reviewed the final reports and creative content developed by MART355 students in response to a Good Food Dunedin brief to promote local food. The resulting campaign includes a series of social media reels promoting the Otago Farmers Market to students. Content will be released progressively over the coming months, helping build awareness of local food and connect students with Dunedin's food offering.

21.4 The team joined city leaders in a discussion with Air New Zealand's CEO and General Manager Regional. The discussion focused on the airline's current operating environment and opportunities to strengthen air connectivity for Dunedin. Key themes included advocacy for improved regional and national connections, alongside opportunities to work in partnership with the national carrier to support growth and improve access to the region.

21.5 Staff supported research and preparation of a shared Otago regional economic development narrative for consideration by the Mayoral Forum and local government CEOs. The document aims to establish a common regional advocacy agenda, identifying key long-term priorities and providing Mayors, CEOs and senior leaders with a consistent platform to advocate for Otago's economic development.

21.6 Staff attended the premiere screening of a new short film produced by Short Film Otago and written, directed and crewed by Dunedin talent. Film Dunedin provided support during production 18 months ago. The film has been submitted for international festivals.

21.7 Film Dunedin staff continued to support location enquiries for a major screen production, providing location research and assistance to facilitate production activity in the region.

21.8 Staff attended the premiere of a new short film produced by Short Film Otago and written, directed and crewed by Dunedin talent. Film Dunedin supported the production approximately 18 months ago, and the film has now been submitted to international festivals, showcasing the capability of the local screen sector and its potential to reach audiences beyond New Zealand.

21.9 East of Eden featurette: Enterprise Dunedin released an in-house-produced featurette exploring the local and national benefits of screen production, featuring perspectives from local people involved in Netflix's *East of Eden*. The featurette highlights the

contribution of screen productions to the regional economy and the wider opportunity to build international awareness of Dunedin and Ōamaru through screen tourism. Watch the featurette: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMVXORELY8Y

22 Zero Carbon update

22.1 Zero Carbon staff held a stall at the Electrify Dunedin Expo on Saturday 17 October at The Hub – Otago Polytech. More information on Electrify Dunedin can be found here Electrify Dunedin – Electrify Dunedin helps Dunedin households switch to clean, electric homes with local events, guides, and stories)

22.2 The Zero Carbon team attended the monthly Zero Carbon Alliance key representatives group meeting last week. Topics discussed included the growth of the Ōtepoti Sustainability Professionals network since its launch in October 2025, progress on implementing bike purchase schemes across Zero Carbon Alliance members and looking ahead to priority work areas over the next 6 months. More information can be found here.

23 Building Amendment Bill 2026: Development of Council's Draft Submission

INTRODUCTION

23.1 The Government has introduced the Building Amendment Bill 2026, which proposes changes to New Zealand's building regulatory system.

23.2 The Bill includes changes affecting homeowners, builders, designers, insurers, Building Consent Authorities (BCAs) and councils. Proposals include proportionate liability for defective building work, mandatory home warranties and professional indemnity insurance, self-certification for some building work, greater flexibility for collaboration between BCAs, and faster consenting pathways for some sustainable and solar-enabled developments.

23.3 Staff are reviewing the Bill and developing a draft Council submission.

DEVELOPMENT OF COUNCIL'S DRAFT SUBMISSION

23.4 The emerging submission position broadly supports the direction of the reforms, while identifying areas where further clarity or changes may be required.

23.5 The draft submission is likely to support proposals that promote sustainable building outcomes, introduce proportionate liability, require professional indemnity insurance for designers, simplify the off-site manufacture of granny flats, and improve the framework for transferring Building Act functions.

23.6 The draft submission is also expected to raise a number of implementation matters, including:

- separating Project Information Memorandum (PIM) and building consent application forms to allow site and regulatory matters to be identified earlier;
- providing clear eligibility criteria and safeguards for the proposed 10-day consent pathway for sustainable and solar projects;
- ensuring responsibility for administering private home warranties does not sit with BCAs;
- extending the proposed one-year defects warranty period;

- providing clarity around levy transition arrangements; and
- considering how councils would be resourced if they were required to resume BCA functions previously transferred to another party.

WHY THIS MATTERS

23.7 The Bill could affect Council's role as a BCA, including how liability for building defects is allocated, the responsibilities placed on councils and how building consent services are delivered.

23.8 The Bill also provides greater flexibility for BCAs to collaborate or voluntarily consolidate. Over time, this could influence how building control services are structured and delivered across New Zealand, including in Dunedin.

NEXT STEPS

23.9 The draft submission is still being developed and the positions outlined above are not final.

23.10 Councillors will have an opportunity to provide input before the Council submission is finalised.

23.11 Further information on the Bill and the public submission process is available through the New Zealand Legislation and Parliament websites.