

## Submission on Dunedin City Council Annual Plan 2025

*Name of submitter:* **Tomahawk-Smaills BeachCare Trust**

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*Summary of request:* We ask the Dunedin City Council to continue to fund planting of at least 1000 trees annually for a minimum term of 3 years, and increase our funding from \$13,000 to \$20,000 per annum to meet actual costs of growing, planting and maintaining trees.

### Overview of Tomahawk-Smaills BeachCare Trust

Tomahawk Smaills Beachcare Trust (the Trust) is a charitable trust with a focus on the restoration of wildlife habitat and biodiversity within the sand dune ecosystem of Ocean Grove Reserve. Our goals include the provision of long-term protection to our community against the threat of erosion. This year we are celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Ocean Grove Reserve is a 28ha reserve located approximately 6 kms from the Dunedin city centre. Smaills beach has become a hotspot of sea lion activity, with nearly a third of all pups born across Dunedin spending time here over the past two consecutive breeding seasons.

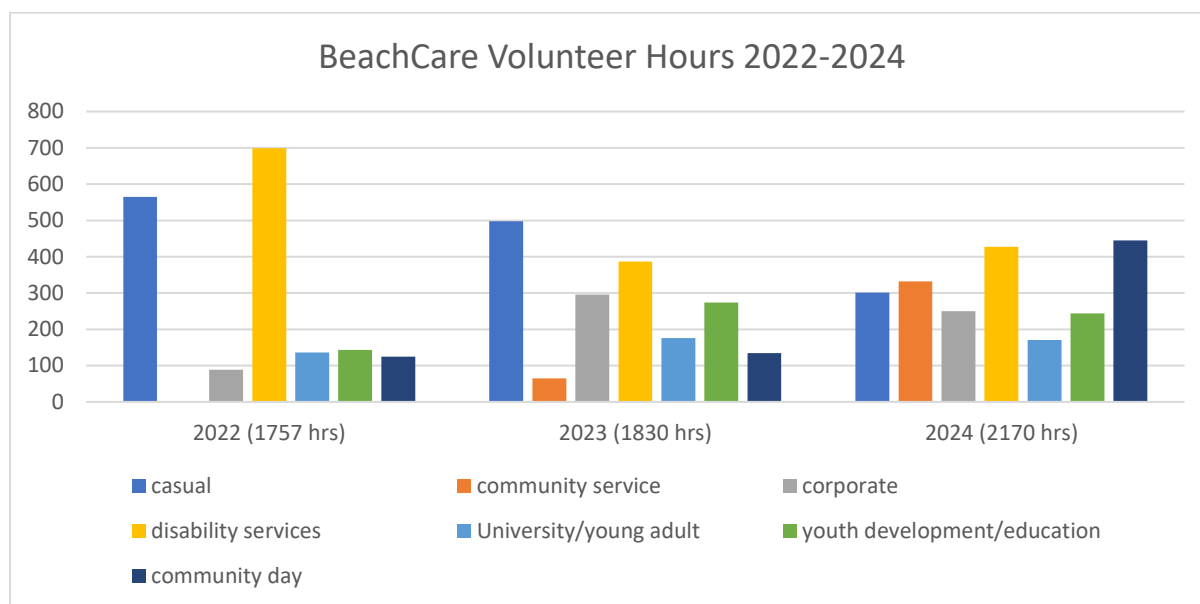
The Trust owns a community nursery to ensure that plants being planted enhance and support local biodiversity. The Trust employs a nursery manager (Dr Nicole Bezemer) to oversee nursery operations and the planting and volunteer programme. We have long held a Service Level Agreement with DCC and have always met the terms of this agreement – and consistently delivered more by securing additional external funding.

### Operational expenses

- Our basic operational expenses are \$50,000 annually (inclusive of salary to employ a nursery manager on a part-time basis, 2 days/week)
- We work very hard to grow extra plants to sell from our nursery and are proactive with applying for community/conservation grants.



## Summary of community involvement



## What we need from the Dunedin City Council



We ask that the DCC continue to provide funding to sustain our target to grow, plant and maintain 1000 native trees on an annual basis.

Our annual DCC funding is our only continuous source of funding. We work hard to secure additional funds to meet the operational costs of our organisation. We are proactive in applying for external funds. However, these have become very difficult to secure. We are concerned about providing job security for our nursery manager, who is fundamental to the

ongoing success of our organisation.

Our agreement with the DCC is to plant native trees – which we achieve – but in fact we provide a broader service to the City and our community. We care for and enhance our local reserve, which is increasingly enjoyed by people from all over Dunedin and international visitors. We are proud of our unique approach that celebrates diversity and inclusion, has a demonstrable positive social impact and strong environmental outcomes.

The multi-year basis of the Service Level Agreements that we have held with the DCC in previous years is valuable, because it provides a stable starting point for our annual operational costs. We are hugely appreciative of the consistent support we have received from the DCC.

**We ask the Dunedin City Council to continue to fund planting of at least 1000 trees annually for a minimum term of 3 years, and increase our funding from \$13,000 to \$20,000 per annum to meet actual costs of growing, planting and maintaining trees.**