



STRATH TAIERI COMMUNITY BOARD COMMUNITY PLAN



DUNEDIN | kaunihera
CITY COUNCIL | a-rohe o
Ōtepoti

dunedin

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Community Plan summarises the needs and priorities of the communities within the Strath Taieri Community Board area for the Dunedin City Council's (DCC) 10 year plan 2024-34. Its primary objective is to signal to the DCC those priorities for our community, with the ultimate goal that they are programmed into the DCC's 10 year plan and funded by the DCC. These priorities are shown in section 3 of this plan.

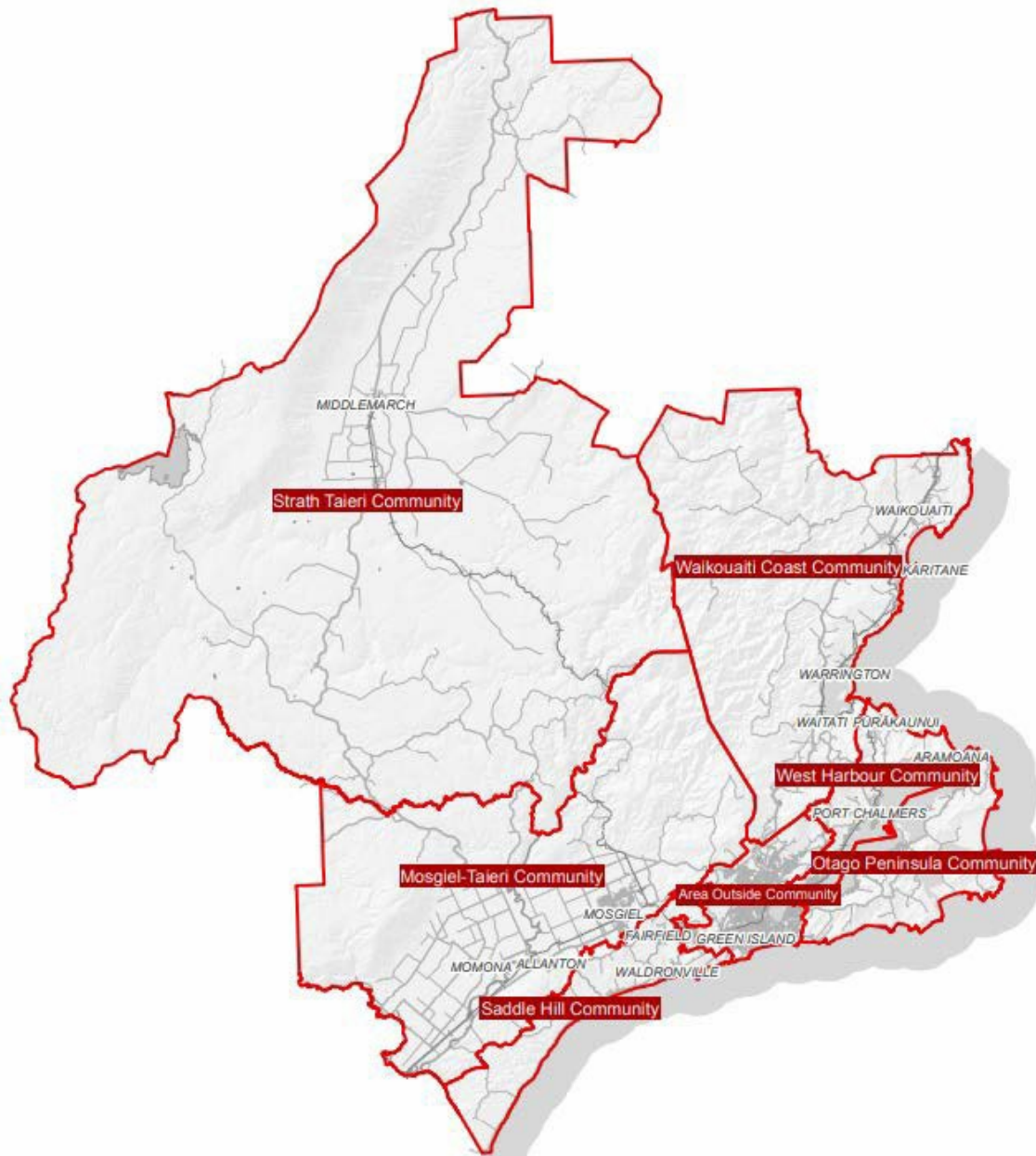
This Plan also includes activities that we, the Community Board plan to undertake. Our most important role is to be an advocate for our community, but we also proactively support our community in other ways, and these are set out in section 4 of this plan.

This Plan is subject to change and revision as needs arise and priorities alter.

2 KEY INFORMATION

2.1 BACKGROUND

The City of Dunedin has six Community Boards within its boundary, as shown in the map below.



Each Community Board has six elected members, and one councillor representative. The Community Board members are elected every three years as part of the local body elections. Community Boards must comply with the same rules and regulations as council, such as the Local Government Act.

The primary role of a Community Board is one of advocacy for its community. Each Community Board makes representations to the DCC on the priorities those boards have identified for their community area, that they would like to see included and funded in the council's annual plans and 10 year plans.

Any matters of an operational nature, e.g., the reporting of potholes, tree issues etc., are reported to council via the DCC's 477 4000 phone number, and do not form part of the Community Board's priorities.

Each Community Board holds public meetings every two months, and these meetings are advertised on the DCC website and in the Otago Daily Times. The meeting schedule for the 2023\0 calendar year is provided in Section 6 of this plan. The agendas and minutes from those meetings are also available on the DCC website at <https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes>

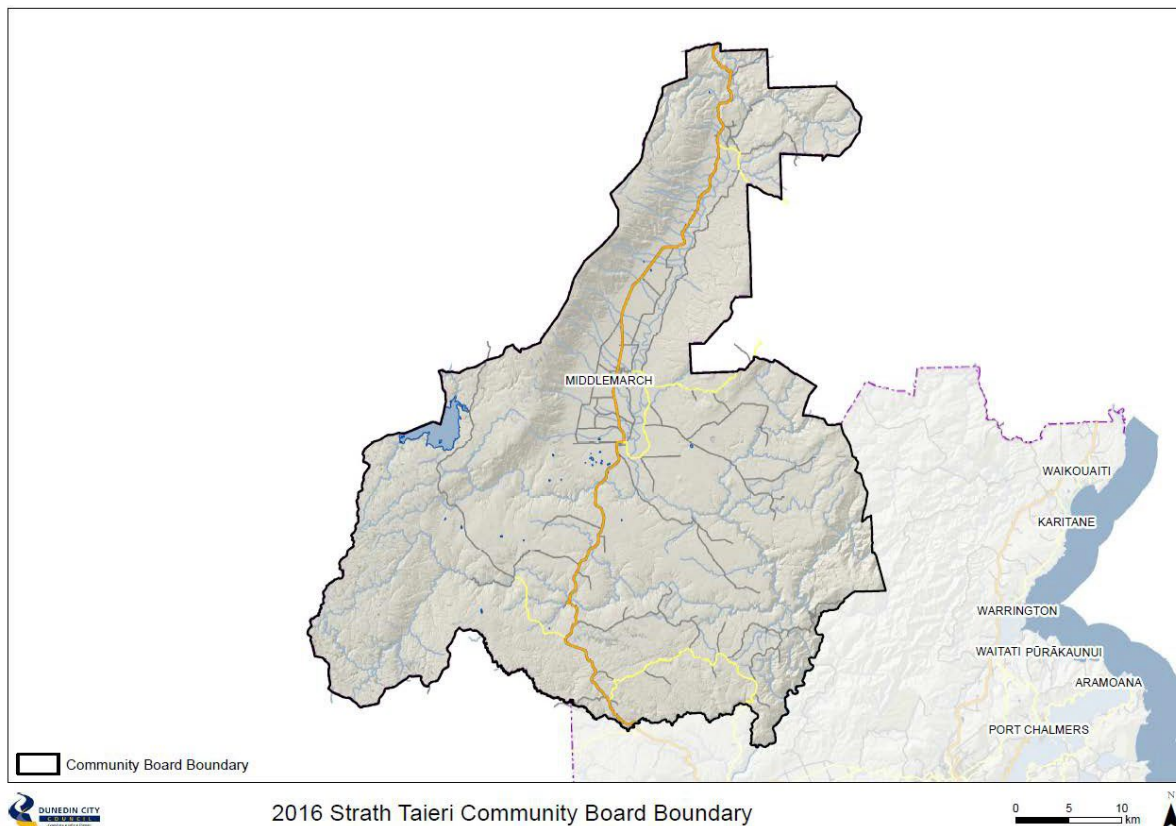
At the start of each meeting, there is a public forum session, which gives anyone from the community the opportunity to present to the board members their views on any topic. Anyone wishing to speak at public forum must make a request to speak at least two working days before the day of the meeting. They can do this via the Chair of the Community Board or contact a Governance Support Officer at the DCC at governance.support@dcc.govt.nz.

2.2 BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Board members for the 2022-2025 triennium are as follows:

Name	Cell phone	Email
Barry Williams (Chairperson)	027 237 8075	barry.williams@powerfarming.co.nz
Anna Wilson (Deputy Chairperson)	027 469 4230	Anna.wilson@outlook.com
David (Jock) Frew	021 122 8745	Jock876@gmail.com
Terina Geddes	027 200 5688	Hayden.terina@xtra.co.nz
Tony Markham	027 464 3133	tandpmarkham@xtra.co.nz
Robin Thomas	021 477455	robin.thomas@xtra.co.nz
Bill Acklin (Councillor representative)	021 923 270	Bill.Acklin@dcc.govt.nz

2.3 MAP OF STRATH TAIERI COMMUNITY BOARD AREA



2.4 OUR COMMUNITY

The “rural hub” of Dunedin City Council's six Community Board areas, Strath Taieri, is located an hour's drive inland from Dunedin on scenic State Highway 87.

Straddling the wide climatic clines of the dry inland basins of Central Otago to the wetter coastal eastern foothills, the district covers some 211,500 hectares stretching 65km from north to south and 55km from east to west. Being in an expansive remote rural setting, it features a widely dispersed low per capita population density of just 0.32 people/square kilometre. This aspect alone creates social and infrastructure challenges unlike any of our other Community Board areas.

Several distinct areas exist within the region from the broad fertile developed flats and terraces adjacent to Middlemarch, the physically dominant slopes of the [Rock and Pillar range](#), to the tussock clad northern portion of the Lammerlaw and Lammermoor ranges. These all provide an interesting and vibrant contrast with the broad rolling farmed ridges of Hindon and Clarks Junction and the stunning mid reaches of the Taieri River.

In pre-European times the area was important to local Maori as both a mahinga kai resource with moa and kanakana (lamprey) being sought as well as serving as a useful access corridor to the hinterland.

In later years gold mining (Hyde/Pukerangi) became important. Clarks Junction served those early gold miners as an important junction on their access route to other inland goldfields via the historic Old Dunstan Trail.

The spectacular landscapes offer visitors wilderness, tussock country, splendid vistas, striking rock tors as well as enjoyment of a busy farming district.

Those agricultural opportunities that attracted our first settlers remain today as the backbone to our economy with fresh opportunities developing in tourism stimulated by the Otago Central Rail Trail and the recently created Central Otago Touring Route on SH87.

The stunning scenery, rural tranquility, many recreational opportunities, the laid back lifestyle and the friendly local residents are key components to the local lifestyle.

3 PRIORITIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

3.1 New Priorities

We have identified the following new priorities for our community that we would like to see included in the Council's 10 year plan 2024 -34. As noted earlier, this plan is subject to change, and so this list of priorities will be included on the agenda of each of our Community Board meetings

Details	Est. Cost if known	When in 9 year plan 2025-34	Justification	Priority
Multipurpose Community Centre – that could include medical services, gym, sports courts, museum artefacts, information centre				
Electronic speed limit warning signs at both entrances to township to notify of school zone.				
Encourage visitors and trains to Middlemarch.				
Upgrade Playground, including pump track.				
Building community resilience.				

3.2 Current Priorities

The following priorities for our community have been included in the Council's current 10 year plan (2018- 28), and are priorities that are to be carried forward into the new 2021-31 10 year plan.

Details	Est. Cost if known	When in 2025-34 9year plan	Justification	Priority
Security and Integrity from flooding Address ongoing issues between the Middlemarch township and the Taieri River which causes restrictions to the outflows of flood waters from the township. Urgently requiring attention.			Community needs a security in knowing the Middlemarch township would not be flooded.	1
Train to Middlemarch Continue to advocate for the train all the way to Middlemarch				2
Speed Management Electronic speed limit warning signs at both entrances to township to notify of school zone.				3
Town Centre Development Plan Playground, entranceways, park and grounds along with cohesive planning of contracts (ie: mowing, refuse collection)				4

4 COMMUNITY BOARD PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The following table identifies those activities that we as a Community Board would like to deliver to our community. They will be undertaken and funded by the Community Board.

ACTIVITY DETAIL	WHEN (IDEAL)
Strategic Planning 1. Review current use of community hall, and consider long term priorities with possible significant hall upgrade (or potential replacement) (15/20 year time frame); 2. Maintain engagement with community led group investigating Heritage Park concept – potential future use of Railway Station (Visitor/Information Centre?); development of Hub concept with linking Rail/Farming/Historic/Environmental themes etc and how these could support future community opportunities. <i>(Will require staff assistance)</i> 3. Establishing a strong relationship with Dunedin Railways.	<i>Over term of current Board</i>
Railway Issues 1. Wingatui to Middlesmarch – Advocate for the public retention of the complete railway line and infrastructure – including support for ongoing rail service/linkage between Dunedin and Middlesmarch; 2. Middlesmarch/Sutton/Pukerangi Stations - Advocate strongly for formalised local control of all infrastructure including buildings; 3. Investigate implementing a formal “heritage precinct” (Heritage NZ) around Railway Station and all associated buildings and structures. <i>(Will require staff assistance)</i>	
Promote Community Resilience	
Rural Waste Day	
Concept plans for cohesive Township development including entranceway development	
Establish a Strath Taieri Tree Management Plan – cemetery, railway corridor, wilding pines and township trees	
Cohesive council contracts – to prevent duplication and look for opportunities within our community	

5 PLANS

The Community Board has a number of plans supporting its activities. Our key planning documents are discussed below:

5.1 EMERGENCY PLAN – COMMUNITY BOARD RESPONSE PLAN

Introduction

The Dunedin City Council has a statutory role, as does the Otago Regional Council, under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act to contribute to Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) within the district. As part of this whole-of-city function, the [Name] Community Board has responsibility for the interface between the community and Otago Civil Defence Emergency Management.

Our communities have a reasonable level of risk of flooding, fire, tsunami resulting in community isolation so pre-planning and management of a specific event will be managed by the Saddle Hill Community Board on behalf of Civil Defence. This role is supported by authorisations and delegations in the Dunedin City Council Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan.

Status

The Community Board on conjunction with Emergency Management Otago, have developed a Community Guide to Emergencies for Hyde, Middlemarch and Sutton.

5.2 Roadwork Schedule

Information on current notified road closures and the roadworks schedule (a weekly list of programmed works) for Council's maintained roads is available on the DCC website via these links <https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/news-and-events/public-notice/roadworks-schedule> and <https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/news-and-events/public-notice/notified-road-closures>.

5.3 Other plans

5.4 Have Your Say on the Community Plan

The Board is very keen to receive your comments on an on-going basis, and you may speak to your comments at any Board meeting. Members of the community are invited to provide feedback;

- *Verbally... by contacting a board member directly, anytime*
- *Written... addressed to the board, postal or email addresses below*
- *In person... to the board at public events such as Community Cuppa and Conversation*

Please clearly state the issue or suggestion you would like the Community Board to consider, or the specific action you would like to be taken.

Please send written communication to:

The Chairperson
Strath Taieri Community Board
c/- Dunedin City Council
PO Box 5045
Dunedin 9054

Email: barry.williams@powerfarming.co.nz

7 COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The table below provides details of our Community Board meetings through to December 2025.

Thursday, 26 June 2025 – Strath Taieri Community Hall, at 2.00 pm

Thursday, 7 August 2025 – Strath Taieri Community Hall, at 2.00 pm

Thursday, 11 September 2025, Strath Taieri Community Hall, at 2.00 pm

Thursday, 6 November
(Inaugural meeting for 2025-2028 triennium)