



## **Submission to Dunedin City Council 9-Year Plan – Place-Based Community Funding**

**From: Greater Green Island Community Network (GGICN)**

**Date: April 2025**

**Tēnā koutou,**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the 9-Year Plan. On behalf of the Greater Green Island Community Network (GGICN), I'd like to speak in strong support of continuing and strengthening place-based community funding.

This funding makes a real difference on the ground. It enables groups like ours to respond to the needs of our local community in a way that's timely, relevant, and effective. We see this every day in the work we do with whānau, tamariki and taiohi, older residents, and our amazing network of volunteers and local organisations.

### **Place-based funding is one of Council's most strategic investments**

We understand there's pressure on budgets. But in our view, place-based community funding isn't a cost—it's one of the best investments the city can make. It brings community-led solutions to the table, strengthens relationships and resilience, and helps people connect with each other and with Council's wider goals.

### **Working together towards shared goals**

GGICN's work supports a number of Council's long-term aims, particularly around climate action, resilience, and social wellbeing. A few quick examples:

- **Social wellbeing:** From youth mentoring to kai initiatives, from helping neighbours meet each other to building community assets like the memorial gardens stage and barbecue area—this work fosters pride, belonging, and wellbeing.
- **Community resilience:** We've seen how strong local connections help people navigate change—whether that's a weather event, cost of living challenges, or social isolation. This kind of support doesn't happen overnight—it's built through relationships, trust, and consistent mahi.
- **Climate and environmental action:** We support local planting projects, waste minimisation, community gardens, and active transport advocacy—often in partnership with residents, schools, and local groups.

### **More than the sum of its parts**

Place-based funding lets communities drive their own development. It enables flexible, responsive work that wouldn't happen through centralised programmes alone. We've leveraged Council funding to bring in additional grants, sponsorship, and hundreds of volunteer hours—stretching every dollar much further.

We'd also point out that place-based groups played a key role in the city's emergency response when needed. That readiness, adaptability, and local trust didn't appear by accident. It was built over years of local investment and connection.

### **Community Boards**

Community Boards play an important role, but their function differs from that of place-based groups. Place-based organisations offer a more independent, flexible, and responsive approach to meeting community needs. They can attract additional funding from external sources, enabling local projects to grow and supporting grassroots initiatives through umbrellaing. This ability to leverage wider investment means the impact of local funding is significantly amplified, delivering greater value to the community.

### **What we're asking**

We respectfully ask Council to:

1. **Continue and increase as planned** place-based community funding so it can maintain an effective funding level as new groups come on board.
2. **Recognise place-based groups as long-term partners**—not just grant recipients—in delivering on Dunedin's social, environmental, and strategic goals.
3. Support the sustainability of this work through longer-term, operational funding—not just project-based models.
4. Provide clear expectations and as part of the relationship clear expectations on accountability to ensure that there is effective use of the valuable funds provided.

### **Final thoughts**

It can be easy to overlook the quieter, behind-the-scenes work that happens in communities. But this is the work that holds people together. It helps create the kind of city where people want to stay, contribute, and belong.

Thanks again for the chance to share this submission. We would welcome the opportunity to talk further and share more of the stories and outcomes from Green Island.

Ngā mihi nui,

Greater Green Island Community Network

### **Greater Green Island Community Network**

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