



Submission to the Dunedin City Council on the draft Annual Plan 23/24

On behalf of Big Street Bikers

Big Street Bikers is an Aotearoa owned company based in Tāmaki Makarau. We are a social enterprise accredited by the Akina Foundation focused on removing the barriers to the rapid, widespread and equitable uptake of ebikes across Aotearoa. We aim to achieve this through physical infrastructure for secure bike parking and charging data insights as well as financial infrastructure that allows everyone in Aotearoa the opportunity to have access to or afford an ebike through both subsidised and commercial ebike subscription services.

Big Street Bikers has embarked on the nation-wide rollout of a network of free, secure bike parking and recharging stations known as Locky Docks with partnership funding from Waka Kotahi and Mercury sponsorship. Locky Docks are a public amenity that is both free to the council and free to the user and bring many benefits. Independent research* shows that a network of 10 Locky Dock stations reduces vehicle kilometres travelled by 250,000 a year and contributes a net social benefit of \$32 million to the region over a 30 year period. This impact is from reduced air pollution, reduced carbon emissions and increased health benefits. * (*Locky Dock - a Cost Benefit Analysis, Sense Partners, commissioned by Big Street Bikers, February 2022*).

Locky Dock sites with digital screens provide a medium for storytelling and sharing of council communications and a climate positive media network to engage the public. They also provide bike path wayfinding for new bikers and allows Big Street Bikers to cover the capex and opex of the Locky Docks. Locky Docks enable more people to ride more often; people are more likely to use their bike when they have secure bike parking at their destination.

In Dunedin, Big Street Bikers is currently working with the University of Otago to install a network of Locky Docks on campus. Other Dunedin sites are being explored through our partnership with The Warehouse and Investore Properties (Countdown). The first Locky Dock will be installed in May funded by Big Street Bikers and the University.

Big Street Bikers has been appointed to be one of the providers of secure bike parking and an e-bike fleet for contractors working on the new Dunedin Hospital as a way of reducing congestion and emissions for the project.

As the council will be aware, the Shaping Future Dunedin Transport work programme, approved in the LTP, funding was provided to create Central City Bike Hubs. Locky Docks feature in the Bike Hub Prospectus that went out for consultation last year. We welcome the opportunity to continue working with Dunedin City Council to provide free secure bike parking and e-charging stations.

Big Street Bikers congratulates Dunedin City Council on the decisions and investments made in safer streets and cycle-friendly infrastructure, and the way they contribute to social and environmental wellbeing, building more livable and climate friendly cities.

Infrastructure investment that gives locals the opportunity to switch short expensive car trips to an easy bike ride is one of the most effective ways of reducing household transport costs. All residents benefit from a transport network that supports an urban lifestyle where short trips by bike or on foot are the norm. More trips by e-bike lead to cleaner, safer, more business friendly streets, and more resilient communities.

It is an investment that will pay long term dividends for the future with less pollution, emissions reductions, healthier and safer neighbourhoods and reduced costs on business and maintenance costs for wear and tear on local roads.

We're aware that council deferred projects from its Urban Cycleways programme, focusing instead on the elements that had been designed and were ready to be delivered. Any network functions best when it is connected, and we would encourage council to be working now to identify those critical missing links; designing solutions for them; and putting them forward for funding through the LTP and RLTP processes.

We applaud the council for the ambition it has around meaningful climate action, and look forward to seeing the Draft Climate Action Plan which is currently underway. We also need to work together - as businesses, individuals, and institutions - to get the best long term outcomes out of significant investments (particularly in transport).

In providing feedback to the Annual Plan 23/24 process and looking ahead to the 10 year plan, Big Street Bikers requests Dunedin City Council support:

- the installation of Locky Docks to create a network of connected “villages” of secure e-bike parking and recharging stations - at no cost to council
- low traffic neighbourhoods and reduced traffic speeds around schools and shops
- the SH88 Shared Path to Port Chalmers and ongoing maintenance
- delivery of the Peninsula Connection Shared Path, the George St upgrades as part of the Central City Plan and delivery of the Albany St cycle connection
- bringing forward the Dunedin Tunnels Trail project
- advocating to government for an e-bike subsidy scheme to put e-bikes into targeted groups and low income households to greatly expand the uptake of e-bikes as a viable form of transport especially for short trips

Big Street Bikers would welcome the opportunity to speak to this submission virtually if this option is available.