

Submission to DCC 9-year Plan: 2025 – 2034

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Draft DCC 9-year plan.

I have seen many pleasing changes in our city as I am an 83-year-old male. New immigrants have brought with them foods, their different ways and vibrancy that we all benefit from. However, it is disappointing to note that modern life has brought about many changes that have not improved our wellbeing and connection with each other.

I am grateful for the foresight of Council in planning the major repairs and picturesque development of George Street which has produced a calm, quiet enjoyable place to shop and eat. Considerable plantings and community enhancement have taken place throughout the city area which improve our sense of calm and wellbeing.

Keeping ownership of Aurora was a great decision and valuable for the future - much appreciated. However, an aim to progress zero-carbon remains essential and must not be dropped no matter the pace progress takes. It must be in the DCC plan, in some form, for the next 9-years. Reducing expenditure on whatever investments are likely to become 'stranded assets' of the future, is a necessity in our changing world.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DUNEDIN CITY 9-YEAR PLAN:

1. Include additional investment options for accelerating the reduction of carbon emissions.
2. Prioritise local inner-city cycling, walking and bus network, including planning to begin the south-western cycle-way and upgrade of tunnels through to Mosgiel.
3. Exclude expenditure for grass berm mowing maintenance – plant diversity instead.

1. Transport - Reducing Emissions

I support the goal of improving public transport, together with the further development of safe cycle and walkways. This appears to be the most consequential action that Council, together with the ORC, could take. Removing private vehicles from roads makes easier movement for buses, reduces road repairs, emissions, and conveniently allows more space for cycling and walking recreation and exercise, while connecting people in different ways.

2. Berms - Reducing Emissions

We must move past the need to have tidily mown berms. Berms are an opportunity to strengthen biodiversity, provide the calming effect of trees, native bush, wild flowers (and food for passers-by) with the added advantage of carbon-sink. Engage communities, schools, through education and calls for assistance in their area - locals will likely help in planting out and take pride in the results.

3. Food Security - Reducing Emissions

Funding for the likes of Our Food Network (OFN) and all other food support groups is essential to the long-term education of our citizens and greater production of our own food which was normal for much of my life. This not only sets a secure foundation against any economic, physical or climatic shocks, but also reduces transport emissions, while financially strengthening individuals and communities.

CONCLUSION:

Our Changing Mindsets: Councillors will appreciate already, that any investment must be wisely chosen, with likely future circumstances in mind, as outcomes will affect every one of us. Different forms of easily available transport and food security will be essential to enable a reasonably healthy functioning future city. Therefore, it will be appreciated that over-investment in such areas as tourism is vulnerable and unwise.

Regardless, it is prudent to prepare our way now so that future conditions will not overcome us, leaving us devoid of the necessary resource funding to provide future resilience and sufficiency for communities. Building resilience and sustainability is crucial for our children.

Thank you again for the opportunity.

Sincerely