

MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATION

TO: **Dunedin City Council**

FROM: **Jerad Boyd Haldan & Ike Haldan, Co-Owners**
The Otago Peninsula Eco Restoration Alliance—The OPERA (formerly Penguin Place)
Monarch Wildlife Cruises & Tours
200+ hectares of land on the peninsula at 45 Pakihau Road, Harington Point, 9077

DATE: **30 April 2025**

RE: **9-year plan Submission**

Kia ora koutou and thank you for allowing us the space to provide comment as the DCC begins consultation on the draft 9-year plan. We join our peninsula whanau and the broader Dunedin community, as well as providing voice for the more than 40,000 visitors who make out to visit us on the peninsula each year, in saying that we hope aspects of this plan will be effectively prioritized and properly funded.

Among our highest concern is the completion of the Peninsula Connection which would allow for safe passage from Portobello through to the end of the peninsula. Multiple highly visited tourist attractions, including The OPERA and Monarch Wildlife Cruises are accessed via this stretch of road. These guests to Dunedin come via thousands of buses, coasters, campers, and large vans traversing the peninsula annually, with many of these vehicles being driven by individuals unfamiliar with the area. Put simply, in its current condition portions of this road are treacherous for even small passenger vehicles to navigate, and truly life threatening for larger vehicles.

We join Hoani Langsbury in prioritizing the order in which the work should be completed as: **(1) Ellison Road to Otakou Fisheries, (2) Portobello School Cutting, and (3) Dessert Road Section.**

Ellison Road to Otakou Fisheries

- As we understand the history of the Peninsula Connection Project, this section of the road was originally the highest priority, and for good reason.
- Our bus drivers are continually faced with the reality that there is no safe way to traverse this section of road without having to cross the centre line on multiple blind corners.
- Multiple times per year, especially during high tides experienced in the spring, portions of this section of road are literally under water, making it extremely dangerous to pass through.
- We fear for the safety of our guests, staff, and local residents who are forced to traverse this section of road and believe that completion of the improvements should be the absolute highest priority for the Otago Regional Council.

Portobello School Cutting

- We join in supporting the submission from the Portobello School and believe a shared pathway needs to be established to link Portobello to the bus turnaround at Portobello bay.

Dessert Road Section (specifically from Hardwood turnoff to Ellison Road)

- It is our understanding that the design work has already been completed for this section of the road and that consultation and agreements have already been completed with affected landowners.

- This previous hard work would hopefully be able to be picked up to accelerate the completion and hopefully reduce the cost of updating this section of the road.

Simply put, it is only a matter of time before tragedy will strike on this section of road, likely involving busloads of visitors or cyclists. We have personally witnessed numerous close calls. It's time for Dunedin to fulfil its promise and complete this project before avoidable tragedy strikes.

Completion of the Peninsula Connection Project would also allow us to implement plans to develop opportunities and connect different areas of the harbour for local residents as well as visitors who would use the shared pathway. Additionally, we would like to see investment in:

- Upgrades and better maintenance of existing Otago Harbour infrastructure (wharves, jetties, public toilets, etc.).
- Reinstating or reimagining the walking bridge idea that would connect the Chinese Gardens / Queens Gardens area to the Steamer Basin and link to the Te Awa Ōtākou shared pathway.
- The development of our city's waterfront (starting with the Steamer Basin). There are many great examples found both domestically and internationally to draw inspiration from. We see opportunities to combine existing heritage buildings and features with modern buildings. As a result, we'd likely see new destination playgrounds, cafes, retail stores, apartments and accommodation, etc.
- A plan for the creation of new facilities and infrastructure to benefit all harbour users (commercial operators, community groups, general public, etc.).
- Create a rail link between Port Chalmers and Dunedin Train Station, which would significantly decrease pressure on roads between the city and the port, ease the pressure on our public bus transport system and make Dunedin an iconic stop on the cruise ship itinerary.

These investments would provide significant benefits and development opportunities for the city and greatly assist numerous businesses.

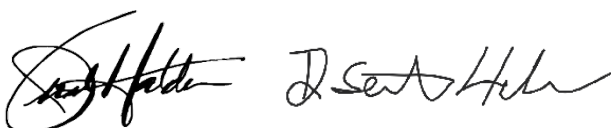
Additionally, as trustees for Wild Dunedin, we echo the submission submitted by the festival leadership. The OPERA is proud to serve as the premier sponsor for the festival and believe that this event brings significant benefits to Dunedin that are worthy of investment by the council.

Finally, while the above listed items have the greatest direct impact on guests and staff, we also join our neighbours in their concerns regarding a need for focus on:

- **Maintenance and stormwater management**
- **Pest species management, and**
- **Water and sewerage management**

We truly appreciate you taking the time to consider this input and would be honoured to be heard further on this matter.

Ever onward,



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