

30 May 2025

Dunedin Campus Activation Review
University of Otago
Via email: m.wilson@otago.ac.nz

Tēnā koe

SUBMISSION ON THE DUNEDIN CAMPUS ACTIVATION REVIEW

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) welcomes the opportunity to submit to the University of Otago (the University) on its Dunedin Campus Activation Review (the Review).
2. The DCC is represented on the Review Panel, and thanks the University for the opportunity to participate in the Review process.
3. The DCC recognises the valuable role that the University has in Ōtepoti Dunedin as an educator, employer, and flagship organisation in the community which contributes much to the economy, social wellbeing, and cultural life of our city.
4. As a key stakeholder in the Ōtepoti Dunedin, the DCC is a funder, advocate, provider, partner, facilitator and regulator for facilities and activities in the city. As such, many of its undertakings are complementary to those of the University as scoped in the Terms of Reference for the Review.
5. The DCC recognises University students as a significant proportion of our city's population and supports any positive initiatives that attract students to Ōtepoti Dunedin, such as appropriate social, entertainment and recreation spaces and activities.
6. The DCC is pleased to note that the Terms of Reference for the Review includes usability of the University's facilities by the wider community. This acknowledges the benefits of the University sharing its venues and spaces with other residents, and the value this provides to the relationship between the University and the city.
7. The DCC encourages the University to consider mechanisms for improving public access to its existing and future recreation and sport facilities. Enhancing accessibility — whether through shared-use agreements, scheduled community access, or facility upgrades — could contribute significantly to community wellbeing and support active lifestyles in the central city.
8. As the local territorial authority, the DCC is responsible for city safety in Ōtepoti Dunedin and supports initiatives to ensure that social and entertainment activities take place in supervised and properly regulated environments.
9. The DCC acknowledges the importance of accessible, safe, and appropriate venues for student-led events, including music festivals and cultural activities. The DCC remains committed to working with the University to explore the use of suitable DCC venues and

spaces, in a way that supports vibrant student life while minimising disruption to neighbouring communities.

10. The DCC encourages the University to actively explore partnership opportunities with the DCC in the planning and delivery of recreation and open space improvements. Such collaboration may result in broader community benefits, support shared strategic outcomes, and enhance operational efficiency through the pooling of resources and coordinated project delivery.
11. The DCC is leading implementation of the Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan (the Plan). The Otago University Students Association (OUSA) and University venues staff provided input into the development of the Plan. There are actions in the Plan which pertain to the scope of the Review, regarding music, and the DCC welcomes opportunities to work with the University in achieving these:
 - Support the increased activation of public spaces and green spaces in the city for musical festivals and live performances
 - Explore options for increased live performances in the city
 - Explore options for increased youth-led live performances in the city
 - Support the University and OUSA to prioritise a student venue in North Dunedin
 - Identify existing music spaces and explore options to improve their availability to the community to use as a creative hub
12. The DCC urges the University to proactively assess and manage the impacts of student social and recreational activities on surrounding public infrastructure and open spaces. The DCC welcomes discussion on how these impacts can be mitigated, including through enhanced communication, facility provision, or joint management strategies.
13. The DCC encourages the University to take a holistic approach towards not only its Dunedin campus, but the wider North Dunedin landscape and water bodies, to contribute with planning in the city as a whole.
14. As part of its city safety work, the DCC acknowledges that responding to graffiti across the city is complex. The DCC is interested in working collaboratively with the University to support a coordinated approach to this, noting that there has been an increase in graffiti around the Dunedin campus.
15. North Dunedin can be perceived as a place that attracts a lot of rubbish and graffiti. Through its Taskforce Green and Keep Dunedin Beautiful work programmes, the DCC has actively supported the University and its student community to implement activities to encourage positive practices.
16. The DCC values its collaboration with the University in supporting volunteer-led initiatives, such as community planting days. The DCC looks forward to continuing and expanding this relationship to foster civic engagement, sustainability, and pride in shared public spaces.
17. The DCC has contributed funding to clean-ups in North Dunedin with student communities through its Waste Management and Minimisation team and Keep Dunedin Beautiful coordinator, and by providing volunteers and staff through Taskforce Green. The DCC

welcomes opportunities to support students to also volunteer and take a greater ownership/leadership of healthy living in areas around the Dunedin campus.

18. The DCC looks forward to continuing to support the University's research opportunities within its reserve and open space network. DCC welcomes the use of these areas for appropriate academic and applied research projects and values the knowledge and insights such work can generate.
19. The DCC is pleased to note that Māori-inclusive spaces and Pacific-inclusive spaces are included in the Terms of Reference for the Review. It requests that any Māori-inclusive spaces at the Dunedin campus are designed for both mana whenua and mātāwaka, so all Māori who attend the University feel represented and included.
20. The DCC notes the building work currently underway at Marama Hall and scheduled for Allen Hall, and is pleased to see these significant venues in the city being upgraded to contemporary standards while retaining their unique heritage.
21. The DCC is pleased to note the diversity and range of clubs and societies affiliated to OUSA, and encourages the University to consult with these groups during the course of the Review.
22. Thank you for taking the time to consider the DCC's submission.

Ngā mihi



Jules Radich
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN