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Draft 9 Year Plan  
Dunedin City Council  
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I wish to be heard.

## **SUBMISSION TO THE DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN 2025-2034**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit on this important plan. While I support many of the projects that are outlined in the Plan as necessary, there are some fundamental gaps that need to be plugged. I focus on these.

### **Zero Carbon Plan**

1. I remember watching with great relief in September 2023, when the Council adopted the Zero Carbon Plan and agreed to develop two investment packages to implement it. I understood that these packages would be included in the Long Term Plan consultation for public feedback.
2. I am dismayed that Council has reneged on this, so now it is not clear how or if the Zero Carbon Plan will be funded and we the rate payers have no say.

### **The need for Urgency**

3. Climate change threatens our very future. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns of a “rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all”.<sup>1</sup> To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, global warming must be limited to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. This means reducing our carbon emissions as soon as possible.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> AR6 Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers: Climate Change 2023 ([ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/)).

<sup>2</sup> AR6 Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers: Climate Change 2023 ([ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/)).

4. We must act now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors. Although this may seem costly, the IPCC warns delaying action will create a false economy. Our savings now, will mean future climate mitigation options become more costly and less effective.
5. There is a consequence to delay. If inaction causes us to overshoot the Paris Agreement target of net zero by 2050, the IPCC predicts that we risk triggering feedback loops that will be difficult - or impossible- to reign in.
6. Climate change is real and it is happening now. In my St Clair neighborhood we've had two significant and damaging floods in the last eight years, and a scary fire in pine forest in Kaikorai Valley.
7. Investing in reducing emissions must be a top priority for the DCC, it is more important than mowing verges. It means investing in public low carbon transport, promoting cycling and making cycling safer with the development of more extensive bike lanes, creating energy efficiency by upgrading buildings and investment in solar and wind to power municipal buildings and public spaces.

#### **Whats Needed**

8. I want the DCC to adopt the high investment option and properly fund the Zero Carbon Plan. I strongly support funding to complete the final three stages of Te Awa Ōtākou – Peninsula Connection.

#### **Caversham tunnel shared path / cycleway**

9. I am disappointed that council have removed the Caversham tunnel shared path / cycleway from the nine-year plan. This is short term thinking as the Caversham tunnel will be needed to complete an easy bike link to network of South Island trails. This will be sooner rather than later as the Wingatui tunnel project has started which will link Mosgiel to Green Island, and planning for the Mosgiel to Outram path is well advanced. Then the Tunnel will be needed once the Outram to Waiholā path is completed in a few years' time.
10. I wish to see the Caversham tunnel shared path/cycleway included in the 9 year plan, before year 9.

#### **Community Housing**

11. This plan has no plan to fund new community housing. In 2021 the 10 year plan said new community housing would be built. I don't know how much has been built but it clearly is not yet enough. The tents are back on Oval. I am deeply saddened that the Council appears to be backing away from building more community housing. I want the Council and Central Government to work together to provide safe warm housing for those who need it. This is not a nice to have – it's a must. Does the Council have a Housing Action Plan for community housing over the next 9 years that includes priorities for the delivery of affordable housing options?

#### **Biodiversity**

12. In the DCC's pre-LTP engagement survey in October 2023, respondents said they wanted Ōtepoti Dunedin to be a sustainable and resilient city with less waste, strong biodiversity and a healthy environment. Safe guarding Dunedin's biodiversity must underpin every Council decision.

13. Dunedin is home to many threatened plants, wildlife and ecosystems and these need attention from the DCC to address the loss and degradation of habitats.
14. This proposed 2025-34 LTP does not include any mention of biodiversity funding or projects, or Council's commitment to fund the implementation of the 2007 Biodiversity Strategy.

**Rates**

15. It is clear that we have not paid enough rates for decades given our aging infrastructure, and Council is struggling to keep rates down. We are now suffering the consequences of decades of Councils keeping rates low. The current Council funding mechanisms are no longer fit for purpose and will become even less so as the consequences of climate change deepen.

Yours sincerely

Sue Maturin