

Coastal Connection - submission to DCC 9 Year Plan 2025

I write in support of the Dunedin Tracks Network Trust's submission to the 9 Year Plan, including its request for \$50,000 per year to progress new walking and cycling trails in Dunedin.

This 'seed' funding represents very good value for money for the city, since the trails themselves are expected to be constructed using funding from charitable trusts and sponsors in the main. In fact, in the case of the Coastal Connection trail, Stage 1 from Waitati to Mopanui Rd has already been largely constructed, funded by charitable trusts, donations and many volunteer hours. It just needs surfacing, fencing and planting now.

Seed funding from local authorities would have a significant positive impact on our progress because it is not easy to find funding for pre-construction costs. Most charitable trusts require a resource consent to have been granted before they will consider an application. So funding that helps us get to that point is hugely beneficial. Being 'shovel ready' means we are eligible for a broader range of funding streams.

The DCC's Draft Infrastructure Strategy states that in future *"cycling and walking projects may be reconsidered should the co-funding landscape become more favourable."* Being shovel-ready means the council can be flexible if external funding becomes available.

We have also asked the Otago Regional Council to commit funds under their Annual Plan 2025-26. (In the community consultation leading up to the ORC LTP 2024-34, a key decision was made: *"Following a submission for funding, Council agreed to contribute \$50,000 to the Dunedin Trails Network Trust for pre-build design and consenting work for parts of the Coastal Communities Cycle Connection."*)

The Coastal Connection will link Greater Dunedin's north coast communities of Waikouaiti, Karitāne, Warrington, and Waitati to each other and to the city using off-road shared-use pathways. The Coastal Connection is split into five sections of trail that sit between each of the communities. Each section of trail is at a different stage of development. Section 1 (Waikouaiti to Karitane) still needs design and consenting costs, however Section 5a is already consented and is expected to be completed in late 2025. Section 5a is the first part of a link between Waitati, Orokonui Ecosanctuary and Port Chalmers, which covers a trail from Doctors Point Rd to Mopanui Rd and involves the completion of 4.5km of new trail. Good progress has also been made on Section 5b to Port Chalmers. This will link to Te Ara Moana shared pathway and Dunedin City.

We are grateful for the continued support of the DCC for this important community asset.

Kā mihi nui

Emily Cooper, Project Coordinator
Coastal Communities Cycle Connection (Coastal Connection)
[Coastal Connection Facebook Group](#)
www.dunedintracksandtrails.nz