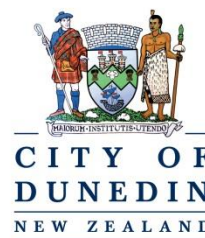


# Office of the Mayor



Annual Plan Consultation  
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Kia ora koutou

## **SUBMISSION ON THE OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL'S PROPOSED ANNUAL PLAN 2022-23**

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Otago Regional Council's proposed 2022-23 Annual Plan.
2. The DCC appreciates the support and partnership of the Otago Regional Council (ORC) on matters of shared responsibility and interest. The DCC looks forward to continuing to work closely with the ORC for the benefit of Dunedin, its residents and ratepayers.

### **Natural environment**

3. In 2016 the DCC adopted Te Ao Tūroa – The Natural World, Dunedin's Environment Strategy 2016-2026. Te Ao Tūroa takes a partnership approach to delivering on the city's environment ambitions to facilitate and secure a healthy environment now and into the future.
4. The Strategy implementation is tracked against several environmental indicators including those that the ORC is legislatively responsible for monitoring, including air, soil and water quality.
5. The DCC strongly encourages continued monitoring of environmental health indicators and encourages ORC to explore more robust reporting on air pollution. The DCC notes the damaging effects of poor air quality and urges the ORC to restart its air quality monitoring programme.
6. The DCC supports collaboration on our Otago Harbour Reserves Management Plan. The ORC, DCC and Port Otago committed in 2017 to the formation of a Harbour Stakeholder Group. The DCC is committed to a shared vision for the wellbeing of the Otago Harbour and supports funding for this to be included in ORC's 2022/23 budget.

### **Biodiversity and Biosecurity**

7. The DCC, along with the ORC, is a core funder of the Predator Free Dunedin collective comprising 22 organisations. The DCC and ORC are working together to achieve a

predator free status over 31,000 hectares, as part of the Predator Free New Zealand 2050 vision adopted by the Government in 2016.

8. The DCC has a role and responsibility to manage indigenous habitat and to control noxious animals and weeds on DCC land and works alongside the legislative roles and responsibilities of the ORC and the Department of Conservation (DOC) to manage pests in the Dunedin city boundary.
9. The DCC supports efforts by the ORC to enable native biodiversity to thrive as well as maintain healthy ecosystems. The DCC shares the view that resourcing needs to be increased if we are to collectively achieve Otago's objectives in biodiversity and biosecurity.
10. The DCC supports the prioritisation of the following activities in the ORC's proposed 2022-23 Annual Plan, with additional work on the following areas, supported through external grants:
  - The 'Jobs for Nature' programme
  - Mt Pleasant/Te Haka Pupu River restoration project
  - Wallabies Pest Control Management

#### **Parks and Recreation**

11. The DCC would like to note that at the Parks and Recreation level there are a number of areas where regular ongoing collaboration could be of benefit to both Councils.
12. The DCC has a beneficial relationship with the DOC on a range of projects. Widening that relationship to include the ORC would improve knowledge and understanding of the environment we collectively manage.
13. An example of this is increased collaboration on Tomahawk Lagoon could benefit from stronger linkages across our organisations. The DCC, DOC and ORC have an interest in how the lagoon and surrounding spaces are managed.

#### **Safety and Resilience**

14. The DCC's Civil Defence Emergency Management activity contributes to its commitment to being a sustainable and Resilient City, with a strong link to the strategic direction of Safe and Healthy People as detailed in its Social Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2023.
15. The DCC has a statutory role to plan and provide for all matters of civil defence and emergency management within its district. This is delivered by the activity through planning with a wide range of organisations, including the ORC, to ensure a coordinated response to and recovery from emergency events, maintaining emergency facilities and equipment, delivering training and public education programmes and ensuring the city has the latest hazard information available to it.
16. The DCC supports the increase by three full-time equivalent staff to the ORC's emergency management team, as detailed in the ORC's proposed 2022-23 Annual Plan.

17. The DCC supports the proposal to reclassify natural hazards LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) work programme expenditure from the ORC's capital to operational expenditure.
18. The DCC appreciates the partnership with the ORC on the South Dunedin Futures Programme and supports continued collaboration on this climate adaptation work.

### **Governance and Engagement**

19. The DCC is strongly supportive of the ORC's investment in regional leadership, particularly in partnering with Kāi Tahu and in community engagement. Consistently successful engagement with iwi Māori results in better decision making, more robust and lasting solutions and more engaged people and communities. The DCC is also moving towards a future where it will be business as usual for our staff to view council work through a Māori responsiveness lens. The DCC is committed to growing our partnership with mana whenua through considered collaborative engagement as befitting Treaty of Waitangi partnership.
20. The DCC supports the ORC's commitment to continuing its work under the 'Partnering with Mana Whenua' section of its Long Term Plan, and the addition of a full-time equivalent staff member, to increase capacity to support partnership with Kāi Tahu, liaison with iwi, and strategic stakeholders.

### **Regulatory**

21. The DCC supports increased investment in research, monitoring and environmental studies, as outlined in its Three Waters Strategic Direction Statement 2010-2060 and Te Ao Tūroa – The Natural World, Dunedin's Environment Strategy 2016-2026.
22. The DCC encourages the ORC to collect more urban water quality data in line with the vision, goals and methods of the ORC's Urban Water Quality Strategy 2017. The DCC is also investing in increased water quality monitoring.
23. The DCC supports the ORC reprioritising existing expenditure tagged to developing its Land and Water Plan to complete an economic assessment of Otago's natural fresh water.

### **Transport**

24. The DCC, ORC and Waka Kotahi Shaping Future Dunedin Transport programme relies on significant further mode shift. Therefore, the need for an effective and integrated public transport network is a priority for the DCC.
25. With fuel prices rising and increasing pressures on household costs, the DCC encourages the ORC to take whatever measures they can to make public transport an affordable option for commuting around our city.
26. The DCC notes the need to increase the planning and delivery capacity across the public transport network to respond to future demand. The ORC plays a significant role in transport planning and should ensure funding allocated to transport is sufficient to service the people of Dunedin.

27. The DCC still wishes to assume the governance of Dunedin's public bus service and asks the ORC to progress discussion with the DCC to enable this. The DCC believes this would enable improved transport solutions for the Dunedin community and further progress Dunedin's ambition to be Zero Carbon by 2030.
28. The DCC encourages the ORC to recognise the growth in shared off road trails and cycleways across the region and in Dunedin. Such trails and cycleways provide the opportunity for safe and active transport, recreation, health and wellbeing, tourism and economic vitality for our communities.
29. In addition, on-road routes often create potential safety issues; whereas off-road shared paths create a safer cycling environment, and in so doing enable the whole community to utilise them.
30. The DCC encourages the ORC to take an enabling stance for the development of off-road, safe trails when it comes to the use of their lands and waterways including the use of their stop banks. An example being the Hawkes Bay Regional Council trail network.
31. The DCC asks the ORC to support the growth of off-road shared paths across the region and in Dunedin at a strategic level and through the ORC's Regional Land Transport Plan.
32. There is an urgent need to significantly reduce transport emissions to reduce the impacts of climate change. The DCC supports increased investment in Dunedin's public transport as a key component in minimising the city's transport emissions.

#### **Concluding remarks**

33. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the ORC 2022-23 proposed Annual Plan.
34. If the ORC would like to clarify any of the issues raised in the submission, please do not hesitate to get in touch.
35. The DCC would like the opportunity to speak to this submission.

Kā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Hawkins', with a stylized, flowing script.

Aaron Hawkins  
**MAYOR OF DUNEDIN**