



The Chief Executive
Dunedin City Council
P. O. Box 5045
Dunedin

29/04/2025

Submission to Dunedin City Council 9 Year Plan : 2025-2034

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the 9 Year Long Term Plan. I make the following comments on behalf of the members of the Waikouaiti Coast Community Board.

I note that you have two consultations operating concurrently – this 9 Year Plan, and ‘Local Water Done Well’. There is a degree of duplication here so we will keep our comments brief in our submission to Local Water Done Well, and we will provide some degree of detail in this submission. I note that the hearings for both will run concurrently – from 5th to 8th May.

1. Potable Water Supply.

a) We would like an update on where things stand with the upgrade of the Waikouaiti Water Treatment Plant. At a large public meeting in Waikouaiti in 2021 regarding the lead-in-water issue, the Mayor at the time stated that the upgrade would be complete in 2023. Last year we were advised that the remaining taste & odour issues would be addressed by late 2025 and the whole project would be complete in late 2026, three years behind the previous Mayoral advice. Please give us a definitive statement that we can convey to our community. We look forward to the promised Quarterly Advice from 3 Waters staff which will provide regular updates on progress with the upgrade.

b) We are concerned about the resilience of the ‘big pipe’ water supply from Mount Grand which services Waitati, Warrington, Seacliff and some parts of Karitane/Merton. With the increase in new housing development in the North Coast area, there will presumably come a time when the system can no longer support additional consumers. We would like to know where things stand at present. What population growth figures are you using?

c) We are concerned with the somewhat bland statement on Page 18 of your plan that *“We plan to investigate and develop new or alternative groundwater supplies to the Waikouaiti, Outram and Dunedin city areas. Long term modelling shows future shortfalls in water supply capacity are possible in the river intakes which provide the bulk of the water supply to Dunedin city and Mosgiel. Changes to legislation or resource consent requirements are expected to result in changes to water take limits during low flow conditions in rivers and streams. Expanding sources of water supply by using new groundwater supply will provide better resilience to any future changes in consent conditions, drought and other climate related water supply issues”*. A real concern is that you have only earmarked this for 2029/30 – 2045/46. You have omitted to mention the concerns that Mana Whenua have with the current water take from the Waikouaiti River.

d) Regarding ‘Local Water Done Well’ we can advise that it is our preference to retain the ‘In House Model’. During the 2021 Lead-in Water issue, we were impressed with the knowledge and professionalism of the 3 Waters team, and the thought of creating an external CCO to manage this fills us with dread.

2. Wastewater (Sewerage)

On Page 17 of this 9 Year Plan, you have the statement *“Construction of a new centralised wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to manage flows from the Waikouaiti, Seacliff, and Warrington communities is planned. Consolidating the three rural WWTPs into one centralised facility will support capital efficiency by reducing maintenance costs, enhance plant efficiency, and streamline operational processes”*. We note that \$102 million has been allocated, but the time period is rather long : 2025/26-2038/39.

We would ask you to take note of the fact that the Warrington and Waikouaiti treatment plants are close to the end of their useful lives; their Resource Consents have expired or are close to expiring; they are located close to sea level, and we ask how much consideration has been given to this. Another concern has to be that Mana Whenua are not comfortable with the current location of these treatment plants. We have been advised that the proposed new treatment plant would have the capacity to accept wastewater from Waitati but we are unsure about when this might happen.

We were pleased to have a visual presentation from the 3 Waters team at our meeting in November regarding the technical aspects of the proposal. What we now request is a more detailed timeline of proposed progress, so that we might convey this to our community.

3. Recycling and Waste Minimisation + Wheelie bins

‘One Coast’

From modest beginnings at a public meeting in Waikouaiti around eight years ago, ‘One Coast’ has grown into a significant local entity which has the stated aim of providing first-class recycling facilities in the Waikouaiti area. We are grateful for the support provided thus far from DCC, and we ask that this support continues. It is a stated aim of ‘One Coast’ to develop a facility of which the City and the local community can be proud. We support the One Coast request to DCC for regular non-contestable funding. In our submission to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan we requested that an Annual Grant of \$30,000.00 be provided. We repeat that request now, and in the section of this document relating to Grants. We will be pleased to demonstrate at any upcoming hearing how this grant will be beneficial to Dunedin City as a whole.

Wheelie Bins

The introduction last year of the Red/Green/Yellow/Blue kerbside collection system has been an undoubted success, but some parts of the wider Dunedin City area have ‘fallen through the cracks’, particularly relating to those ratepayers who live on rural and sometimes unsealed roads. We would like to discuss with appropriate staff about how those areas can be included in the weekly waste collection service.

4. Roadside Verges

It is pleasing to note, on Page 20 of your document, that extra funding is proposed to improve the frequency of roadside vegetation control – whether it is a sufficient amount will remain to be seen. We believe that it is important to recognise that Roadside Vegetation Control is not just about Mowing the grass. There are frequent issues with overhanging trees; long grass reducing visibility at intersections; ditches and culverts becoming blocked. Later in this document, in the section about grants, we would like to explain how Community Boards can assist with this issue, with the provision of a small amount of extra funding.

5. Climate Change & Coastal Strategy

On Page 33 of your plan you make comment about establishing a Climate Resilience Framework to look at the effects of climate change on our coastal environment. While we recognise that there is much emphasis on Kettle Park, St. Clair and St. Kilda, we ask that you take note of the fact that the coastal environment does not stop at Lawyers Head.

We have issues in Blueskin Bay; Warrington Spit; Karitane foreshore; Karitane Harbour including the deteriorating Fishermen's Wharf; Waikouaiti River Estuary and Wetlands; Waikouaiti foreshore along Matanaka Drive.

We are concerned that you are back down to only one Coastal Specialist, since the second one departed for Australia recently. With over 70 kilometres of coastline, we believe that it is essential to boost the in-house coastal engineering expertise. We look forward to discussing your Coastal Strategy with appropriate staff in the near future.

6. Reserves

Truby King Reserve

Since the revised Truby King Reserve Management Plan was accepted by Council in 2021, the professional horticulturalists on our Board have been working well with Delta staff and local people to improve the general condition and appearance of this special reserve.

Two items in the Management Plan are the carpark and the public toilet. The creation of the carpark is not a big job and will be completed fairly soon. We note that you have cancelled the provision of New public toilets in this 9-year plan. We would suggest to you that what we require for the reserve is a Replacement toilet since the existing one is in a very strange and hard to find location. We would like to see funding for the replacement toilet coming from a repair/rectification budget.

Mount Watkin (Hikaroroa) Recreation Reserve

At our recent appearance before the Civic Affairs Committee, we made comment about Management Plans being created, but no follow-up work being carried out. The Reserve Management Plan for this rather special area (inland from Waikouaiti) is more than 14 years old and nothing has been done by the DCC. We are in dialogue with a group who have embarked on a significant pest management plan, and we will be working with them with a view to making significant improvements to this area. We would like to speak with Parks & Recreation staff about how some progress can be made at little or no cost to DCC.

5. Recreation Facilities

We would like to thank Parks & Recreation staff for getting started on the construction of a half-basketball court on the playground at Warrington Domain. For many years we have been advocating for recreational equipment and facilities for older children and this is a very welcome step in the right direction.

Moana Gow Swimming Pool

We are grateful for the annual financial support which is given to this valuable community asset. We enjoy regular updates about the pool from the Moana Gow Committee, of which one of our Board is a member.

6. Transport

Bus Services

We are making a submission to the Otago Regional Council's current Regional Public Transport Plan. There is no need to provide detail here, except to thank DCC for including a request for improvement to North Coast Bus Services in your submission to the ORC plan.

Road Safety - State Highway 1

It was pleasing to see that NZTA installed our requested Driver Feedback Signs at the north and south entrances to Waikouaiti. But there is still much concern in the community about safe pedestrian access across the very busy main road in Waikouaiti. We ask for DCC support in our endeavours to get NZTA to give this issue some serious consideration.

Road Safety - Local Roads

Following on from the much-publicised Speed Limit Review, we would like to know where things stand with this review.

Travel Choices

We have noticed many comments emanating from DCC encouraging cycling and walking, and reducing the number of cars on the road. We acknowledge that this is possible around the flat areas of the city, but hardly practicable for elderly residents who live on the hill suburbs, and completely not applicable for the residents of our North Coast Communities.

During this year's 9-Year Plan we would like to see the implementation of 'Park & Ride' facilities at the northern and southern extremities of the city. This is very common overseas and could easily link into a bus loop service, either free or low cost, that would take people where they need/want to go.

Cycleways

We are supportive of the efforts of the *Coastal Communities Cycleway Connection* group. We are impressed with the progress that is being made at the northern and southern ends of the project, and we ask that Dunedin City Council supports their efforts, perhaps by providing financial relief for any consenting issues.

Parking in the city

Until practical alternatives are provided, it is unlikely that there will be a substantial reduction in the number of cars travelling into the city. It is evident that more parking will be required, likely in the form of at least one multi-storey car park building, and we would support this.

Road & Footpath Maintenance

Despite the implementation of the recent 10-year maintenance contract, there are still issues that occur from time to time with vegetation control and footpath maintenance. We enjoy a good working relationship with DCC staff. We ask that there will be no reduction in maintenance budgets.

8. Emergency Management and Preparedness.

We were pleased to note that Council has appointed a new Liaison Person to work with Community Boards on the topic of Emergency Management and Community Resilience. This, together with the appointment of new Community Advisers by Emergency Management Otago, gives us some confidence that much-needed improvements can be made to the assistance which can be provided by Council to Community Response Groups in our various community locations.

The recent Civil Defence Independent Review, chaired by Mr. Mike Bush, makes for some sobering reading. Together with the severe flooding events in the North Island, this report highlights the importance of communities when response to emergencies is required.

9. Amenity

Waikouaiti is the 'Birthplace of Otago' and is at the northern entrance to the wider City of Dunedin, yet its appearance is a bit tired and shabby. We seek the input of an Urban Designer who could work with the local POWA organisation, and with 'Keep Dunedin Beautiful', to make progress in presenting this northern extremity of the city in a better light, and working with NZTA to implement the design suggestions. We are not asking for money – just some DCC expert input.

10. Grants Review

We are pleased to see your comments on Page 29 relating to DCC Grants, and the fact that some unspent grant money is available.

- a) We thank you for your financial support for POWA (Progress of Waikouaiti Area) through the place-based grants system, and we ask this will continue for this well organised and valuable local entity.
- b) As advised earlier we support the request by 'One Coast' for an annual grant of \$30,000.00
- c) We request an annual allocation of \$10,000.00, on a trial basis, to allow us to support the maintenance efforts of the Transportation and Parks & Recreation departments. Our proposal is to have two or three local people, with relevant practical skills and equipment, who could be hired on an hourly rate to attend to the many small urgent maintenance items that occur from time to time. This would obviate the need to interrupt the planned activities of the DCC main contractors. Such people would be approved by DCC to carry out such work. We would like to expand on this at the upcoming hearing.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to make this submission. I wish to be heard in support of it at your upcoming hearings. Late morning on Thursday 8th May would suit me, since I will be away in Auckland prior to that.

Kind Regards



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