

SOUTH DUNEDIN FUTURE - RISK ASSESSMENT & POTENTIAL ADAPTATION FUTURES

Department: Climate and City Growth

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 The purpose of the paper is to present technical reports relating to the Risk Assessment and Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin, and to seek Council endorsement to engage with affected communities and other stakeholders.
- 2 The South Dunedin Future (SDF) programme is a joint initiative between the Dunedin City Council (DCC) and Otago Regional Council (ORC) to develop a climate change adaptation plan for South Dunedin. The programme vision is “a safer and better South Dunedin, where sustainable urban regeneration leads to improved community resilience and wellbeing”. The programme remains on track to deliver the final climate adaptation plan by the end of 2026.
- 3 The attached technical reports represent a major milestone for the SDF programme and a significant step in the process of developing a climate adaptation plan for South Dunedin. The risk assessment essentially seeks to define the challenges facing South Dunedin and the adaptation futures reports respond by outlining a range of potential solutions. Read together, the reports present an initial picture of the potential future – or futures – for South Dunedin.
- 4 The risk assessment identifies, classifies, and prioritises risk across South Dunedin by assessing hazard likelihood, exposure, and vulnerability, before assigning corresponding risk scores. The impacts of these risks, should they be realised, are also described.
- 5 The risk assessment shows that South Dunedin has high exposure to natural hazards and a correspondingly high-risk profile at present day. Anticipated changes in climate, and associated increases in exposure to natural hazards, are expected to materially increase risk to South Dunedin’s buildings, infrastructure, and communities over coming decades. Adverse consequences are expected to increase to a point where much of the key infrastructure, functions, and services experience declining functionality, loss of service, or complete failure. These risks will have significant adverse effects on the South Dunedin community, wider Dunedin city, and the economy unless suitable risk mitigation is employed. This presents a compelling case for change, based on the adverse impacts described, and their misalignment with the vision, purpose, and objectives of the SDF programme.
- 6 A mana whenua risk assessment has been undertaken for the SDF programme, which has identified and rated risks through a Kāi Tahu lens. This assessment has shown that, from a Kāi Tahu perspective, there is substantial risk resulting from a ‘keep doing what we are doing’ scenario, if there are no additional interventions to address the issues facing South Dunedin. Risk to the values identified in Te Taki Haruru (DCC’s Māori Strategic Framework) is generally significant, ranging from high risk (mana, whakapapa, tapu & noa) to extreme risk (mauri).
- 7 The adaptation futures report responds to the risk assessment by outlining the options available for managing and mitigating the risks faced by South Dunedin. Various adaptation options and approaches are combined into seven potential adaptation futures, a status quo and six further futures each of which sit on a spectrum of ‘fight and flight’, with an emphasis on infrastructure

at one end and land use change (including managed retreat) at the other. The report describes the key characteristics of each potential future, explores the pros and cons, and provides high-level costs and visualisations of what South Dunedin could look like in 75 years' time (in 2100).

- 8 The adaptation futures report shows that there is no single future for South Dunedin where all problems are solved cheaply or easily, rather many viable futures, each with unique characteristics and trade-offs. Of the seven futures presented, the status quo is likely to lead to the worst outcomes, with high costs relative to very limited benefits, the largest number of properties affected, and highest residual risk. The other six potential futures represent improved outcomes, but with different cost-benefit ratios, and varying numbers of affected properties, ease of implementation, and residual risk. The report essentially illustrates that creating a safer and better future for South Dunedin will come down to a balance of trade-offs and include choices about the scale and rate of change, the affordability of different options, and the acceptable level of ongoing risk.
- 9 This stage of the SDF programme is intended to illustrate those choices and to explore the trade-offs with affected communities and other stakeholders. Subsequent stages of the programme will combine that feedback with further technical and economic analysis, refine potential adaptation futures to a preferred future and pathway, before presenting this in a final adaptation plan for South Dunedin by December 2026.
- 10 At present, Councils have committed to completing the SDF programme, including remaining technical work, economic analysis, and community engagement. Councils have not, at this time, committed to supporting any particular course of action that might be recommended by the SDF programme – including those relating to strategic land use planning or infrastructure investment. Such decisions, and the roles and responsibilities of respective Councils in implementing them, would be subject to further Council consideration, including in the context of strategic and financial decisions associated with long term plan processes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- a) **Notes** the background of the South Dunedin Future programme and work undertaken since the previous update report to Council on 24 September 2025.
- b) **Notes** the contents of the South Dunedin Risk Assessment report, which identifies, classifies, and prioritises risk across the area by assessing exposure to natural hazards, vulnerability to those hazards, and likelihood of occurring, before assigning corresponding risk scores. The impacts of these risks, should they be realised, are also described.
- c) **Notes** a mana whenua risk assessment has been undertaken for South Dunedin, which has identified and rated risks through a Kāi Tahu lens, based on an analysis of cultural values.
- d) **Notes** the South Dunedin Risk Assessment has undergone technical peer review, and where technical issues remain outstanding, these are acknowledged in the report or will be addressed in subsequent stages of the SDF programme.
- e) **Endorses** the attached South Dunedin Risk Assessment report for the purposes of community engagement.

- f) **Notes** the South Dunedin Risk Assessment report may be updated in future, to account for new natural hazard information or in response to updated risk analysis, including that which may result from adaptation planning work.
- g) **Notes** the contents the 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin and Context Summary reports, which respond to the risk assessment by outlining the options available for managing and mitigating the risks faced by South Dunedin, including the key characteristics, costs, benefits, and trade-offs involved.
- h) **Notes** the 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin and Context Summary reports have undergone technical peer review, and where technical issues remain outstanding, these are acknowledged in the reports or will be addressed in subsequent stages of the SDF programme.
- i) **Endorses** the attached 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin and Context Summary reports for the purposes of community engagement.
- j) **Notes** that there are two further stages of adaptation planning under the South Dunedin Future programme, through which further technical and economic analysis will support development of a shortlist of potential adaptation futures and then the preferred adaptation future and pathway for South Dunedin. This work will be presented as a final adaptation plan for South Dunedin.
- k) **Notes** the next stage of the South Dunedin Future programme involves engaging with the community on the findings and implications of the South Dunedin Risk Assessment and the key characteristics of the 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin.
- l) **Approves** the SDF programme team undertaking engagement with partners, stakeholders and affected communities on the basis of the South Dunedin Risk Assessment, 7 Potential Adaptation Futures of South Dunedin and Context Summary reports.

BACKGROUND

- 11 The South Dunedin Future (SDF) programme is a joint initiative between the Dunedin City Council (DCC) and Otago Regional Council (ORC) to develop a climate change adaptation plan for South Dunedin. A programme plan, which outlined the high-level approach for delivering the SDF programme was approved by DCC and ORC Council Committees in July 2022 (refer Part A Item 9, Planning & Environment Committee, 6 July 2022).
- 12 The SDF programme vision is *“a safer and better South Dunedin, where sustainable urban regeneration leads to improved community resilience and wellbeing”*. The purpose of the programme is to enable South Dunedin to prepare for, and adapt to, the impacts of climate change, while also realising the opportunities that come with change. Broader strategic objectives of the programme relate to just transition, community safety, environmental and cultural restoration, social and economic resilience, and sustainable urban development (refer Item 10, DCC Council Meeting, 28 November 2023).
- 13 The SDF programme has been broken into five phases, five workstreams, and a number of programme actions. The workstreams include: (i) natural hazards; (ii) strategy and programme management; (iii) communications and community engagement; (iv) risk assessment; and (v) adaptation planning. This breakdown has been explained more fully in previous Council papers and workshops, but is also illustrated in the A3 SDF Programme Overview (Attachment A).

External technical assistance

- 14 The SDF programme involves detailed technical work, economic analysis, and extensive community engagement over multiple years. External technical assistance has been sourced to support delivery of the SDF programme. In July 2023, following an open tender process, DCC contracted a consultant group comprising engineering, planning, and environmental services firms WSP, BECA and Tonkin & Taylor (collectively known as 'Kia Rōpine'), to support delivery of the SDF programme over the next three years (2023/24 to 2025/26).
- 15 In August 2023, DCC also contracted a second consultant group comprising engineering, planning and environmental services firms Jacobs New Zealand Ltd, Royal HaskoningDHV and Bell Adapt Ltd, to undertake technical peer review of the risk assessment and adaptation planning workstreams.

Recent SDF programme activities

- 16 The following key activities have been undertaken by or in support of the SDF Programme since the most recent update report to Councils (refer Item 10, Council Meeting, 24 September 2024):
- Filling of information gaps and data limitations required for the South Dunedin Risk Assessment, including floor level information for South Dunedin properties and development of a new 3 Waters flood model.
 - Supporting the response, recovery, and analysis of the 3-4 October 2024 heavy rainfall and flooding event that affected much of South Dunedin.
 - Working to finalise the technical reports attached to this council paper, including the South Dunedin Risk Assessment, 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin and supporting Context Summary Report.
 - Engaging with a wide range of SDF programme partners, stakeholders, and affected communities, including (but not limited to): central government agencies, other councils, banks, insurers, community groups, and mana whenua representatives.
 - Completing an initial analysis of the potential property implications associated with the various adaptation options being explored under the SDF programme, and in particular the implications of managed relocation or retreat.

DISCUSSION

- 17 The two key outputs from this stage of the SDF programme are the South Dunedin Risk Assessment (Attachment B) and 7 Potential Adaptation Futures (Attachment C) reports. The risk assessment essentially seeks to define the challenges facing South Dunedin and the adaptation futures report responds by outlining a range of potential solutions. Read together, the reports present an initial picture of the potential future – or futures – for South Dunedin.

Risk Assessment

- 18 The risk assessment has been delivered in three stages: (i) risk identification, (ii) risk assessment methodology; and (iii) undertaking detailed risk assessment against “do nothing” scenarios at present and in future. The approach aligns with guidance from the Ministry for the Environment

(MfE) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and where appropriate draws on the ORC’s Regional Policy Statement (RPS) methodology for aggregated risk.

- 19 Principles for the risk assessment included making best use of available data, ensuring effort is proportional to outcome, and identifying risks and opportunities that may require or justify further inquiry. There are inherent limitations and sources of uncertainty regarding the risk assessment, due to the scope, scale, and complexity of what it needs to cover. Additionally, data gaps relating to exposure, hazard, and vulnerability introduce limitations and sources of uncertainty. These limitations are noted in the report.
- 20 Importantly, the risk assessment is intended to support suburb-level adaptation planning undertaken by the SDF programme, including dialogue with affected stakeholders about the options for mitigating and adapting to identified risks. The risk assessment is not intended to provide a detailed property-level assessment of risk and using the report in this way could lead to false or misleading conclusions (e.g. high-risk areas may include low-risk properties, or the reverse).

South Dunedin Risk Assessment

- 21 The South Dunedin Risk Assessment identifies, classifies, and prioritises risk across the area by assessing exposure to natural hazards, vulnerability to those hazards, and likelihood of occurring, before assigning corresponding risk scores. The impacts of these risks, should they be realised, are also described.
- 22 The purpose of the Risk Assessment is to “assess the potential for elements at risk (people, places, assets) to be negatively affected by pluvial flooding, coastal (inundation and erosion), groundwater, landslide, and liquefaction natural hazards in South Dunedin. To support this purpose, the two primary aims of the risk assessment are to:
 - a) outline the “case for change” in response to current and increasing natural hazard risks, by providing an overview of risk and developing a risk baseline to illustrate the implications of a “status quo” or “do nothing” scenario; and
 - b) support spatial adaptation planning, including by identifying which key features are most at risk, where and when adaptation may be required to reduce risk, and by establishing a baseline against which potential risk mitigations (i.e. adaptation options) can be assessed.
- 23 A mana whenua risk assessment has been undertaken for the SDF programme, which has identified and rated risks through a Kāi Tahu lens. Based on an analysis of cultural values, it takes a broad approach to risk. As well as risks to specific places and features important for the cultural associations to mana whenua, it considers risks to Kāi Tahu perspectives and values relating to wider environmental, social, and economic factors in South Dunedin. This mahi was facilitated by Aukaha with guidance and validation from a panel of Kāi Tahu mana whenua representatives.

Key findings

- 24 The risk assessment shows that South Dunedin has high exposure to natural hazards, including chronic and gradual onset hazards like sea level rise and shallow groundwater, as well as event-based hazards such as pluvial flooding and liquefaction. South Dunedin has a correspondingly high risk profile at present day. Anticipated changes in climate, and associated increases in exposure to natural hazards, are expected to materially increase risk to South Dunedin’s buildings, infrastructure, and communities over coming decades.

- 25 Adverse consequences are expected to increase to a point where much of the key infrastructure, functions, and services experience declining functionality, loss of service, or complete failure. These risks will have significant adverse effects on the South Dunedin community, wider Dunedin city, and the economy unless suitable risk mitigation is employed. This presents a compelling case for change, based on the adverse effects described, and the misalignment with the SDF programme vision, purpose, and objectives noted above.
- 26 The mana whenua risk assessment has shown that, from a Kāi Tahu perspective, there is substantial risk resulting from a ‘keep doing what we are doing’ scenario, where there are no additional interventions to address the issues facing South Dunedin. Risk to the values identified in Te Taki Haruru (DCC’s Māori Strategic Framework) is generally significant, ranging from high risk (mana, whakapapa, tapu & noa) to extreme risk (mauri). In the view of mana whenua, these results support the case for change in response to the natural hazards and climate risks described in the broader risk assessment.

Technical peer review

- 27 The risk assessment has been developed by Tonkin & Taylor (supported by WSP and BECA) and has undergone technical peer review by Jacobs (supported by Royal HaskoningDHV). The peer review process has been robust, extensive, and has led to many refinements to the report. However, not all outstanding technical issues have been resolved, and remaining issues are: (i) acknowledged as data gaps, assumptions, limitations, or with disclaimers; (ii) matters that will be addressed in subsequent stages of the technical work; or (iii) subject to difference of professional opinion (i.e. the experts have agreed to disagree).

Risk assessment – next steps

- 28 The next steps with the South Dunedin Risk Assessment include engaging the community on the key findings and associated implications to promote a broad understanding and support more informed discussions about potential risk mitigations (i.e. potential adaptation futures).
- 29 The risk assessment sets a baseline using existing information and ‘business as usual’ risk mitigations (i.e. current mitigations continue, with no step-change in approach). Subsequent stages of the SDF programme will assess the effectiveness of various adaptation futures, options, and projects in terms of their impact on reducing risk in different areas over time. This may result in revisions to the risk baseline for South Dunedin.

Adaptation Planning

- 30 The primary output from the SDF programme is a climate adaptation plan for South Dunedin. Developing options for adapting to the locked-in and anticipated impacts of climate change and the associated natural hazards on South Dunedin, and weaving these together into potential futures and a consolidated adaptation plan, is a complex and iterative process.
- 31 The SDF programme adaptation planning workstream is delivered in five stages: (i) domestic and international good practice review; (ii) longlist of generic adaptation approaches; (iii) longlist of 7 potential adaptation futures; (iv) shortlist of potential adaptation futures and pathways; (v) preferred adaptation future and pathway.
- Stage 1 – Domestic and international good practice review (completed, December 2023): Included researching and showcasing a selection of relevant and innovative adaptation approaches of relevance to South Dunedin, both in New Zealand and internationally.

- Stage 2 – Longlist of generic adaptation approaches (completed, December 2023): Included identifying a list of 16 generic adaptation approaches that could reasonably be expected to mitigate the impacts of natural hazard and climate risks in South Dunedin.
- Stage 3 – Potential adaptation futures for South Dunedin (Longlist): Combines the adaptation approaches in different ways to form seven potential adaptation futures for South Dunedin, describing key characteristics, costs, benefits, and visualisations at 2100.
- Stage 4 – Potential adaptation futures and pathways for South Dunedin (Shortlist): Refines the seven potential adaptation futures to a shortlist of 3-4 futures, adding more technical and economic detail, and determining pathways to get there including key changes at 25-year intervals out to 2100 and beyond.
- Stage 5 – Preferred adaptation future and pathway: Further refines the shortlisted futures and pathways, adding more technical and economic detail, and determining a preferred adaptation future and pathway. This would form the basis of the final climate adaptation plan for South Dunedin.

32 The focus of this paper is Stage 3, which includes the 7 Potential adaptation futures for South Dunedin (Attachment C) and supporting Context Summary Report (Attachment D).

7 Potential Adaptation Futures and Context Summary Report

- 33 The adaptation futures report responds to the risk assessment by outlining the options available for managing and mitigating the risks faced by South Dunedin. Various adaptation options and approaches are combined into seven Potential Adaptation Futures, each of which sits on a spectrum of 'fight and flight', with an emphasis on infrastructure at one end and land use change (including managed retreat) at the other. The report describes the key characteristics of each potential future, explores the pros and cons, and provides visualisations of what South Dunedin could look like in 75 years' time (in 2100). The futures proposed are a product of extensive technical work and community engagement and the methodology used to develop them is described in the attached Context Summary Report.
- 34 This stage of the adaptation planning workstream has focused on the *viability* of potential adaptation options, assessing which options could be combined in different ways to reduce risk in South Dunedin. Planning and analysis is still high-level, with a range of assumptions and remaining uncertainties, which are described in the reports. Subsequent stages of the SDF programme will undertake more detailed analysis to explore the *efficacy* of selected adaptation options, assessing how well they work, and what size, location, and duration would be required to best reduce risk.
- 35 The reports provide high-level cost estimations for each of the seven potential adaptation futures. The costing estimates follow established good practice methodologies adopted for Better Business Case processes in New Zealand and are calculated against available rates for similar projects. The costs do however include a range of assumptions and are provided primarily to enable comparison between the futures and to benchmark the potential costs against DCC's current capital programme of around \$200 million per annum. Potential benefits of each future are also described with similar estimates for their economic value, enabling a cost-benefit ratio to also be calculated. Finally, costs represent the estimated total cost of implementing the corresponding future, and depending on specifics, would be spread across a range of stakeholders (i.e. figures do not represent costs only to councils). This economic analysis will be further refined in subsequent stages of the SDF programme.

- 36 Each of the seven potential adaptation futures includes a visualisation of what South Dunedin could look like in 75 years' time (2100). These are intended for illustrative purposes, and show the types of changes anticipated, in the general areas of South Dunedin they are expected to occur, based on available information and current analysis. The actual scope and location of infrastructure investments and land use changes that might result from the SDF programme are yet to be determined. These would be subject to more detailed adaptation planning in subsequent stages of the programme and any resulting processes to implement the adaptation plan for South Dunedin (e.g. design of infrastructure projects, changes to the District Plan, etc.).

Key findings

- 37 The potential adaptation futures report presents seven futures for South Dunedin, which include a status quo future, where current approaches are continued, and six other futures spanning a spectrum of 'fight and flight', with an emphasis on infrastructure at one end and land use change (including managed retreat) at the other. The seven futures are listed in the table below:

#	Potential Adaptation Future
1	Status quo – largely individual property actions
2	Keep land dry – pipes and pumps
3	Keep and dry – raised land and pumping water
4	Space for water – waterways and wetlands
5	Space for water – waterways and raised land
6	Let water in – relocation to raised land
7	Let water in – large scale retreat

- 38 The status quo future is likely to lead to the worst outcomes, with high costs relative to very limited benefits, the largest number of properties affected, and highest residual risk. The status quo approach is not well aligned to the objectives of the SDF programme and relies primarily on individual property interventions, so costs may also fall mostly to individuals or represent losses resulting from floods and other events.
- 39 Of the remaining six potential adaptation futures, the report shows that there is no single future for South Dunedin where all problems are solved cheaply and easily, rather there are many viable futures, each with unique characteristics and trade-offs. Potential futures two through seven all represent improved outcomes over the status quo, but with different cost-benefit ratios, and varying numbers of affected properties, ease of implementation, and residual risk. The futures have varying alignment with the objectives of the SDF programme, and these are described in the quantitative and qualitative assessments that accompany each future.
- 40 The report essentially illustrates that creating a safer and better future for South Dunedin will come down to a balance of trade-offs and include choices about the scale and rate of change, the size of investment we can afford, and the level of risk we are prepared to live with. These are questions that will be explored during community engagement work and interrogated through more detail technical and economic analysis in subsequent stages of the SDF programme.

Technical peer review

- 41 The adaptation futures reports have been developed by BECA (supported by WSP and Tonkin & Taylor) and have undergone technical peer review by Jacobs (supported by Bell Adapt Ltd). The peer review process has been robust, extensive, and has led to many refinements to the reports. However, not all outstanding technical issues have been resolved, and remaining issues are: (i)

acknowledged as data gaps, assumptions, limitations, or with disclaimers; (ii) matters that will be addressed in subsequent stages of the technical work; or (iii) subject to difference of professional opinion (i.e. the experts have agreed to disagree).

Adaptation planning – next steps

- 42 The next steps with the seven Potential Adaptation Futures include engaging the community on the key characteristics and associated implications of each future, in order to support a broad understanding, enable more informed discussion, and collect data on community views – particularly in relation to the choices and trade-offs associated with each future.
- 43 Stage 4 of the adaptation planning work will then seek to combine community feedback with additional technical and economic analysis, to refine the potential adaptation futures to a shortlist and determine pathways to get there. This work would lead into subsequent stages of the SDF programme, which are described above and illustrated in Attachment A.

Communications and community engagement

- 44 A communications and community engagement plan has been developed to support effective council interactions with partners, stakeholders, and affected communities in relation to the risk assessment and adaptation planning work described above. This includes briefings and co-development of key messaging with selected central government agencies, local institutions, community groups, mana whenua, and other interested parties – such as banks and insurers – whose views and responses are likely to be of interest to affected communities. Advanced briefing of media has also been undertaken. The intent of this work is to promote clear and consistent messaging, support informed dialogue, and to reduce uncertainty and speculation.

OPTIONS

- 45 The SDF Programme Plan provides for various stage gates at the conclusion of each stage of technical work, where Council approval is sought to proceed to community engagement. Two options are outlined below which involve either proceeding with the SDF programme as scheduled, or delaying the programme to undertake additional work as may be directed by Council. The respective advantages and disadvantages of each option are described.

Option One – Proceed to community engagement (Recommended Option)

Impact assessment

- 46 This option includes proceeding as outlined in the SDF programme plan and according to the high-level schedule in Attachment A. It would involve Council noting the South Dunedin Risk Assessment, 7 Potential Adaptation Futures and Context Summary Reports, then endorsing the reports for the purpose of community engagement and approving the SDF programme team undertaking engagement with partners, stakeholders, and affected communities on the basis of these reports.

Debt

- No debt funding is required for this option.

Rates

- There are no impacts on rates for this option as costs are already included in the SDF programme budget.

Zero carbon

- No impact on city emissions.

Advantages

- Enables the SDF programme to remain on schedule and budget.
- Fulfils commitment to partners, stakeholders, and affected communities to complete risk assessment and current stage adaptation planning work for South Dunedin within agreed timeframes.
- Enables councils to actively facilitate a dialogue with partners, stakeholders, and affected communities on the risks facing the area and potential adaptation options.
- Enables staff and consultant teams to direct effort to subsequent stages of the SDF programme, including more detailed technical and economic analysis.

Disadvantages

- Requires proceeding with imperfect information and despite a range of information gaps, assumptions, and uncertainties, each of which carries a degree of risk.

Option Two – Undertake further technical and economic analysis

Impact assessment

47 This option would involve Council requesting further technical or economic work on the risk assessment or potential adaptation futures, before seeking Council approval to undertake planned engagement with partners, stakeholders, and affected communities.

Debt

- No debt funding is required for this option.

Rates

- Additional rate funding would likely be required for this option, as further work at this stage of the SDF programme is not included in the current SDF programme budget. Actual costs would need to be determined based on the scope and timing of additional work.

Zero carbon

- No impact on city emissions.

Advantages

- Undertaking additional work could enable filling some existing information gaps and resolving some outstanding technical issues or remaining uncertainties, increasing confidence levels and potentially helping to mitigate risks to the SDF programme at a later stage.

Disadvantages

- Additional delays would disrupt the SDF Programme schedule, may require additional budget, and could generate criticism from partners, stakeholders, and affected

communities who may prefer earlier release of the risk assessment and adaptation planning work.

- Undertaking more detailed technical and economic analysis at this stage of the programme could be perceived as ‘skipping’ community engagement and moving straight to the next stage of technical work.
- While further technical or economic work may fill information gaps and resolve some remaining technical issues or uncertainties, the nature and complexity of the subject matter is such that there will always be gaps and uncertainties.

NEXT STEPS

48 Subject to Council decisions, next steps include:

- Commencing communications and community engagement activities relating to the South Dunedin Risk Assessment and 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin. These activities are planned to commence in late-March and extend through to mid-May, and will involve a mix of in-person and online engagement with stakeholder groups and the general public, as well as web-, print-, and social media-based communications.
- Designing and commencing Stage 4 of the adaptation planning work, including developing the shortlist of potential adaptation futures and pathways for South Dunedin. This will include analysis of community feedback on the longlist of potential futures, and more detailed technical and economic work, to refine this list down to 3-4 futures. This work is expected to be undertaken between May-October 2025, with a view to presenting to Council in late-2025 or early-2026.

49 Subsequent stages of the SDF programme will repeat the cycle of community engagement and technical and economic analysis, refining potential adaptation futures to a preferred future and pathway, before presenting this in a final adaptation plan for South Dunedin by December 2026.

50 At present, Councils have committed to completing the SDF programme, including remaining technical work, economic analysis, and community engagement. Councils have not, at this time, committed to supporting any particular course of action that might be recommended by the SDF programme – including those relating to strategic land use planning and infrastructure investment. Such decisions, and the roles and responsibilities of respective Councils in implementing them, would be subject to further Council consideration, including in the context of strategic and financial decisions associated with long term plan processes.

Signatories

Author:	Jonathan Rowe - Programme Manager, South Dunedin Future
Authoriser:	Scott MacLean - General Manager, Climate and City Growth David Ward - General Manager, 3 Waters and Transition

Attachments

	Title	Page
↴A	A3 South Dunedin Future Programme Overview	37
↴B	South Dunedin Risk Assessment	39
↴C	7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin	239

↓D	Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin - Context Summary Report	261
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SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities. This decision promotes the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and Culture Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Waters Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Development Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrated Transport Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and Recreation Strategy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The SDF Programme is a horizontal initiative, working across a range of strategies, groups, and budgets.

Māori Impact Statement

Accurately reflecting and integrating the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, and Crown’s partnership with Māori, is a central element of the SDF Programme. This is described in the report.

Sustainability

Sustainability will be a central component of the SDF Programme as it seeks to develop climate change adaptation options for South Dunedin over short-, medium- and long-term timeframes. This work will be integrated with the wider climate change work programme, including aligning with DCC’s Emissions Management and Reduction Plan 2022 and Zero Carbon Plan 2023.

Zero carbon

Adapting to the impacts of climate change in South Dunedin has the potential to materially increase or decrease both city-wide and DCC emissions, depending on the adaptation option selected. The criteria for assessing each adaptation option includes carbon emissions and waste, meaning options that act to reduce emissions will receive more positive assessments (for that specific criteria).

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

The SDF programme has dedicated resourcing in the current 10-year plan (2021-2031). The draft 9-year plan (2025-2034) includes funding for the SDF programme, and selected activities that are expected to result, including mid-scale and medium-term investments in 3 waters infrastructure (for example). It is anticipated that the adaptation plan for South Dunedin, scheduled for completion in December 2026, will inform a range of strategic land use-, finance-, and infrastructure-related decisions for South Dunedin as part of future 10-year planning processes.

Financial considerations

The cost of the recommended option is fully budgeted for within the existing SDF programme budget.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Significance

This issue is considered high in terms of the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy. Community engagement will be a central element of the SDF Programme, and extensive engagement is planned in future stages, in accordance programme plan and with relevance council polices.

Engagement – external

Extensive external engagement has been undertaken with a range of partners, stakeholders, and affected communities on the topics covered in this paper. Mana whenua have partnered with SDF throughout the development of the programme. Engagement has included (but is not limited to): central government Ministers, departments, state owned enterprises, crown research institutes; members of parliament; private sector organisations and industry groups; community groups and affected communities.

Engagement - internal

A large number of internal individuals, teams, and departments across DCC and ORC have been engaged in development of the SDF programme strategy and related work described in this report.

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

Legal advice relating to the South Dunedin Risk Assessment has been provided by Simpson Grierson (DCC). There are no anticipated health and safety risks associated with this report. Risks relating to the SDF Programme are described in this report.

Conflict of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest identified.

Community Boards

Community Boards have not been directly involved with the development of this report; however all Community Boards have an interest in climate adaptation.



South Dunedin Future Programme

- South Dunedin Future is a **joint programme** between Dunedin City Council and Otago Regional Council to find ways to respond to climate change and flooding problems in South Dunedin.
- We need to **adapt South Dunedin's infrastructure and environment** in a way that creates more room for increasing levels of rain, sea and groundwater, while protecting space for people and the things that matter.
- We are **making a plan** with the South Dunedin community, mana whenua and stakeholders to work out what's most important and to find the right balance between people, water and space.
- This will involve **lots of technical work and community engagement** over a number of years. Some key pieces of this work are mapped out below.

