



The Chief Executive
Dunedin City Council
22nd April 2022

21/04/2023

Submission to Dunedin City Council Annual Plan - 2023 - 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to this year's Annual Plan, year 3 of the long-term plan 2021 - 2031. We recognise that not much has changed from a funding perspective in the past year. Our comments below are in no particular order of importance, but all of the topics are important to the North Coast Communities which we represent.

1. Water

I was pleased to receive a briefing recently from the 3 Waters team about the upgrade of the Waikouaiti water treatment plant. It seems that all work will be essentially complete in the fourth quarter of this year. Following testing and pre-commissioning, the upgraded system should be 'live' in the first quarter of next year, something that will be welcomed by the residents of Waikouaiti, Karitane and Hawksbury Village.

2. Sewerage

In our submissions over the past few years we laid out some detailed questions and concerns regarding the wastewater disposal situation in the North Coast communities.

We have yet to receive a comprehensive response to our questions.

3. Recycling and Waste Minimisation

'One Coast'

From modest beginnings at a public meeting in Waikouaiti around five years ago, 'One Coast' has grown into a significant local entity which has the stated aim of providing first-class recycling and composting facilities in the Waikouaiti area. We are grateful for the support provided thus far from DCC, and we ask that this support continues throughout the 10-year plan. It is a stated aim of 'One Coast' to develop a facility of which the City and the local community can be proud.

Rural Skip Days

We are grateful for the implementation of the 'Skip Days' at Warrington Domain and we request that this valuable service is continued.

4. Reserves

Truby King Reserve

It is pleasing that the revised Truby King Reserve Management Plan was accepted by Council and I am pleased to advise that we worked with the Parks & Recreation Department to establish a working committee which is making good progress with the much-needed enhancement of this valuable Council asset. If you have not yet been there, can I suggest that you set aside some time in the coming year to visit this amazing place.

Mount Watkin (Hikaroroa) Recreation Reserve

Next year we will be bringing to your attention that the Reserve Management Plan for this rather special area (inland from Waikouaiti) is 12 years out of date. We are in dialogue with a group who have embarked on a significant pest management plan, and we will be working with them with a view to making significant improvements to this area.

5. Recreation Facilities

In next year's Long-Term Plan, we will be making detailed requests for much needed recreation facilities in our North Coast Communities, including requests we made in last year's Annual Plan submission.

Moana Gow Swimming Pool

We are grateful for the annual financial support which is given to this valuable community asset. We understand that a review of community swimming pools is being carried out and we would be keen to be part of the conversation about the continuation of the pool facility, in conjunction with the Moana Gow Committee.

6. Transport

Bus Services

It was pleasing that, after many years of requests, the new weekend service on Route 1 Palmerston - Dunedin was implemented. It is being well supported and we will be in conversation with Otago Regional Council about some minor tweaks to the timetable.

It is also interesting that we are now finding ourselves in the situation of bus overcrowding at times on this route during weekdays. We are in discussion with ORC about resolving this.

Road Safety - State Highway 1

It was pleasing to see that NZTA installed our requested Driver Feedback Sign at the northern entrance to Waikouaiti. We understand that design work is underway to establish the best location for a similar sign at the southern entrance to the town. There is still much concern in the community about safe pedestrian access across the very busy main road in Waikouaiti. We ask for DCC support in our endeavours to get NZTA to give this issue some serious consideration.

Road Safety - Local Roads

We have previously requested Road Safety Assessments to be carried out on Beach Street, Waikouaiti and on Doctors Point Road, Waitati. We are hosting a community meeting shortly where all aspects of traffic on Beach Street will be discussed.

Travel Choices

We have noticed many comments emanating from DCC encouraging cycling and walking, and reducing the number of cars on the road. We acknowledge that this is possible around the flat areas of the city, but hardly practicable for elderly residents who live on the hill suburbs, and completely not applicable for the residents of our North Coast Communities.

During next year's update to the 10-Year Plan we would like to see the implementation of 'Park & Ride' facilities at the northern and southern extremes of the city. This is very common overseas and could easily link into a bus loop service, either free or low cost, that would take people where they need/want to go.

Cycleways

We ask for DCC to join with ORC in supporting the volunteer groups that have been formed to make progress on the project to link the Waitaki cycleway, through Waikouaiti, and southwards to Dunedin City.

Issues in the City

We do not support the concept of changing the current 'One-way Pair' of roads on State Highway 1 through the city to a two-way system. In our view this would have huge negative effects.

Parking in the city

Until practical alternatives are provided, it is unlikely that there will be a substantial reduction in the number of cars travelling into the city. It is evident that more parking will be required, likely in the form of at least one multi-storey car park building, and we would support this.

Road & Footpath Maintenance

Despite the implementation of the recent 10-year maintenance contract, there are still issues that occur from time to time, and we enjoy a good working relationship with DCC staff. We ask that there will be no reduction in maintenance budgets.

7. Our Coastal Environment

We fully understand that the issues surrounding St. Clair, Middle & St. Kilda beaches have had to take precedence over other areas, but we do ask that the North Coast area is not forgotten. Erosion is happening along Karitane Beach and Waikouaiti Beach which will eventually require potentially expensive maintenance & repair to rock walls and the adjacent roads.

In Karitane there is a DCC-owned asset that has been completely neglected for many years. It is the Fishermen's Wharf at the corner of Rona Street and Old Head Street. A recent Engineer's Report has highlighted some structural issues that require attention in the very near future. This rectification work will be expensive and may not already be included in your 10-Year Plan budgets.

We have also become aware of a sand bar that has formed at the entrance to Karitane Harbour, preventing safe passage at times for commercial or pleasure vessels. We have prepared a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation on this topic and we are in the process of presenting this to all communities of interest. The presentation discusses causes and likely remedies.

8. Emergency Management and Preparedness.

In recent years a good deal of work has gone into forming Community Response Groups with a view to improving local resilience in the event of any natural adverse events, much of this carried out in consultation with Emergency Management Otago. However, we are disappointed that there appears to be a bit of a disconnect between Otago Regional Council and Dunedin City Council in this regard and, at the time of writing, we are not sure where things stand between DCC and the Community Response Groups. We are keen to see that this is resolved so that there can be clarity within our communities about who will do what when nature throws its periodic tantrums. The recent report into the response to the flooding issues in Auckland makes for interesting reading and provides much food for thought.

9. Amenity

Waikouaiti is the 'Birthplace of Otago' and is at the northern entrance to the wider City of Dunedin, yet its appearance is a bit tired and shabby. We seek the input of an Urban Designer who could work with the local POWA organisation, and with 'Keep Dunedin Beautiful', to make progress in presenting this northern extremity of the city in a better light. We will be asking for funding to be included in the next iteration of the 10-Year Plan to implement the design concepts which could be brought to fruition in a comparatively short space of time.

10. Planning

We made these comments below in our submission last year and we repeat them here.

The Future of the North Coast

Parts of the 2GP threw up more questions than answers about our North Coast area. We seek a meeting with appropriate staff to look in some detail about what might be proposed for our area in the way of population expansion. Such an issue would obviously involve a fairly detailed look at current and proposed infrastructure, such as water, roading, sewerage and land availability. The potential effects of Climate Change would have to be factored into any decisions that might be made. We would like to have a fairly detailed conversation with staff during the first year of the upcoming long term plan so that there can be some clarity about what might be expected in the

following years. We also have a real concern about building consents being issued in areas that are prone to flooding now, and will only get worse in the years to come.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to make this submission. I wish to be heard in support of it at your upcoming hearings. I am not available on 1st May. Some time after 11.00 am on 2nd May would suit me.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alasdair Morrison', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alasdair Morrison
Chairman
Waikouaiti Coast Community Board
