

# Pre-Election Report 2025

ŌTEPOTI DUNEDIN



**DUNEDIN**  
CITY COUNCIL

kaunihera  
a-rohe o  
Ōtepoti





## Mihi

E auahi, e auora, e aumoana,  
aua tonu atu!

Nei taku manu whakamiha e rere nei kia  
tau ruka i kā mauka whakahī o te rohe nei, a  
Te Atua o Taiehu, a Hikaroroa. E rere tou ana  
ki ruka ake i kā wai tapu e tere nei ki te nuku o  
te whenua, a Te Awa o Ōtākou, a Waikouaiti.

Koutou mā kā uri o Rākaihautū,  
o Hotu Māmoe, o Tahu Pōtiki ka taki nei  
taku manu kōiri ki a koutou katoa.

Kai kā uri o kā waka unua, o kā waka hourua  
i terea nei te Moananui-a-Kiwa kia nōhia ai  
ēnei moutere, kai ngā karakataka maha o  
Aotearoa ko te owaha nui nā taku manu pīe ka  
tau ki ruka i koutou.

Kai aku nui, kai aku rahi, kai kā puanaī o te  
ao, ko ekea ka hau o te wā kia whai pakiaka  
ki ēnei whenua, nei taku manu kōirihi e mihi  
maioha nei ki a koutou.

Kai tēnei pūroko nei kā haumāuiui o tēnei  
ohu o te kaunihera hai whakamōhio, hai  
whakamārama i kā kōkiritaka whakamua i ā  
tātau e aro atu ana ki te pōti e kainamu mai  
nei. He mea tohu, he mea arataki i te huka  
pōti, i te huka whai pōti hoki.

Nā reira, nau mai ki ēnei kōrero, nau mai ki  
ēnei tuhika, nau mai ki te kōhaka o taku manu  
kōrero.

Kāika Ōtepoti, Kāika Ora.

## Acknowledgement

A village with the home fires burning  
is a thriving village!

Here is my songbird of acknowledgement  
that alights on the prestigious mountains of  
this area, Te Atua o Taiehu and Hikaroroa.  
It continues over the sacred waters that flow  
over the land, Ōtākou and Waikouaiti.

To you, the descendants of Rākaihautū,  
of Hotu Māmoe, of Tahu Pōtiki my songbird  
salutes you all.

To those descended from the great ocean  
voyaging canoes that navigated the vast  
Pacific Ocean and settled here in these  
islands, to the many lines of descent that bind  
us, my songbird calls its salutations to you all.

To all the distinguished people of  
our city who have settled here from  
near and far, my songbird sings its  
homage to you all.

This report contains the results of the labours  
completed by this Council to help inform and  
enlighten you regarding progress made as the  
city draws closer to its elections. This report  
is a guide for both those who seek to vote and  
those who seek election.

And so, please take the time to digest this  
information as presented and allow my  
songbird to rest.

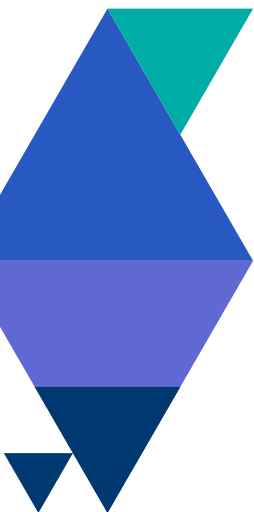
A thriving home, a thriving village.



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## What is Dunedin City Council? He aha rā a Te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Ōtepoti?

Every three years, one mayor, 14 councillors and six community boards are elected by Ōtepoti Dunedin residents to represent them on the Dunedin City Council (DCC). Our territory extends from north of Waikouaiti to the Taieri River in the south and inland to Middlemarch and Hyde, covering 3,340 square kilometres of land area.

The DCC is responsible for the governance of the city as well as the strategic direction, ensuring we work towards meeting expectations of our community as set out in the recently adopted 9 Year Plan 2025 – 2034.



## What are the key dates for 2025? He aha ka ra matua ki te tau 2025?

### FOR CANDIDATES

#### Friday 4 July 2025

Nominations open

#### Friday 1 August 2025

Nominations close (12 noon)

### FOR VOTERS

#### Tuesday 9 September 2025

Voter packs mailed to enrolled electors  
Voting opens

#### Saturday 11 October 2025

Voting closes (12 noon)

### You can vote in the local elections if you:

- are over 18 years old; and
- are an Aotearoa New Zealand citizen or permanent resident; and
- have lived in Aotearoa New Zealand for at least 12 months continuously.

You can vote in the Ōtepoti Dunedin local elections if you live or own property here.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, all local body elections are held by postal vote. That means you need to fill in your voting form and post it back before midday 11 October 2025. If you don't have a fixed address, you can provide the address of the place where you last lived for one month or more, or the address of where you spend a substantial part of your time.

Voter packs for the 2025 elections will be mailed to enrolled electors on 9 September 2025. Each voter pack will include a post-paid return envelope.



Go to [dunedin.govt.nz/election](https://dunedin.govt.nz/election) for further information on local elections at the DCC. To enrol, go to [electionz.com/ratepayers](https://electionz.com/ratepayers) or call **0800 36 76 56**.



## What is a pre-election report? He aha te pūroko mua-pōti?

A pre-election report gives you an overall snapshot of the current state of the community, in time for the October 2025 elections, and provides information to promote public discussion about the issues facing the local authority. It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002.

# Message from the Chief Executive

## Kōrero nā te Tumu Whakarae



We really are incredibly fortunate to live in this wonderful place called Ōtepoti Dunedin – you only have to look around the world today to see that. Here at home, our city continues to thrive and we rightly celebrate our southern hospitality and manaakitaka, our privileged access to nature and wildlife, and the strengths that underpin our shared prosperity – the brilliant minds emerging from our education and technology sectors, the mix of international and domestic travellers choosing to visit our city and its amazing attractions, and the buzz served up by our city's hospitality and retail sectors. We are truly lucky to call this place home.

As we head into this election, I also want to thank everyone who is prepared to put themselves forward as a candidate in this year's local body elections. Local democracy matters and it's more important than ever that the best possible candidates seek a seat at the table, so thank you for stepping forward.

While I am confident Ōtepoti Dunedin is well placed for the future – having achieved a solid programme of work on key projects over the past three years – the next Council will face significant challenges.

The entire local government sector has been buffeted by big, difficult issues over the past three years, and Ōtepoti Dunedin is not immune. We continue to grapple with the impacts of an uncertain economic climate, which is driving up costs and increasing budget pressures, resulting in rates rises that are higher than anyone wants. We also face new mandates from central Government, setting new priorities for councils which come with increased costs.

At the same time, our community has been telling us what their priorities are – everyone is concerned about affordability, but many people also want to see more progress, faster in delivering key projects for our city.

That includes more investment in the performing arts sector, the retention of the Taieri Gorge train service, 3 Waters upgrades while retaining an in-house service delivery model. We also need to look at better roads and footpaths, more money for Forsyth Barr Stadium, the retention of the Council's energy company, Aurora, and the desire to achieve a balanced budget.

Council has listened to all these views and made decisions accordingly. The results are reflected in rates and increasing debt levels, which remain our only sources of substantial funding.

Quite simply, it is an extremely challenging time. There is no magic wand to deliver everything our community wants and needs, and Council's role is to strike the difficult balance between continuing to invest where it's needed and finding ways to control costs where possible.

This pressure also adds to what is already a high-stakes and high-pressure environment for staff and elected representatives alike, especially given high levels of public scrutiny coupled with the rise of misinformation that fuels misunderstanding and disagreement.

The DCC remains committed to working as transparently as possible, and we do this in a range of ways – from the proactive releases of information

through the media and our online channels, to the decision this term to open most Councillor workshops to the public – but there also needs to be room for legitimate confidentiality, whether it is during the resolution of difficult and private employment matters, or while commercially sensitive decisions are being considered.

Given the challenges we face, it's also important to find ways of having a positive and open relationship between elected members and staff. We all need to work together to achieve the best results for our city.

The good news is we are continuing to deliver for our community – look no further than the George Street upgrade, our new kerbside collection service, the opening of Te Puna o Whakaehu, the imminent delivery of the new South Dunedin Library and Community Complex, Te Whata o Kaituna, and our commitment to build a modern Class One landfill at Smooth Hill.

We're also continuing with a major programme of capital investment that is renewing our roading and water infrastructure, rolling out wildly popular playground improvements, and has ensured the refurbished Dunedin Railway Station is well looked after for many years to come.

There is an enormous amount of progress being made on the South Dunedin Future and Zero Carbon programmes, as we work to develop our city-wide resilience to climate change, which is already having an impact in our city. Extreme weather events are becoming more common and sea levels are rising, and both come at a cost for the community. We need to adapt and continue to reduce our carbon emissions, which is a key area of focus.

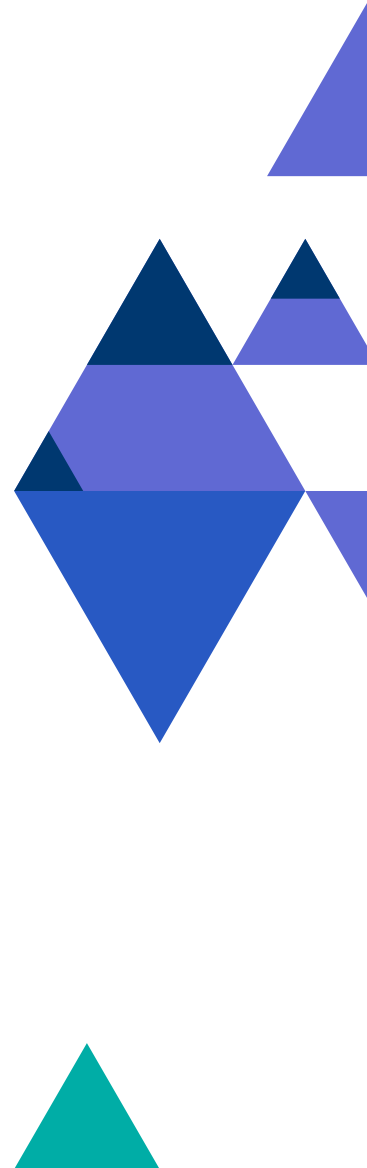
I'm pleased to report our relationship with mana whenua is the best it has been in many, many years, reflecting our commitment to The Treaty of Waitangi and our work to embed Treaty principles across our organisation. We've also established Te Pae Māori as a new mana-to-mana forum to advance our shared aspirations for our people. We're working to develop and deliver Te Taki Haruru, the Council's Māori Strategic Framework, to guide the DCC's contribution to Māori wellbeing across the city. I couldn't be prouder of this work and the results we're seeing.

So, while the challenges we face are significant, there's also plenty to be excited about in Ōtepoti Dunedin. There's lots more ahead and the next Council will need to be agile and resilient as we all work together to make one of the world's greatest small cities even better.

## **Sandy Graham**

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Tumu Whakarae

**Dunedin City Council**  
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Ōtepoti







# City Snapshot





# Quality of Life Survey

Top 3 reasons for positive quality of life:



**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**



**LIFESTYLE**



**FINANCIAL WELLBEING**

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**83%**

rate their overall quality  
of life positively

**76%**

agree Ōtepoti Dunedin  
is a great place to live

---



Commonly spoken languages after English:

**MĀORI, FRENCH AND GERMAN**



## Some city statistics

**128,901**

Usually resident population

**21.2%**

Born overseas

**31,410**

Families

**10.8%**

% Population Māori

**2.3%**

Speaks Te Reo Māori

**34.65%**

Aged under 25

**17.3%**

Aged over 65

**\$107,628**

Average household income



# Residents' Opinion Survey

(April 2025)

## Ōtepoti Dunedin is...



**70%**  
a creative city



**66%**  
a safe city



**59%**  
a fun city



**67%**  
satisfied with the look  
and feel of the city

# Te tahua mō te kahurutaka 9 year budget

## CAPITAL COSTS FOR THE NEXT 9 YEARS



**\$505m**

Rooding and Footpaths  
25%



**\$1,030m**

3 Waters  
51%



**\$201m**

Waste Minimisation  
10%



**\$75m**

Community Recreation  
4%



**\$153m**

City Properties  
7%



**\$20m**

Creative and Cultural Vibrancy  
1%



—

Regulatory Services



**\$6m**

Resilient City



—

Vibrant Economy



**\$35m**

Governance and Support Services  
2%



—

Treaty Partnership

**Total = \$2,025b**

## OPERATING COSTS FOR THE NEXT 9 YEARS



**\$708m**

Rooding and Footpaths  
16%



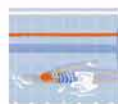
**\$1,388m**

3 Waters  
31%



**\$412m**

Waste Minimisation  
9%



**\$451m**

Community Recreation  
10%



**\$504m**

City Properties  
11%



**\$269m**

Creative and Cultural Vibrancy  
6%



**\$162m**

Regulatory Services  
3%



**\$96m**

Resilient City  
2%



**\$101m**

Vibrant Economy  
2%



**\$440m**

Governance and Support Services  
10%




**\$9m**

Treaty Partnership

**Total = \$4,540b**





**What are we  
proud of?**





## Working with mana whenua

Dunedin City Council (DCC) has committed to becoming an organisation that is responsive to The Treaty of Waitangi. As part of this commitment, we've undertaken significant changes to embed Treaty principles into all levels of our operations.

The Manatū Whakaaetaka Relationship Agreement was signed in 2022 at Ōtākou marae with representatives from Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and the DCC. Revising an earlier memorandum of understanding, the agreement outlines a relationship framework and the intent to work collaboratively to achieve equity and ensure whānau thrive. The agreement established Te Pae Māori as the new mana to mana forum for advancing the strategic relationship between kā rūnaka and the DCC.

Te Pae Māori brings together the governance levels of the DCC, kā rūnaka and mātāwaka (non-Kāi Tahu Māori) so they can talk directly, build understanding, and discuss strategic issues. Through this forum, we work together to advance our shared aspirations for the people of Ōtepoti Dunedin, now and for future generations.

Across our strategic and operational work programmes, we support and facilitate opportunities for tino rakatirataka to be exercised.

A core focus for Te Pae Māori is the development, implementation and monitoring of Te Taki Haruru, the Council's Māori Strategic Framework, adopted in September 2023. Te Taki Haruru establishes mana whenua principles and values that will guide the DCC's contribution to Māori wellbeing across the city. It envisions a future for Ōtepoti Dunedin that ensures the wellbeing of future generations and the sustainability of the environment from a te ao Māori perspective.

Using Te Taki Haruru as our guide, we are moving forward together to help build a city where everyone, including future generations, can thrive.



# We have achieved a great deal over the past three years.

## Here's some highlights of 2022 – 2024 achievements:

### 2022

- ✓ Manatū Whakaaetaka Relationship Agreement was signed at Ōtākou marae.
- ✓ Intersection improvements and safer pedestrian routes completed around 16 schools.
- ✓ Refurbishment of 38 public housing units at the Palmyra site, 10 new units built are now some of the most energy efficient public housing units in the country.
- ✓ The New Zealand Centre of Digital Excellence (CODE) Limited assisted with growth of the local digital games development industry. 14 studios and three Scale Up grants were awarded more than \$3m in CODE funding.
- ✓ Increased community education with dog education classes for young people, building services training sessions, food safety seminars for food businesses, alcohol licence information sessions for clubs, and education regarding safe parking around sportsgrounds and schools.

### 2023

- ✓ The city and our stadium hosted six matches during the first FIFA Women's World Cup™ ever held in the southern hemisphere. The city benefited economically by \$21.6m.
- ✓ Lan Yuan Dunedin Chinese Garden achieved a six-star rating from the New Zealand Gardens Trust as a Garden of International Significance.
- ✓ Te Pahi Pukapuka, a new accessible electric book bus, started transporting books to readers across the city.
- ✓ DCC adopts Ōtepoti Dunedin's Zero Carbon Plan, to guide our community's emissions reduction efforts.

### 2024

- ✓ Ōtepoti Dunedin celebrated 10 years of being a UNESCO City of Literature with several international celebrations.
- ✓ Celebrations for the 30th Sister City anniversary with Shanghai, China saw Ōtepoti Dunedin host 15 inbound delegations from China.
- ✓ Taskforce Green delivered over 24,000 hours of voluntary labour with projects directly contributing to DCC work (parks, events) and supporting communities.



## Festivals and Events Plan

The DCC has developed a Draft 2025 Dunedin Festivals and Events Plan, which envisions Ōtepoti Dunedin as a vibrant city enriched by memorable, inclusive events.

The Festivals and Events Plan aims to make the city a vibrant place to live, celebrating inclusivity and fostering a strong city identity. We want to ensure community events are diverse and inclusive to all communities, while developing major events to increase visitor numbers, drive tourism, and stimulate economic growth.

## Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan

A collaborative initiative between the DCC and the city's music communities, the Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan (ŌLMAP) was adopted by Council in 2023 to support and nurture live music in Ōtepoti Dunedin.

The plan identifies opportunities for the DCC to support professional initiatives for artists, assist with the navigation of regulatory requirements, advocate for targeted support for music infrastructure, and minimise barriers preventing the enjoyment of live music.

The ŌLMAP strengthens Ōtepoti Dunedin's cultural and creative ecosystem, reinforces its reputation as a thriving arts hub, and showcases the power of collaboration between local government and communities in supporting the creative arts.

## George Street upgrade

The George Street retail quarter upgrade was completed combining urgent work needed to upgrade aging water supply, wastewater and stormwater pipes – some of which dated back to the late 1800s. The people-friendly space has new paving, street furniture, lighting and public art, plus improved safety and accessibility.

The DCC and its design team worked with Kāi Tahu, through mana whenua organisation Aukaha, to include Kāi Tahu culture and values in the design. This can be seen in things like the types of plants used, public art, paving patterns, and the use of whakatauki (proverbs) and te reo in the street design.

## South Dunedin Library and Community Complex – Te Whata o Kaituna

The South Dunedin Library and Community Complex – Te Whata o Kaituna will be a vibrant hub for a wide range of activities and services in South Dunedin. The complex will also feature a DCC service centre, meeting rooms, computer and wi-fi access, a recording studio, a makerspace for creative technologies – and more!

Councillors decided that the top floor will be leased commercially in an effort to balance the cost of running the facility. While this decision was contentious, balancing costs is an important consideration.

The complex will be fully accessible and include bike stands and charging stations to encourage eco-friendly transportation options.

A cultural narrative design on the building exterior has been developed in collaboration with Aukaha to reflect the diverse South Dunedin community.

The library is estimated to cost \$21.4m, and the new facility is expected to be open in the Spring.

## Railway Station restoration



The three-year project at the Dunedin Railway Station involved repairs and restoration of the prominent Historic Place (Category 1) building's exterior.

Work involved the restoration of the characteristic red Marseille roof tiles, the dome roofs, and repairs and cleaning of stonework, timber joinery and the original cast iron downpipes.

The restoration project was a national winner in the heritage category of the Southern Architecture Awards. It also earned national recognition by the Registered Master Buildings Association with a Heritage and Gold Awards.





## Changing places bathroom

We are continuing with our decision from the 2021–31 10 year plan to install a changing places bathroom, costing \$750k. A changing places bathroom has three cubicles that cater for people with disabilities and their carers.

It will be built on the site of the existing Exeloo beside the Dunedin Railway Station as the Exeloo is due for replacement.

## Playgrounds upgrades

Destination playgrounds are large and cater to all ages and abilities, offering something unique to attract large numbers of people. They normally have gathering spaces, picnic and BBQ facilities, toilets with baby change facilities, areas of shade, drinking fountains, and a variety of play equipment.

Council has allocated a combined budget of \$17.78m for playgrounds over the nine year period.

Marlow Park will be the first to get underway and is planned for completion in 2027 with a budget of \$4.62m. Next will be Woodhaugh at \$3.53m and planned to be ready in 2030. The last playground for a new design will be Mosgiel. Its budget is \$3.07m and opening is planned for 2033.

The Dunedin Botanic Garden playground received a significant refurbishment and reopened in October last year.

## Te Puna o Whakaehu

Te Puna o Whakaehu complex, Mosgiel, opened in June last year. The new facility replaced a pool originally built in the 1930s, called the Taieri Baths.

The name, which means 'the pool of Silver Stream', was gifted by Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou and it acknowledges Whakaehu as the Kāi Tahu name for the waterway which flows besides the pool.

The new complex is fully accessible for everyone, with ramps into every pool with a leisure pool for recreational play, a learn-to-swim pool, hydrotherapy pool and spa pool. The main lap pool features premium starting blocks, and an accessibility ramp. The hydrotherapy pool is great for rehabilitation, therapy and recovery.

It has proven very popular with more than 160,000 visits in its first year!



## Emergency Response

The region experienced a one in 80 year rain event in October 2024 that resulted in a state of emergency being declared in Dunedin. The determined work of our staff and contractors, support from emergency services and volunteers, and kindness from the community all contributed to our response.

At the height of the rain and flooding, Ōtepoti Dunedin city saw a total of 44 road closures as a result of flooding, slips and debris blocking the road. Skips and sandbags were supplied to assist communities most impacted by the rain.

In June, this year the city experienced another smaller rainfall event which highlighted issues with the piped network that will require ongoing maintenance and management as the infrastructure upgrades continue.

## Green Island Landfill Resource Recovery Park redevelopment

In December 2024, we were granted resource consent for a major redevelopment of the Green Island Landfill Resource Recovery Park (RRP).

The redevelopment will upgrade areas for:

- dropping off recyclable material and garden waste
- sorting glass
- education to minimise waste
- the waste transfer station, where you take rubbish that goes straight to the landfill.

We're consented to operate the Green Island Landfill until it's planned closure around 2030. Once closed, it will open up possibilities for recreational use in the area around it, e.g., walking and biking tracks beside the Kaikorai Estuary.

## Kerbside rollout

52,000 households received new kerbside bins starting an enhanced recycling and rubbish collection service from 1 July 2024. We added bins for food scraps and garden waste and swapped the old plastic rubbish bags for new wheelie bins.

We focussed on making sure our community knew what to do – and we succeeded! The 26.5 tonnes of organics collected on day one last year had a contamination rate under 1% – a first in our contractor's experience. The collection rate remains high. Contamination has stayed low.

Customer satisfaction with the kerbside recycling service in the DCC Residents' Opinion Survey data for the first six months of 2024-25 was 79%, compared to 62% in 2023-24.

## A new city landfill at Smooth Hill

We're working hard to help you reduce and reuse waste, but there will always be some rubbish that needs to go to a well-managed landfill.

While the DCC already has resource consent to replace Green Island Landfill with a modern, top-class landfill at its Smooth Hill site on Big Stone Road, we have also investigated options to:

- export waste to another district's landfill
- build Smooth Hill Landfill in a partnership with a private waste company, or
- build a landfill at Smooth Hill alone.

Council has decided in principle to build a landfill at Smooth Hill alone because:

- the DCC will maintain control and focus on its waste minimisation goals
- financially, it is the best long term option as the DCC retains 100% of the landfill's revenue
- taking local responsibility for our own waste provides resilience and self-sufficiency, including in natural disasters
- we have consulted with and have the support of mana whenua
- the Smooth Hill Landfill aligns with Council's Zero Carbon Policy
- there are economic benefits to Ōtepoti Dunedin, such as developing infrastructure and employment opportunities locally.

Smooth Hill Landfill will be designed to service the city for up to 70 years depending on rubbish tonnage amounts. Before any construction begins, we are monitoring the empty site's air, water, soil, and ecology for three years ending in April 2026. This baseline data will help us maintain high environmental standards when the new landfill is operating. We are also beginning a planting programme which will eventually screen the landfill from view from Big Stone Road.

The consent conditions also include requirements to manage southern black-backed gulls at the landfill to address any risk of bird strike arising from the landfill's proximity to Dunedin Airport.

\$92.4m has been allocated in the 9 year plan for upgrades to McLaren Gully Road and landfill construction, which is planned for completion before the Green Island Landfill closes around 2030. There are some conditions that come with this decision. A Community Liaison Group has been established and an Independent Peer Review Panel will consider the design, construction and operation of the landfill; environmental monitoring, leachate monitoring, collection and management requirements; and a variety of other operational requirements.





## Economic Development

Working in partnership with its key stakeholders Enterprise Dunedin continues to support economic activity, enable jobs and promote growth in Ōtepoti Dunedin. Across the portfolio includes connecting growers to consumers, encouraging film production to choose our city, supporting key programmes that focus on growing the professional economy such as CODE (Centre of Digital Excellence), Startup Dunedin and JobDUN. Activity is targeted to outcomes that improve the overall economic wellbeing of the city.

Showcasing Ōtepoti Dunedin as a great place to live, play, visit and do business, has been a key focus of activity related to destination management and marketing, including the launch and support of the Jetstar Gold Coast-Dunedin direct flights.

# Fun Facts



Our most popular dog breed is **Labrador Retriever** with 1340 registered through Council. This is followed by **Border Collie** (1001) and **Golden Retriever** (521).



## Top ten dog names in Dunedin:

Bella	Molly
Poppy	Max
Charlie	Daisy
Luna	Buddy <small>NEW!</small>
Ruby	Millie <small>NEW!</small>



We're a UNESCO City of Literature and very well-read city. Residents borrow on average **70,984** items from our libraries each month!



The Dunedin Public Art Gallery has the **only** Monet in a New Zealand public gallery collection.



There are over **380,000** roof tiles in Lan Yuan, each of these was hand-made by Chinese artisans to manipulate the flow of rainwater.



We maintain **1,076km** of sealed road network across the city which is longer than the drive between Invercargill and Picton.



Our network of pipes stretches for over **3,000km**



All the pools within our Aquatics' facilities hold **6,256,500** litres of water, that is around 50,050 bathtubs!





There are over  
**600 litter bins** and  
**200 public place** recycling  
bins across the city so we  
should haven't **any** rubbish  
around the place!







# Finding Balance





As a Council, it is important to find the right balance between meeting our community's needs and aspirations, and making sure the things we have are well maintained while keeping rates affordable.

The draft Infrastructure Strategy sets out how we intend to manage Ōtepoti Dunedin's significant three waters and transport infrastructure issues over the next 30 years.

The strategy describes how we will meet the changing regulatory requirements regarding public safety and health, addressing climate change, and improving the resilience of our key infrastructure.

We aim to maintain affordability for ratepayers as far as possible, while balancing the need to meet the demands of projected urban growth, public safety, resilience needs, and catching up on maintenance/renewals put off in the past.

The DCC continues to work alongside our companies to leverage assets they own on the city's behalf given the planning that is underway for the DCC's Investment Plan.



## Local Water Done Well

Local Water Done Well addresses Aotearoa New Zealand's water infrastructure challenges, and places emphasis on maintaining council ownership of water assets, financial sustainability, appropriate regulation of water services, and ensuring flexibility for communities and councils in determining how their water services will be delivered.

As part of the Government's Local Water Done Well reform programme, councils across the country need to prepare and adopt Water Services Delivery Plans (WSDPs) and then submit them to the Secretary for Local Government for approval by September 2025.

As part of the WSDP process, the DCC consulted with you on two potential models for delivering water services.

Following public consultation, Council considered its potential options, and has decided to continue with an in-house model for the future delivery of water services in Ōtepoti Dunedin.

The alternate option was to create a new company to own and manage the city's water assets and services.

## Performing Arts

We are committed to supporting the development of performing arts in the city. Council has made a number of funding decisions to support the renovation of The Playhouse Theatre, The Athenaeum and seed funding for a new performing arts facility.

## Grants Review

The DCC grants budget in the 2024/25 financial year totalled \$13.6m. We are currently undertaking a review of our grants, that will cover around \$6.6m of grants funding that we provide to community groups and other organisations. The remaining \$7m of the total grants funding is paid to Tūhura Otago Museum and Dunedin Venues Management Limited and is not covered in the review.



## Stadium funding for major events

The DCC provides funding to Dunedin Venues Management Limited (DVML), through its Events Attraction Fund, to assist DVML in securing major events that drive greater economic benefit to Ōtepoti Dunedin and the wider community.

Council has increased funding by \$2m per year to support event attraction at the Forsyth Barr Stadium and Dunedin Centre Town Hall. This funding recognises the challenging environment that the Stadium operates in.

## City Growth

The DCC and ORC signed off a Future Development Strategy (FDS), which will ensure Ōtepoti Dunedin has sufficient housing and business land to meet expected demand over the next 30 years with infrastructure to support anticipated growth.

## Development Contributions

The DCC is expected to continue to experience growth in resident population, visitor numbers, development and economic activity. The DCC must make significant investment in additional assets and services, and assets of greater capacity, in order to meet the demands of growth. The Development Contributions Policy provides a transparent and consistent basis for requiring contributions from developers towards the capital expenditure incurred to provide for growth.



## Reducing Emissions and Adapting to Climate Change

Climate change is already having an impact on Ōtepoti Dunedin. The city is experiencing more frequent extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and increased pressure on local ecosystems. These changes are introducing new risks and challenges for our communities.

While adaptation is necessary, it will only be possible if emissions are also reduced. A low emissions Ōtepoti Dunedin means better local infrastructure, more efficient systems and improved public health, as well as contributing to global climate goals.

The 9 year plan outlines how the DCC is addressing climate change challenges. It includes projections for future climate impacts, specific actions to reduce emissions, and steps to adapt to the anticipated effects of climate change. This approach is designed to be practical, focused on outcomes, and aligned with the city's broader goals for economic and community development.

### IMPLEMENTING THE ZERO CARBON PLAN

Council confirmed a range of projects that will help with reducing emissions. These span the breadth of the Zero Carbon Plan, but there is an emphasis on transport and waste initiatives. In these areas the DCC has direct responsibilities, and an important role to play in unlocking low emissions choices for businesses, families and residents.

Following improvements on Princes and Albany Streets, from 2027-28 a further \$67.71m of investment will be used to fill gaps in cycle and pedestrian networks in the central city, close to schools, and in neighbourhood centres. Initiatives include a bridge between the city centre and the harbour, improved bus priority and better bus stops. Taken together, these projects will significantly improve accessibility and transport choice, and reduce transport emissions.

Projects that will reduce emissions from waste include better resource recovery facilities in improved gas capture at Green Island landfill.

While all this is going on, we'll keep working with our partners to support their emissions reduction efforts and initiatives – and Council has committed to reporting publicly every year on progress.

### ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

We are developing a citywide climate resilience framework to guide Council and communities as they make decisions about how to respond to climate change hazards.

These hazards threaten Council and community infrastructure and can cause major disruption to people's lives and livelihoods – and many of them are expected to get worse with the growing impacts of climate change.

Areas of concern include communities that live near the coast or waterways, flat and low-lying areas, and the effects of drought on inland catchments.



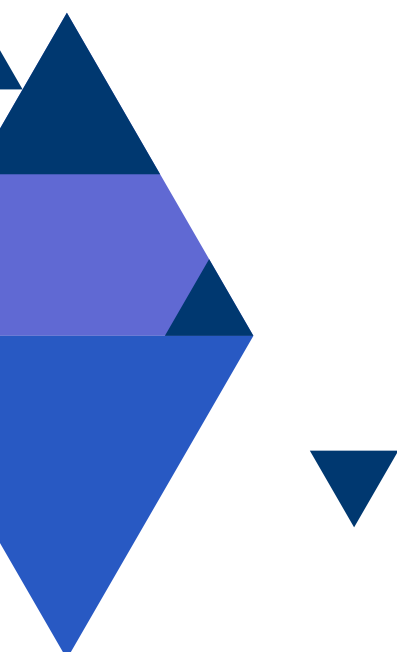
## South Dunedin Future

Adapting to the impacts of a changing climate is a big challenge. South Dunedin Future (SDF) is a programme aimed at better understanding how our environment is changing, considering how that will affect us, and looking at what we can do about it. In March this year, the SDF programme released two major reports which analyse the risks facing this low-lying area of our city and the options for responding to them. The reports are key building blocks for making a long-term climate adaptation plan for South Dunedin.

The potential adaptation futures for South Dunedin show there are a range of things that we can do to make South Dunedin both safer and better. This includes building new infrastructure like pumps, pipes, and seawalls, using nature-based solutions like streams, parks, and wetlands; and by moving people out of harm's way.

Extensive community engagement has been undertaken on these futures with a wide range of stakeholders. The feedback received will be combined with more technical work and economic analysis over the next two years to produce a long-term climate adaptation plan by December 2026. Affected communities and other stakeholders will have further opportunities to have their say before final decisions are made by Council.





## Resource Management Act and Building Systems Reform

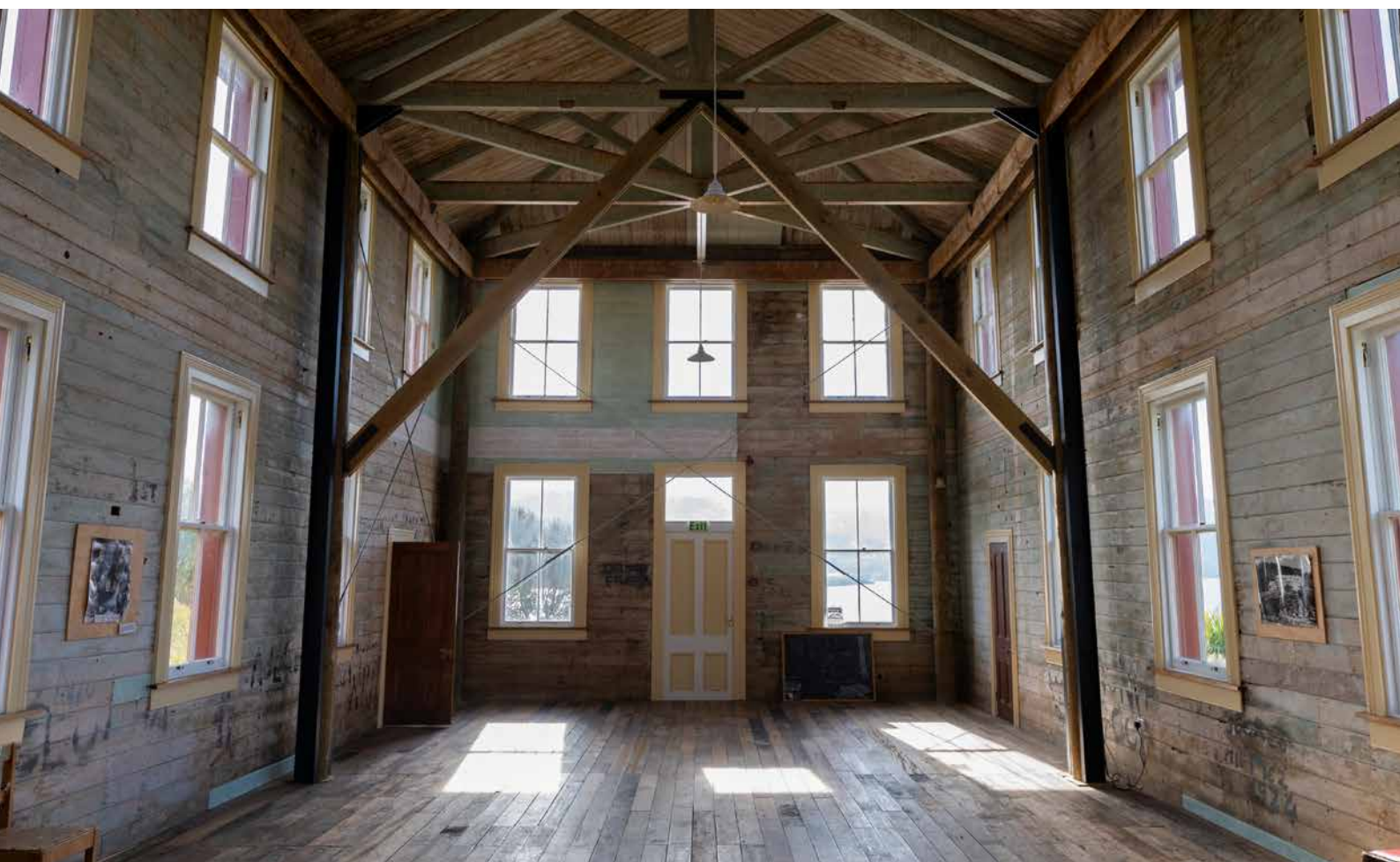
The central Government reform agenda continues to be a priority for councils across the country. There is a significant amount of change expected for the local government sector in the next two to three years which will impact the strategic environment.

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

Central Government proposes introducing two new Acts into the House to replace the Resource Management Act before the end of this year. The new legislation will provide for greater standardisation, while still maintaining local decision making over the things that matter. A Planning Act will focus on the use, development, and enjoyment of land, and a Natural Environment Act on the use, protection, and enhancement of the natural environment. A key part of the change is to merge the District and Regional Plans into one plan for each region. For Otago that represents six Councils.

### BUILDING ACT AND SYSTEM

Central Government is making changes to the building consenting system and the Building Act. These include requiring Building Consent Authorities (BCAs) to complete 80% of building inspections within three working days, allowing granny flats of up to 70 square metres to be built without building or resource consents, discussion on options to replace the current BCA system, and an opt-in self-certification scheme that allows approved building firms, plumbers and drainlayers to sign off their own work without needing a BCA to approve a building consent and carry out inspections.







# Financials

The background image shows three people (two men and one woman) sitting at a table in an outdoor or semi-outdoor dining area. They are eating and talking. The table is set with plates of food, a pepper grinder, and a small orange container. The background wall is dark and textured, with a large mural of stylized green and white plants. The overall atmosphere is casual and social.

## Compliance with the Financial Strategy

The table below shows how the Council has complied with the Financial Strategy in the three years from 2022/23 to 2024/25.

	2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	Limit \$000	Actual \$000	Limit \$000	Actual \$000	Limit \$000	Forecast \$000
<b>Rates Income</b>	191,664	191,150	205,077	203,946	216,766	239,021
<b>Rate Increase</b>	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%	6.7%	6.5%	17.5%
<b>Gross Debt</b>	759,818	460,273	801,598	590,473	838,755	662,173

Budgeted rates income is generally set within the limits imposed by the Financial Strategy. These budgets are set at the end of May each year based on properties held in the Rating Information Database at that time.

Changes to this database can occur between May and June due in part to the addition of new properties. This results in the actual rates levied being higher than budget.

## Debt

As at 30 June 2024, Dunedin City Council had total gross debt of \$590.473 million. This is forecasted to increase to \$662.173 million by 30 June 2025. This is compliant with Council's financial strategy which sets a debt limit of 250% of total revenue. According to Dunedin City Council's projected 9 year plan 2025-34, total debt is forecasted to increase to \$1.035 billion by 30 June 2029.

## Return on Investments

The Council holds a range of investments, including Council-owned companies, investment property and the Waipori Fund. These investments are designed to provide ongoing non-rates income over the medium to long term as well as a partial offset to gross debt. A primary objective of the Waipori Fund is to grow the fund's base value, while maintaining an agreed cash distribution to Council.

The table below shows whether the financial targets for investments, as specified in the financial strategy, were achieved.

	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast
<b>Council-owned companies</b>			
Income of \$5.9m per annum	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
<b>Waipori Fund</b>			
Inflation adjust the fund	Not Achieved	Not Achieved	Achieved
Cash distribution to Council	Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Achieved
<b>Investment property portfolio</b>			
Return greater than weighted average cost of funds	Not Achieved	Not Achieved	Achieved



# Funding Impact Statement


	Actual 2023 \$000	Actual 2024 \$000	Annual Plan 2025 \$000	Long Term Plan 2026 \$000	Long Term Plan 2027 \$000	Long Term Plan 2028 \$000	Long Term Plan 2029 \$000
<b>Sources of operating funding</b>							
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	110,994	120,280	134,824	145,832	159,320	173,673	190,952
Targeted rates	81,389	85,319	105,498	120,064	135,456	153,125	161,583
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	17,097	13,511	12,425	12,266	12,110	11,075	11,393
Fees and charges	65,698	72,106	73,527	77,515	79,314	82,101	84,838
Interest and dividends from investments	14,676	20,851	20,931	19,327	19,695	22,068	22,338
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	3,163	3,199	3,301	4,058	4,088	4,118	4,146
<b>Total operating funding</b>	<b>293,017</b>	<b>315,266</b>	<b>350,506</b>	<b>379,062</b>	<b>409,983</b>	<b>446,160</b>	<b>475,250</b>
<b>Applications of operating funding</b>							
Payments to staff and suppliers	233,738	243,313	246,329	263,204	270,662	279,922	291,327
Finance costs	15,540	24,203	32,424	29,114	36,286	39,965	43,038
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total applications of operating funding</b>	<b>249,278</b>	<b>267,516</b>	<b>278,753</b>	<b>292,318</b>	<b>306,948</b>	<b>319,887</b>	<b>334,365</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OPERATING FUNDING</b>	<b>43,739</b>	<b>47,750</b>	<b>71,753</b>	<b>86,744</b>	<b>103,035</b>	<b>126,273</b>	<b>140,885</b>
<b>Sources of capital funding</b>							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	32,125	27,376	14,002	22,730	16,762	15,831	16,248
Development and financial contributions	2,839	3,791	3,850	3,856	3,856	3,856	3,856
Increase/(decrease) in debt	126,000	134,754	120,500	121,000	104,065	73,129	74,839
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	161	-	120	120	120	120	120
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total sources of capital funding</b>	<b>161,125</b>	<b>165,921</b>	<b>138,472</b>	<b>147,706</b>	<b>124,803</b>	<b>92,936</b>	<b>95,063</b>
<b>Application of capital funding</b>							
Capital expenditure							
• to meet additional demand	10,814	9,285	11,561	14,829	14,184	16,266	15,595
• to improve the level of service	66,903	79,068	91,331	94,737	90,071	91,833	124,506
• to replace existing assets	129,435	117,452	103,991	121,651	126,255	112,291	95,865
Increase/(decrease) in reserves	-	-	-	(1,713)	(867)	-	-
Increase/(decrease) of investments	(2,288)	7,866	3,342	4,946	(1,805)	(1,181)	(18)
<b>Total applications of capital funding</b>	<b>204,864</b>	<b>213,671</b>	<b>210,225</b>	<b>234,450</b>	<b>227,838</b>	<b>219,209</b>	<b>235,948</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF CAPITAL FUNDING</b>	<b>(43,739)</b>	<b>(47,750)</b>	<b>(71,753)</b>	<b>(86,744)</b>	<b>(103,035)</b>	<b>(126,273)</b>	<b>(140,885)</b>
<b>FUNDING BALANCE</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



# Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June	Actual 2023 \$000	Actual 2024 \$000	Forecast 2025 \$000	Long Term Plan 2026 \$000	Long Term Plan 2027 \$000	Long Term Plan 2028 \$000	Long Term Plan 2029 \$000
<b>Current assets</b>							
Cash and cash equivalents	9,085	8,555	11,355	13,357	13,008	12,042	10,863
Other current financial assets	4,396	13,749	13,426	14,426	15,329	15,464	15,599
Trade and other receivables, inventories and prepayments	28,162	32,425	35,723	36,279	36,037	37,162	38,659
Non current assets held for sale	905	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>42,548</b>	<b>54,729</b>	<b>60,504</b>	<b>64,062</b>	<b>64,374</b>	<b>64,668</b>	<b>65,121</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>							
Other non-current financial assets	200,351	197,292	205,227	206,560	206,518	207,987	209,497
Shares in subsidiary companies	133,789	136,339	138,889	141,794	144,710	147,636	150,571
Investment property	110,520	110,826	111,993	119,563	125,775	128,827	132,432
Property, plant, equipment and intangibles	4,409,284	4,526,146	4,783,762	5,004,505	5,244,698	5,430,132	5,616,119
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>4,853,944</b>	<b>4,970,603</b>	<b>5,239,871</b>	<b>5,472,422</b>	<b>5,721,701</b>	<b>5,914,582</b>	<b>6,108,619</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,896,492</b>	<b>5,025,332</b>	<b>5,300,375</b>	<b>5,536,484</b>	<b>5,786,075</b>	<b>5,979,250</b>	<b>6,173,740</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>							
Trade and other payables	45,644	44,869	44,091	46,869	50,851	54,587	57,320
Revenue received in advance	7,035	6,185	5,658	5,663	5,663	5,663	5,663
Employee entitlements	10,037	11,252	10,799	11,025	11,306	11,597	11,890
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>62,716</b>	<b>62,306</b>	<b>60,548</b>	<b>63,557</b>	<b>67,820</b>	<b>71,847</b>	<b>74,873</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>							
Term loans	460,273	590,473	662,173	783,173	887,239	960,368	1,035,207
Employee entitlements	1,204	1,257	1,246	1,216	1,000	992	984
Provisions	17,321	22,526	22,526	22,526	22,526	22,526	22,526
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>478,798</b>	<b>614,256</b>	<b>685,945</b>	<b>806,915</b>	<b>910,765</b>	<b>983,886</b>	<b>1,058,717</b>
<b>Equity</b>							
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>4,354,978</b>	<b>4,348,770</b>	<b>4,553,882</b>	<b>4,666,012</b>	<b>4,807,490</b>	<b>4,923,517</b>	<b>5,040,150</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>4,896,492</b>	<b>5,025,332</b>	<b>5,300,375</b>	<b>5,536,484</b>	<b>5,786,075</b>	<b>5,979,250</b>	<b>6,173,740</b>





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