

SOUTH DUNEDIN FUTURE UPDATE

New maps predict sea rise for South Dunedin coast

Warm greetings from your city and regional councils as the winter months begin.

A lot of important information is coming out that sheds more light on the climate change challenges and possible futures for South Dunedin. Sea rise is one of the big factors, and we are learning more about this.

A Government research programme, NZ SeaRise, has created the first local predictions of how much the sea will rise over the next century. Previously, we only had global information as our guide. But researchers have now crunched the numbers for the whole New Zealand coastline, at locations every two kilometres along it. One of these points is at Middle Beach between St Clair and St Kilda beaches.

One of the effects of our warming climate is rising sea levels as the oceans expand and ice melts. But how high the tides reach on the coastline is also affected by the sinking or rising of the land including from earthquakes. The NZ SeaRise has factored this into the predictions.

For South Dunedin, we have already had 17cm rise in the sea level through the past century, and the new data confirms that there will be more, with between 24 and 35cm by 2050 and 60cm to 1.12m by 2100. At Middle Beach, adjacent to Kettle Park, the data shows the land is slowly sinking by less than half a millimetre per year. All this means a person born today could see the sea level rise by more than a metre in their lifetime.

You can see how all this works on an interactive web map at <https://www.searise.nz/maps>

This information helps inform management of the coast and, in time, for the future of the Flat. It's a welcome contribution to the ever-growing body of science and evidence. This will help everyone make more informed and better decisions about how we respond.



The South Dunedin Future programme is working with the community on developing that response strategy. This work aims to put us in the best possible position to tackle the challenges presented by sea-level rise, as well as other impacts of climate change.

If you have questions or feedback:

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