



Dunedin City Council Annual Plan 2020

**A submission from the
Otago Peninsula Community Board**

Matters of Urgency – Post Covid Submission

The Otago Peninsula finds itself in a significantly different world than it was in at the beginning of 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic has irrevocably changed the business, educational and social structures of our community. The collapse of the tourism industry has been devastating for the Peninsula and Dunedin economy. As a community we are very likely to feel the repercussions of this for a number of years. Combined with the loss of tourism revenue are the effects on other industries across the region, all of which will affect investment, retailing, employment and business development in our community. With this in mind the Otago Peninsula Community Board looks with a high degree of trepidation at the future of our city and our community. Many in our community face uncertainty over employment and business viability and the Otago Peninsula Community Board recognises that this will mean many will face difficult decisions about their futures. There must be at least a 12-month period to allow people to recover mentally, financially and physically from the effects of the pandemic. Therefore, the Otago Peninsula Community submits:

1. That the Dunedin City Council continues to maintain only its essential work programmes and maintenance in delivering services to the Otago Peninsula community.
2. That in the interest of our community and our businesses all new planned capital projects (including George St and the Waterfront etc.) be deferred for at least one year while the Council and its communities reassess its priorities post Covid-19.
3. That the 6.5% rate increase and 3% increase for fees and charges for this year be deferred for at least one year while the Council and its communities reassess its priorities post Covid-19.
4. That the Council owned company Aurora be asked to abandon its proposed increase of \$500 per household in line charges in the best interests of the welfare of the community as it rebuilds financially, socially and emotionally from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
5. That the Council owned company Aurora be asked for a significant improvement in their performance over the next 2 years before any changes to line charges affecting the Peninsula community take place.
6. That the City Council retain only all the essential and in progress capital infrastructure spend and look for infrastructure projects where the Government may help fund or partner the City Council.
7. That the City Council urgently review its Destination Plan, Economic Strategy and all marketing and support funding used for the tourism industry to assist the industry in recovery from the pandemic.
8. The City Council urgently bring together representatives of the tourism, biodiversity accommodation and hospitality industry to formulate a working recovery plan for the benefit of the industry in Dunedin.

Otago Peninsula Community Submission Matters

The Board has over the last 12 months worked extensively with the community identifying the priorities and aspirations of the Peninsula Community. From that work the Board submits the following:

1. The Board seeks the continuation and completion of the Peninsula Connection Project in the best interests of safety and to enhance the potential recovery of the tourism industry.
2. The completion of the Otakou/Harington Point Section removed from the current programme in the best interests of safety and to enhance the potential recovery of the tourism industry.
3. The Board have through its work in the community over recent years have identified 3 key pedestrian and residential safety projects in our area region.
 - Macandrew Bay – the use of the beach, position of the public facilities and access to the school requires the development of safe road crossing points.
 - Pukehiki/Highcliff Rd – increased traffic volume, scenic qualities, speed, and a lack of pedestrian facilities has made this area a high priority for this community.
 - Tomahawk Road – the Council began a process which has never been completed. With an additional 50 homes being built in this area improvements around speed and safety is imperative for this community.
4. The creation of a footpath and street drainage upgrade programme for all residential areas of the Otago Peninsula to improve pedestrian safety and in preparation for the effects of sea level rise caused by climate change.
5. The investigation into the sealing of gravel roads in the Back-Bays and Investigation and preparation of plans for the raising of the Back-Bay roads in preparation for the effects of sea level rise caused by climate change.
6. Biodiversity such as the Hoiho (Yellow-eyed Penguin) on the Otago Peninsula are in crisis for a range of reasons. The probability that they may be extinct on the mainland is very real. The Otago Peninsula needs far greater collaborative funding for biodiversity, habitat restoration, science and pest control.
7. Coastal dune protection and management programme that enhances coastal biodiversity and preparation for sea level rise at Te Rauone, Harwood, Smaills, Tomahawk, and Okia beaches.
8. The planting of 100,000 native trees and plants on Council owned reserves to support efforts by biodiversity in our area, to mitigate the effects of tourism air travel and to create employment.
9. The Otago Peninsula needs investment in tourism research to ensure a better understanding of the industry and its economic and environmental effects on the Otago Peninsula. That investment would pay dividends in sound decision making over infrastructural and marketing projects.

10. The installation of public toilets at Tomahawk Beach and the upgrade of the public toilets at Macandrew Bay Hall.
11. The completion of the Grants Braes Community facility.
12. Council and Government support for “shovel ready” projects that will add employment and diversity to our community in:
 - Biodiversity and habitat restoration
 - The Harington Point Gun Emplacements restoration
 - The Tomahawk Gun Emplacements Restoration
 - The Otago Peninsula Tracks Network.

The Otago Peninsula Community thanks Council for the extension of the submission period for the 2020 Annual Plan process and for its time in considering this submission for our community.



Paul Pope - Chairman

On behalf of the Otago Peninsula Community Board

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