

- Ensure ownership continues to offer a unique opportunity to develop a multiple-use city farm park to protect landscape, ecological, cultural and recreational values in conjunction with local Peninsula residents and the wider community.
- Establish an opportunity for community involvement in environmental and recreational development efforts.

### Possible Development Options include:

- Fencing off, protecting and enhancing existing unique bush and other habitats to improve flora and fauna species diversity.
- Recognising existing cultural features (stonewalls, remnant homesteads) and providing for their protection at the same time as enabling visitor access.
- Providing an appropriately sited car parks and information panels to ensure better visitor access.
- Enhancing the existing walkway system to provide for a variety of different grades of walkway, providing access to site features such as Harbour Cone, and linking to other adjoining attractions such as Larnach Castle and the limestone kilns.
- Depending on overall eventual site management, possible promotion of traditional farming activities as a visitor attraction.
- Disposal of strategically less important areas of the property to offset purchase and maintenance costs, and focus efforts on identified values.

### Further Information

For further advice or information regarding any of these issues, please contact the Dunedin City Council on 477 4000.

The Dunedin City Council  
Harbour Cone/  
Hereweka Property

### Got some ideas? Register your interest.

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## The Story so far:

Early in 2008 Dunedin City Council had an opportunity to purchase a property of 328 hectares on the Otago Peninsula extending from Peggy's Hill to Harbour Cone. The property contains valuable historical, ecological, biodiversity and landscape features and was offered for sale as a complete block. The Otago Peninsula Community Board made the initial request for the Council to purchase the land and this was supported by a large number of other organisations and individuals. The purchase was completed on 1 July 2008.

The Council now aims to clearly identify the various ecological, landscape, cultural, recreational and amenity values and put in place an environmentally sympathetic management regime to protect these for the benefit of the wider community and visitors to the Peninsula.

## Description of the landscape:

The property extends from Peggy's Hill in the south west to Harbour Cone in the north east. Both of these significant features are over 300 metres high. Highcliff Road passes through the centre of the property along the ridge linking the two elevated parts of the site, with the long broad catchment of Smiths Creek falling to the north towards Broad Bay, and the Stewart's Creek catchment extending on the southern side of the ridge, draining to Hoopers Inlet further east.

The physical features, notably Harbour Cone, can be seen from many locations around the Peninsula and across Otago Harbour, with some of the most panoramic views from the popular Highcliff Road route.

## Site Importance:

With its unique mix of rural and natural character values, this area of land is an important centre-piece for the Peninsula. Had it been sold off in smaller lots its current open rural character could have been lost to encroachment by inappropriate building and uses. It has unique ecological features which need to be managed carefully. There are significant cultural and amenity features which will become increasingly important as attractions for residents and tourists. These will need to be preserved and enhanced as visitor appreciation of the Peninsula increases.

## Key Values:

- *Open, "intact", "coherent" rural character.*  
This landscape has unique values relating to its uninterrupted scale.
- *Significant landmark topographical features*  
Harbour Cone and Peggy's Hill.
- *Highly visible and representative landscape*  
The property is the centre-piece of views from both around the Peninsula and from other Dunedin locations.
- *Significant Ecological and Biodiversity Values*  
While yet to be fully investigated, preliminary work suggests significant values including:

- Broad-leaved low indigenous forest remnant areas and streams providing habitat for rare and endangered species
- High botanical and fauna species diversity
- Linkages to adjoining vegetated areas, some of which are covenanted.

- *Acknowledged cultural, heritage and historic features*  
Excellent examples of early dry-stone walls and remains of early farm buildings. There is also considerable spiritual and cultural significance for Kai Tahu.
- *Existing and potential recreational features*  
Existing walkways from Bacon Street and from Highcliff Road to Hoopers Inlet. Potential for several linked walkways over other parts of the site.

## Site Potential:

Community ownership of the Harbour Cone property offers many advantages so the Council has moved to:

- Set up a steering group to comprehensively assess all values of the site, and provide advice to the Council for their long term protection.
- Develop a long-term management plan with a focus on positive outcomes for the entire city.
- Establish a sound position from which to respond to future changes, for the benefit of the city.

