

29 April 2016

Draft Annual Plan
Otago Regional Council
Private Bag 1954
Dunedin 9054

annual.plan@orc.govt.nz

Dear Regional Councillors

SUBMISSION ON THE OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL'S DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2016/17

The Dunedin City Council (DCC) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Otago Regional Council's Annual Plan 2016/17. The DCC values the positive relationship that enables the two Councils to work together in the interests of the Dunedin community. The following submission provides the DCC's response to areas of mutual interest.

Environment

The DCC appreciates the ORC's support and expertise during the development of Te Ao Tūroa, Dunedin's proposed Environment Strategy, and is pleased to see that the draft Annual Plan and the proposed Strategy are aligned.

Rivers, lakes and coast

The DCC notes the focus on improving rural and urban water quality and looks forward to working collaboratively as the ORC develops its Urban Water Quality Strategy.

The DCC requests that the ORC resource work to understand and protect the Middelmarsh groundwater system and water supply to mitigate any potential need for a reticulated system.

Land and biodiversity

The DCC supports the ORC's proposal to provide funding of \$100,000 to community groups to help address the problem and hopes that relevant community groups in Dunedin will be eligible to access some of this funding for their work in controlling wilding conifers. While this funding is welcomed, the DCC also supports a more hands-on management of wilding pines with the ORC actively managing this as part of its Pest Management Strategy.

The DCC supports the ORC's ongoing biodiversity funding in 2016/17. Further, we request that the two councils work collaboratively in the Dunedin city area to make sure our biodiversity investments are complementary. The DCC welcomes an integrated approach to improving the region's biodiversity and looks forward to working collaboratively with the ORC and other stakeholders as this work progresses.

Air quality

Air quality is identified as a priority in the proposed Environment Strategy with the DCC and ORC sharing the goal of meeting the NES minimum standard of PM₁₀. The DCC is pleased to

note that in 2015 central Dunedin consistently met the standard, and looks forward to working with the ORC as the Otago Air Strategy is developed.

Hazards, civil defence and flood protection

The DCC fully endorses the ORC's Draft Annual Plan proposals concerning Civil Defence requirements, harbour and waterway safety and natural hazard work, and looks forward to working with the ORC as the DCC develops its climate change adaptation plan. The DCC also welcomes ORC support and commitment to work collaboratively on South Dunedin and coastal erosion issues.

The DCC is keen to establish a working relationship with the ORC with regard to Tomahawk Lagoon, and would like to see the ORC include the proactive management of the Lagoon in its work programme. We ask that this is a priority and the DCC would engage on this work to ensure any future flood events are mitigated and damage to DCC assets, such as the Domain Hall, are minimised. The DCC supports the Peninsula Community Board's submission on this issue.

As part of the ORC's flood protection work, the DCC requests that mechanisms are identified that will allow access to flood banks on public land for recreational uses, such as cycleways and footpaths.

The DCC supports the appointment of a dedicated and suitably qualified Harbour Master for Otago Harbour with responsibility for promoting safety, and ensuring the good condition of navigation aids in responding to incidents and public enquiries. The DCC also encourages the ORC to use its ownership of Port Otago and associated companies to further enhance Dunedin's waterfront and harbour surrounds.

Transport

The DCC supports the ORC's continued investment in public transport and shares the vision of increased use of public transport across the region. The Dunedin City Integrated Transport Strategy has a goal of a low carbon transport system with 40 percent of Dunedin Census respondents cycling, walking or taking public transport to work by the next Census. To help meet this vision and to contribute to better air quality, the DCC would welcome the ORC considering an incremental introduction of clean modes of public transport, such as electric buses on flat bus routes.

The DCC receives a number of queries about the city bus service. Issues raised regularly are:

- better identification of bus stops in the CBD so that visitors and residents can check against the printed timetable they are waiting at the right place;
- the timetable print at bus stops is too small for many of the city's elderly residents to read; and
- the timetable itself is difficult to understand.

The DCC would like to emphasise the importance of the proposed central city bus hub to our Central City Plan and requests close communication and collaboration with the Otago Regional Council during each stage of this project's development.

To complete the network of effluent disposal sites in Otago, the DCC requests that the ORC discusses with the New Zealand Transport Authority an approach to the operational costs of those facilities that recognises their regional and national importance and benefits.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit on the Draft Annual Plan 2016/17. Should the ORC wish to clarify any of the issues raised in the submission, the DCC would welcome hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Cull'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Dave' and the last name 'Cull' clearly distinguishable.

Dave Cull
Mayor of Dunedin