
RNZ - Request regarding South Dunedin Future

From 7(2)(a)
Date Wed 2026-06-17 10:17 AM
Cc Official Information <Official.Information@orc.govt.nz>

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Good morning,

I have a request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

- All correspondence between elected members and/or council staff regarding the South Dunedin Future programme in June.

Nga mihi nui,
7(2)(a)

Otago-Southland reporter, Tourism reporter
RNZ, PO Box 329, Dunedin, New Zealand, 9054
Mobile: 7(2)(a)
www.rnz.co.nz



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IRIRANGI
O AOTEAROA

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LGOIMA SR.29910 - All correspondence between elected members and staff regarding the South Dunedin Future programme – Decision

From Customer Services <customerservices@orc.govt.nz>

Date Tue 14/07/2026 11:20 AM

To 7(2)(a)@rnz.co.nz <7(2)(a)@rnz.co.nz>

 10 attachments (18 MB)

LGOIMA SR.29910 Release - Part 10 of 10.pdf; LGOIMA SR.29910 Release - Part 9 of 10.pdf; LGOIMA SR.29910 Release - Part 8 of 10.pdf; LGOIMA SR.29910 Release - Part 7 of 10.pdf; LGOIMA SR.29910 Release - Part 6 of 10.pdf; LGOIMA SR.29910 Release - Part 5 of 10.pdf; LGOIMA SR.29910 Release - Part 4 of 10.pdf; LGOIMA SR.29910 Release - Part 3 of 10.pdf; LGOIMA SR.29910 Release - Part 2 of 10.pdf; LGOIMA SR.29910 Release - Part 1 of 10.pdf;

Kia ora 7(2)(a)

Your official information request received by us 17 June 2026 for "all correspondence between elected members and/or council staff regarding the South Dunedin Future programme in June" has been granted.

The information you have requested is attached, in 10 parts.

Information has been withheld in order to protect the privacy of natural persons in accordance with section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Proactive Release

Council has published this LGOIMA.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us by return email.

Kā mihi,

7(2)(a)



Legal

legal@orc.govt.nz



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From: Governance
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2026 10:20 a.m.
To: Councillors; GM Team
Subject: Presentations for 10-11 June 2026

Kia ora

Presentations for next week are now available in Diligent. Please note that the South Dunedin future presentation will be sent out on Monday 8 June.

Wed 10 June 11.30 am – Review of Public Transport Fare Capping and Zones

Presentation: [Review of public transport fare capping and zones](#)

- The focus of the briefing is the slides up to and including slide 29. They are the fare zones and capping slides that set out the detail for a paper coming to Council at the end of June. The paper will seek approval to commence consultation on these two topics.
- The slides from slide 30 – 46 are background/contextual slides about PT. They were developed in response to questions from Councillors about PT. If you have any questions about these slides, please send them through to Cr Somerville and Cr Hollyer separately. They will collate and send to staff to respond.

Wed 10 June 1:45 pm - Otago Deep Water Lakes Research and Monitoring Proposal

Presentation: [Otago Deep Water Lakes Research and Monitoring Proposal](#)

- Background reports have been supplied in the Background subfolder in Diligent
[Council report 4 Dec 2024](#)
[Council report 4 Jun 2025](#)
[ORC response letter to PCE 6 Dec 2022](#)
[PCE letter 1 Dec 2022](#)
[Understanding and protecting Otago deepwater lakes Feb 2021](#)

Wed 10 June 3.30 pm – South Dunedin Future (public-excluded)

- To be distributed Monday 8 June

Thu 11 June 9:00 am – Flood and Drainage Rates Review (public-excluded)

Presentation: [Flood and Drainage Rates Review](#)

Thu 11 June 10:45 am - Council's RMA Compliance Plan 2026-2031

Presentation: [Compliance Plan Review](#)

[Materials for workshop](#)
[ORC Compliance Plan 2023-2026 \(Website Jan 2026\)](#)

Ngā mihi

7(2)(a)



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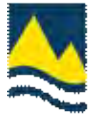
From: Governance
Sent: Monday, 8 June 2026 9:39 a.m.
To: Councillors
Cc: GM Team; Jonathan Rowe
Subject: Presentation - Proposed South Dunedin Futures - Public Excluded
Attachments: Presentation - Council Workshop on 3 Proposed Futures for South Dunedin (10 June 2026) .pdf

Good morning, Councillors

Please find attached the confidential presentation regarding the Proposed South Dunedin Futures for 10 June. This is now viewable in our Resource Centre (sync first) in Diligent: [LINKED HERE](#)

Best regards

7(2)(a)



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From: Jonathan Rowe 7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 8 June 2026 8:34 am
To: Governance <Governance@orc.govt.nz>; Governance Support Officers <governance.support@dcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sandy Graham <Sandy.Graham@dcc.govt.nz>; Scott MacLean <Scott.MacLean@dcc.govt.nz>; David Ward <David.Ward@dcc.govt.nz>; Richard Saunders <Richard.Saunders@orc.govt.nz>; Anita Dawe <Anita.Dawe@orc.govt.nz>; Tom Dyer <Tom.Dyer@orc.govt.nz>; 7(2)(a); 7(2)(a)
Subject: Presentation for SDF workshop with Crs on Wednesday

[Caution: External Email] This email originated from outside ORC. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Use the Phish Alert Button to report this email if you think it is suspicious.

Kia ora koutou,

Please find attached the final version of the presentation to be circulated to Councillors ahead of the non-public South Dunedin Future workshops on Wednesday.

Attached is the pdf version, but I'll bring a ppt version to each session, so I can work through the animations.

Kā mihi / Best regards,

Jonathan

South Dunedin Future Programme

Page 3 of 103

Council Presentation: 3 Proposed Adaptation Futures (10 June 2026)



South Dunedin Future Programme

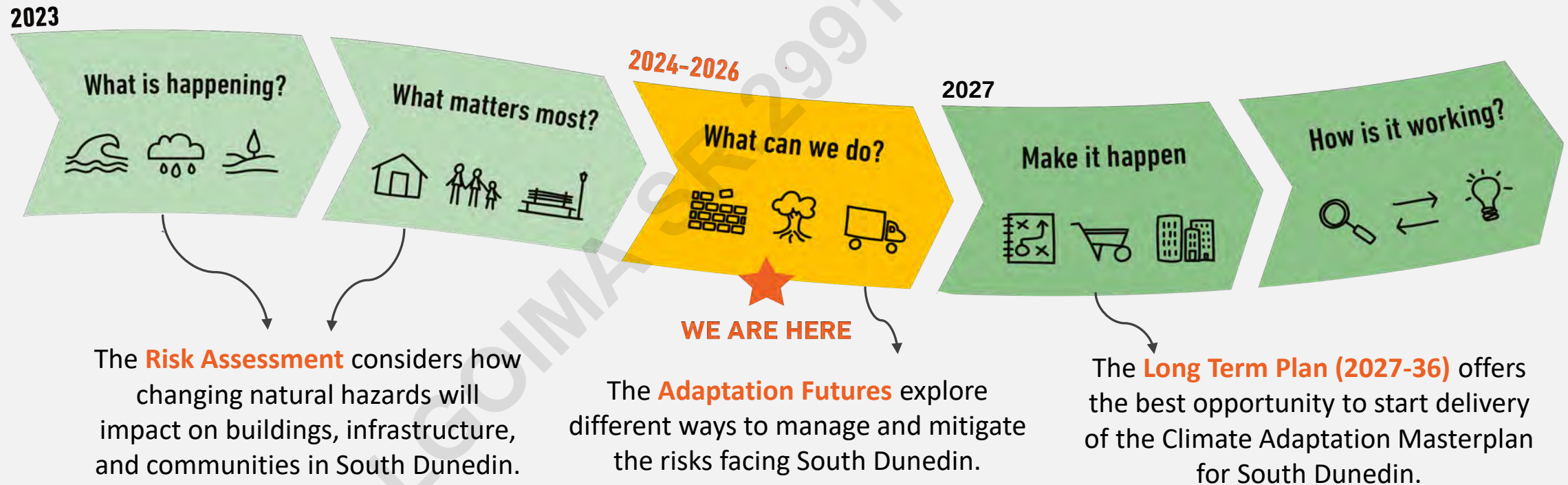
Councillor Presentation / Workshop - Agenda

1. South Dunedin Future Programme - Overview
2. South Dunedin - History, hazards, risks and climate impacts
3. Shortlisting from 7 potential Adaptation Futures
4. 3 Proposed Adaptation Futures
5. Reports to Councils
6. Planned communications and community engagement
7. Final stage of SDF programme and transition to implementation
8. Q and A
9. Links to previous SDF Council reporting

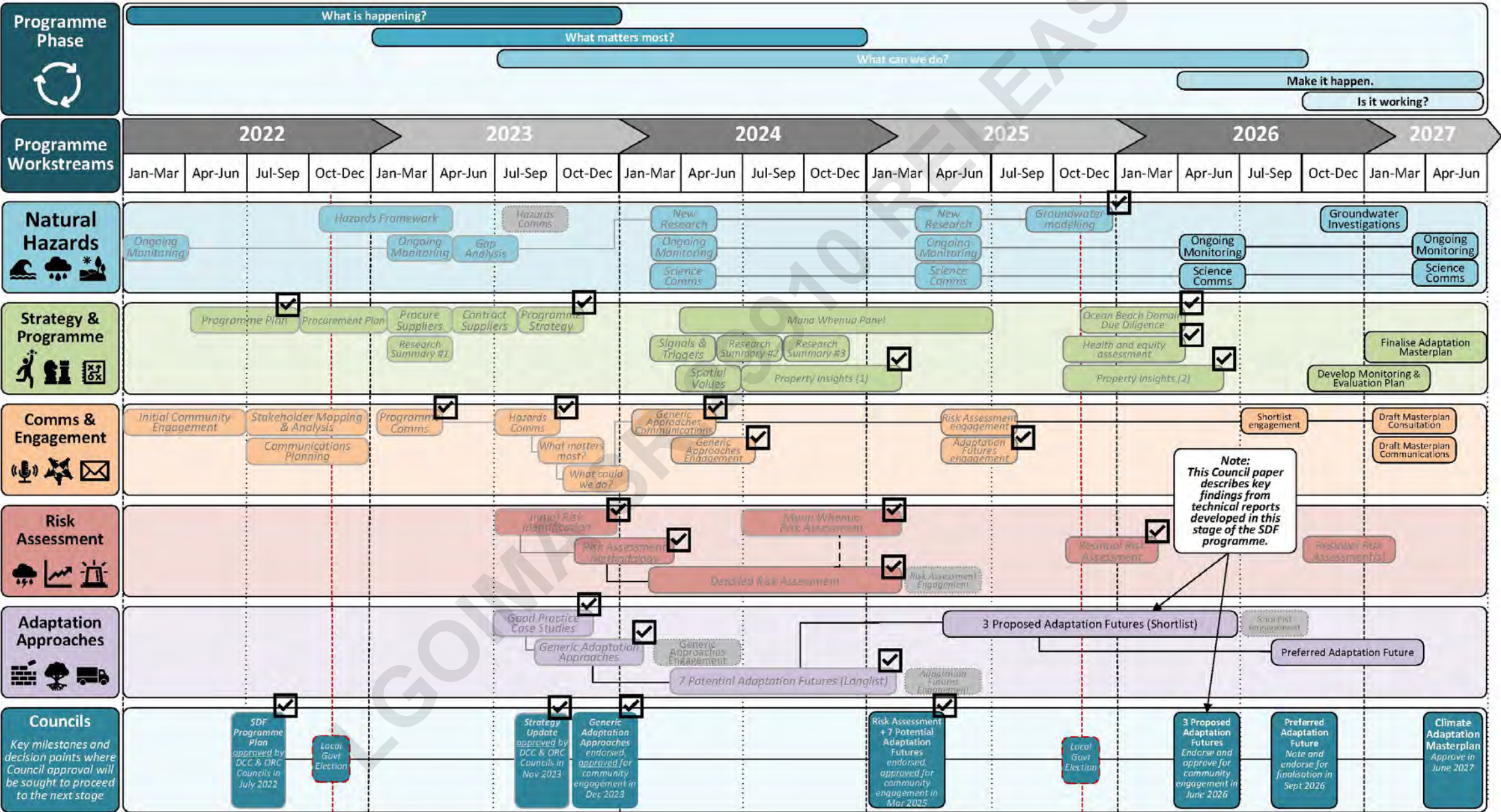
South Dunedin Future Programme

South Dunedin Future – Background and Overview

- Impact of climate change on South Dunedin has been studied by the DCC and ORC since the late 2000s.
- In 2021, Councils establish a joint initiative to develop a climate adaptation plan for South Dunedin.
- The vision for the SDF programme is: “A **safer and better** South Dunedin, where sustainable urban regeneration leads to improved community resilience and wellbeing”.*



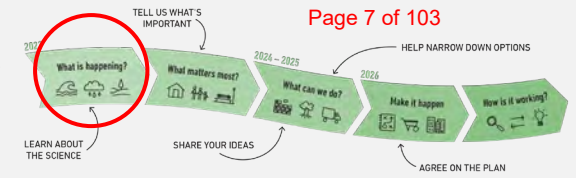
South Dunedin Future Programme



South Dunedin Future Programme

Why are councils undertaking this work?

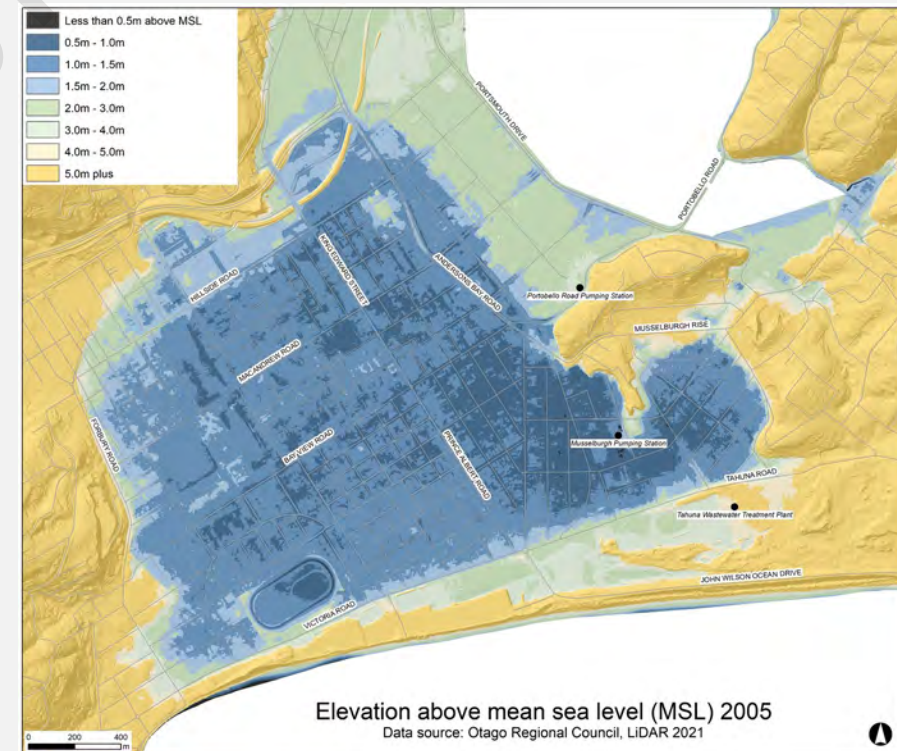
- South Dunedin is a **complex, multi-hazard environment**, linked to its location on a low-lying flat, at the bottom of a large water catchment, adjacent to the harbour and ocean.
- This **area has been highly modified** over the past 180 years, turning marshy vegetated wetlands into a densely populated urban environment and basin with no natural outflow for water.



Overlay of South Dunedin geography circa 1850



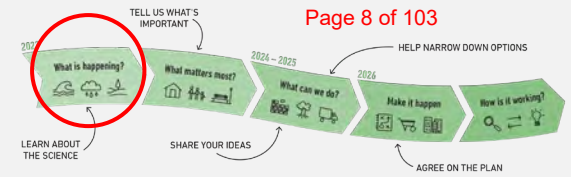
The geography of South Dunedin at present day



South Dunedin Future Programme

Why are councils undertaking this work?

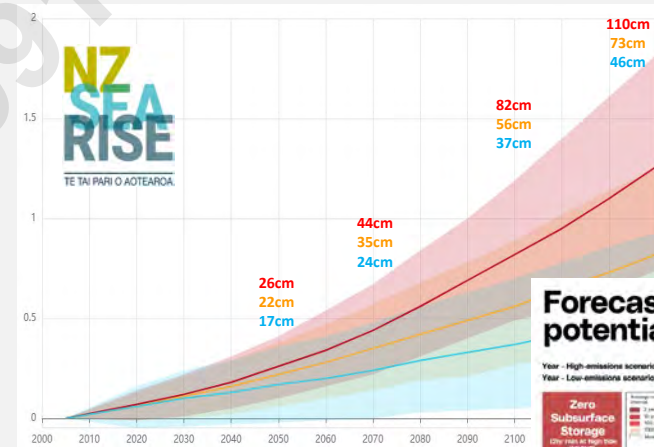
- There is a **history for flooding** in South Dunedin, with records stretching back to the 1920s. A significant flood event in 2015 was the genesis for South Dunedin Future. The last significant flood was in 2024.
- Flood risk is expected to increase** over time linked to rising sea levels, rising groundwater, and more intense rainfall. This is compounded by ageing infrastructure, increasing impermeable surfaces, and ongoing urban development.



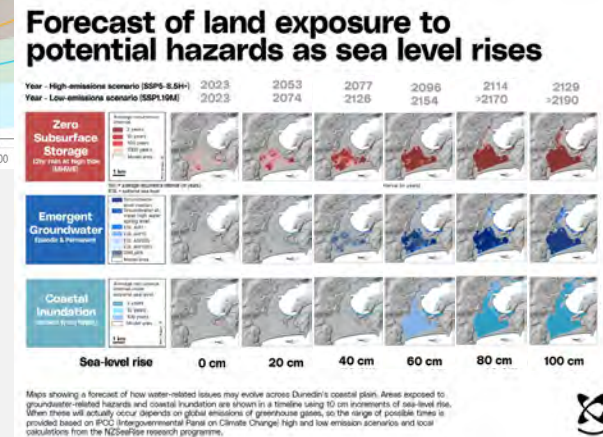
April 1923

June 2015

October 2024



Source: The NZ SeaRise Project, [link](#).



Source: Dunedin groundwater; Cox, S. et al. (2023) [link](#)

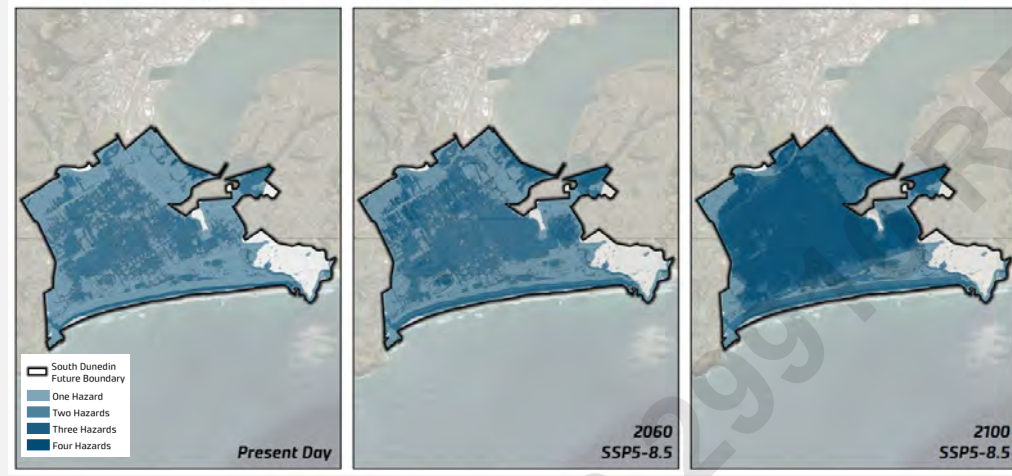
South Dunedin Future Programme

Overview of South Dunedin Risk Assessment.

- South Dunedin is a **complex multi-hazard environment**. Many hazards will increase with the impacts of climate change.
- South Dunedin is also a **high-risk environment**, with increasing hazards expected to materially increase risk to buildings, infrastructure, and communities.
- **Risks are interlinked and cascading**, depending on location, hazard, and element.

Hazard Extents

Coastal Erosion, Coastal Inundation, Emergent Groundwater, Landslide, Liquefaction & Pluvial Flooding



Summary of Risks to South Dunedin

Buildings, Parks & Transport

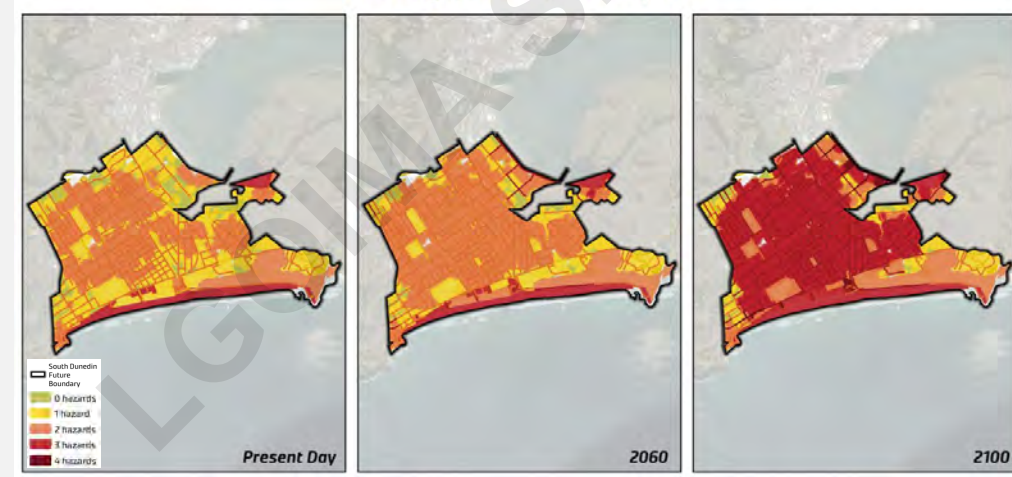


Figure 5.7 Building risk due to pluvial flooding aggregated to SA1 units

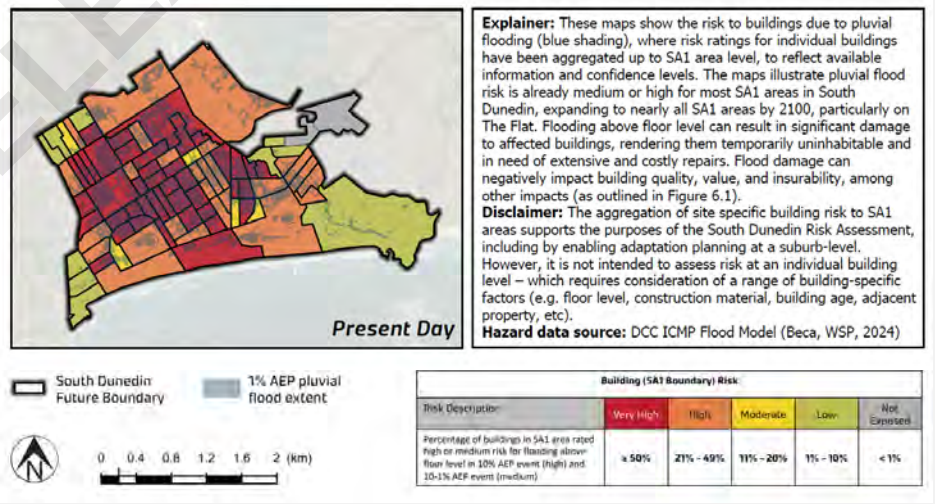
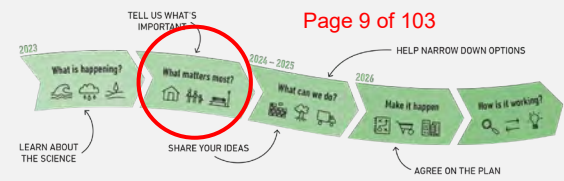
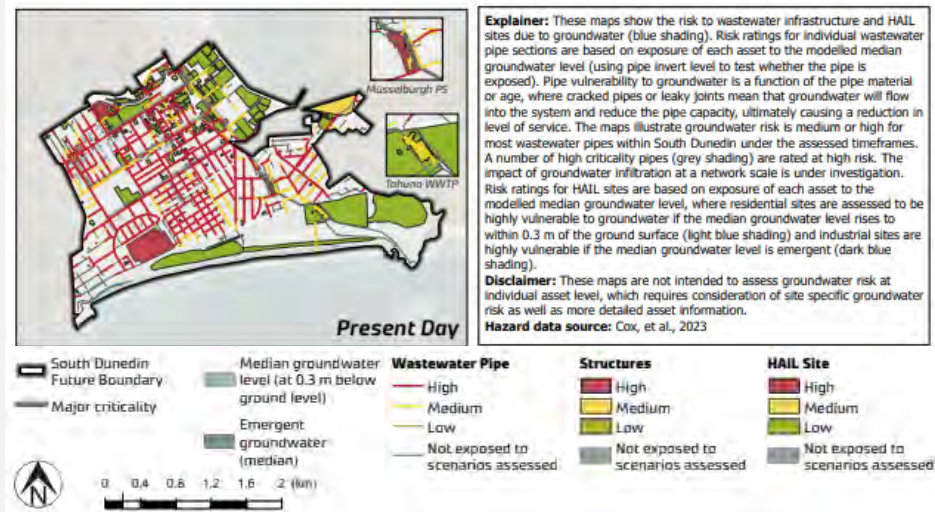


Figure 5.43 Wastewater infrastructure and contaminated land (HAIL sites) risk due to groundwater



South Dunedin Future Programme

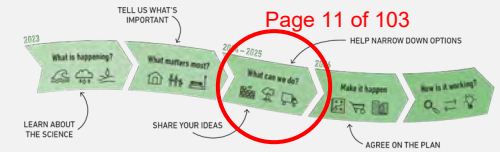
Shortlisting from 7 to 3 Futures

- Shortlisting from 7 potential to 3 proposed adaptation futures
- Community feedback and technical assessments
- Selecting and finetuning the shortlist



South Dunedin Future Programme

7 Potential Adaptation Futures (Overview)



Present day



1 – Status quo



2 Keep land dry – pipes + pumps



3 Keep land dry – elevating land and pumping water



Keep doing what we're doing

Building infrastructure to keep water out

4 Space for water – waterways + wetlands



5 Space for water – waterways + raised land



6 Let water in – relocate to raised land



7 Let water in – large scale managed retreat

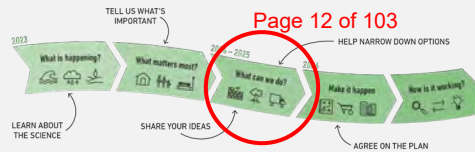


Mix of infrastructure, green space, moving people

Progressively moving people out of harm's way

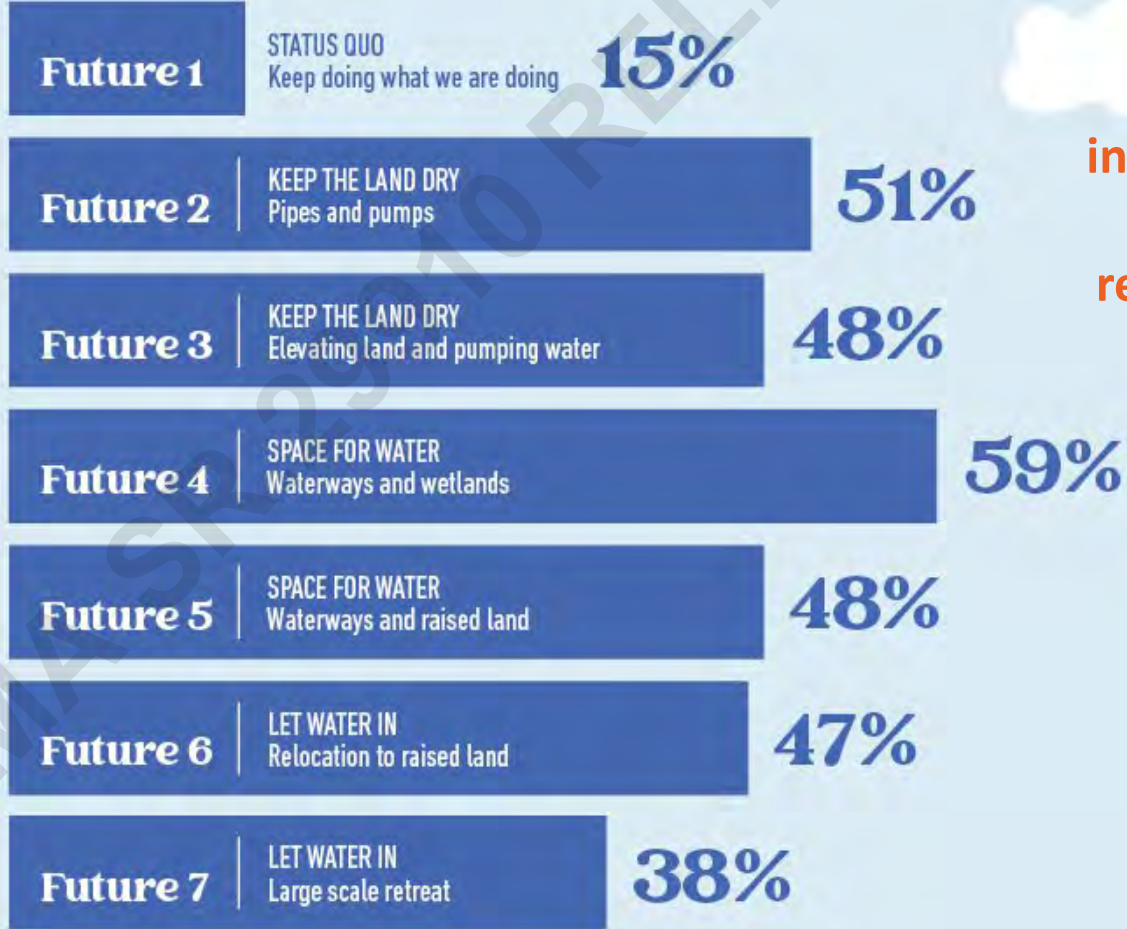
South Dunedin Future Programme

What did the community say?



% OF PEOPLE THAT AGREE THIS FUTURE TAKES DUNEDIN IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

South Dunedin Future

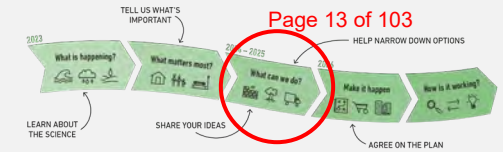


“Build more infrastructure in the short term to reduce present day flood risk.”

“We want more information about any potential managed retreat process, including buy-outs.”

South Dunedin Future Programme

What did the technical specialists say?

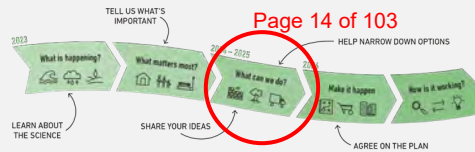


- **Multi-criteria assessment** of 7 futures against strategic objectives and decision-making framework previously approved by Councils.
- Involved technical and economic assessments by council staff, Aukaha (representing Kāi Tahu), and consultant teams.
- Incorporated community engagement results.

Objective	Criteria	Future 1	Future 2	Future 3	Future 4	Future 5	Future 6	Future 7
Sustainable Urban Development: Urban development accounts for the changing environment in South Dunedin, providing better spaces for people, water, and wildlife.	Reduce emissions and waste	-3.7	-1.5	-1.2	0.0	-0.2	-1.2	-1.5
	Well-functioning and liveable urban environment	-2.9	-1.0	-0.4	0.7	0.0	-0.1	-0.6
	Promotes water sensitive urban design and enhances amenity	-3.0	-1.4	-1.0	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.0
	Suitable phasing over time	-3.0	0.0	-0.7	2.3	0.7	-1.3	-2.7
Environmental and cultural restoration: Restore and regenerate natural environment, renew urban spaces, and re-energise cultural connections to place	Restore the natural environment	-1.6	-1.7	-0.7	0.6	1.2	-1.9	2.7
	Aligns with Te Taki Hāuru values (Autūrora, Auora, Autaketake, Autakata)	-3.0	-2.0	-1.5	1.5	2.0	0.5	-0.5
	Enhances cultural connections to place	-3.0	-0.5	-1.8	1.3	0.3	-0.8	-0.8
Just transition: Respond to climate change in ways that empower communities and promote fairness and equity.	Reflect community preference	-3.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	2.0	-1.0
	Minimise impacts on all vulnerable communities	-3.0	-1.4	-1.0	1.0	0.2	-2.0	-2.2
	Empowers communities	-2.0	0.0	-1.0	1.5	1.0	-1.0	-1.5
	Vulnerable communities not left behind	-2.7	-1.7	-1.3	1.7	1.3	-2.0	-2.3
	Promotes intergenerational equity	-2.8	-2.0	-1.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	-0.6
Social and economic resilience: Strengthen communities and businesses so they are well-prepared for floods and other hazards, able to cope and bounce back	Preserve and enhance community cohesion and community values	-2.5	1.1	0.6	1.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.8
	Minimises economic risk to communities	-2.7	0.3	0.0	1.2	0.0	-0.7	-0.9
	Increases community adaptive capacity	-2.2	-1.8	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.0
	Minimises economic risk to individuals	-2.5	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.8
	Minimises impacts to business	-2.3	1.3	0.3	1.3	-1.7	1.0	1.0
Promote community safety: Promote community safety in South Dunedin by reducing flood and other risks, despite increasing natural hazards.	Promote community wellbeing	-3.0	-0.7	-0.7	1.0	0.7	-1.3	-2.0
	Promote community safety	-3.0	0.2	1.3	0.2	-0.2	1.0	0.7
	Reduced natural hazard risk	-1.6	-0.4	0.6	0.0	-1.1	-1.3	-1.1
	Promote community health	-2.3	-1.0	-0.3	0.5	1.0	-0.5	-0.5

South Dunedin Future Programme

How the shortlisted futures were selected/developed.



Future 2 ranked 6th overall. Infrastructure focus supported in short-term, but not long-term. Eliminated, but short-term infrastructure was integrated into design of all three shortlisted futures.



Future 4 ranked 1st overall, scoring highly with community and advisors. Shortlisted.



Future 6 ranked 3rd, but cost, complexity, and long lead in times led to elimination.



Future 1 ranked 7th overall, scoring low with community and advisors. Eliminated.



Future 3 initially ranked 5th overall, but was shortlisted to keep an infrastructure-focussed option on the table.



Future 5 ranked 2nd overall, scoring highly with community and advisors. Shortlisted.



Future 7 ranked 4th, with cost, complexity, and long lead in times leading to elimination.

South Dunedin Future Programme

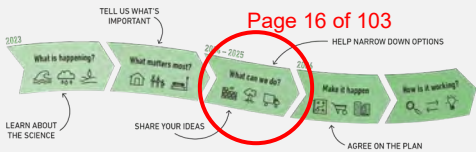
3 Proposed Adaptation Futures

- Key components of the 3 proposed futures
- Flood risk reduction over time
- Staging and implementation over time (including visualisations)
- Costs, benefits, and avoided damages



South Dunedin Future Programme

3 Proposed Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin



Future 3 - Protect

Future 3 – Protect, seeks to keep the land dry through a focus on engineered systems — pipes and pumps — with some land raising and coastal protection.



Cost: \$2.098B		Benefits: \$1.335B	Net cost: \$763M	
 TOTAL REPURPOSED LAND 80.7 ha	 1190 BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED	 31 km OF PIPING NETWORKS		
 14 ha FOR STORAGE & WETLANDS	 38 ha OF RAISED LAND	 2.1 km SEAWALL		
 16 km OF GW PIPE NETWORKS	 10 NEW PUMP STATIONS	 4 NEW OUTFALLS		
 0 km OF OPEN CHANNELS	 1 NEW GW PUMP STATIONS			

Future 4 - Restore

Future 4 – Restore, seeks to make space for water, by reintroducing open waterways, wetlands, and other green spaces to complement the pipes and pumps.



Cost: \$1.629B		Benefits: \$1.351B	Net cost: \$278M	
 TOTAL REPURPOSED LAND 69 ha	 1162 BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED	 32.5 km OF PIPING NETWORKS		
 16 ha FOR STORAGE & WETLANDS	 0 ha OF RAISED LAND	 2.1 km SEAWALL		
 16 km OF GW PIPE NETWORKS	 11 NEW PUMP STATIONS	 4 NEW OUTFALLS		
 3.5 km OF OPEN CHANNELS	 1 NEW GW PUMP STATIONS			

Future 5 - Reshape

Future 5 – Reshape, is the most transformative, moving people out of harm's way using land raising and infrastructure alongside green and blue networks.

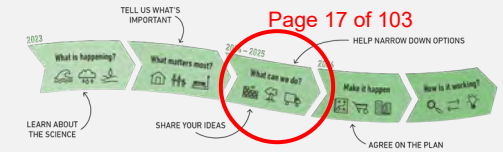


Cost: \$2.448B		Benefits: \$1.336B	Net cost: \$1.112B	
 TOTAL REPURPOSED LAND 102 ha	 1738 BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED	 34 km OF PIPING NETWORKS		
 16 ha FOR STORAGE & WETLANDS	 44.5 ha OF RAISED LAND	 1.5 km SEAWALL		
 16 km OF GW PIPE NETWORKS	 7 NEW PUMP STATIONS	 3 NEW OUTFALLS		
 3.5 km OF OPEN CHANNELS	 1 NEW GW PUMP STATIONS			

South Dunedin Future Programme

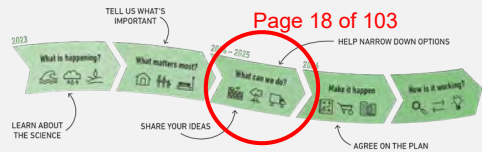
How were the 3 Proposed Adaptation Futures developed?

- Guided by performance standards and design principles, **each future uses a different mix** of infrastructure, green and blue space, and land use change to manage risk in different areas over the next 100 years. Key actions include:



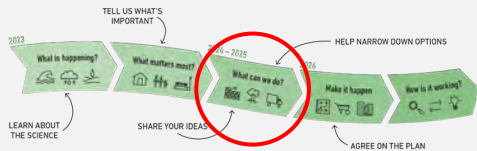
South Dunedin Future Programme

3 Proposed Adaptation Futures – Staging over time



South Dunedin Future

Revised risk over time



- **All 3 futures significantly reduce risk** when compared to the status quo, and by mid-century have reduced flood risk below present day (despite increasing hazards).
- **Residual risk** (if the system breaks or a flood event exceeds operating capacity) **remains high**. This is due a reliance on constant dewatering, coastal erosion and inundation risk, and parts of South Dunedin being at or below sea level.



The image below shows how the risk changes over time across different futures.

It compares present day risk with short-, medium-, and long-term projections, highlighting building and roads that remaining exposed to flooding even after proposed interventions are implemented. The maps illustrate the varying levels of risk that persist under each future, highlighting where vulnerabilities continue and where adaptation efforts reduce exposure over time.



South Dunedin Future Programme

Future 3 - Protect

Future 3 – Protect, seeks to keep the land dry through a focus on engineered systems — pipes and pumps — with some land raising and coastal protection.

Short term (2025-50)

Future 3 – Protect manages stormwater and groundwater mainly via a network of pipes and pump stations to move water out of South Dunedin. Roads help to direct and hold water during intense rainfall and stormwater reserves or constructed wetlands provide even more storage when required.



- Property acquisition
- New medium density area
- Wetlands
- New pump station

TOTAL REPURPOSED LAND 80.7 ha	1190 BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED	31 km OF PIPING NETWORKS
14 ha FOR STORAGE & WETLANDS	38 ha OF RAISED LAND	2.1 km SEAWALL
16 km OF GW PIPE NETWORKS	10 NEW PUMP STATIONS	4 NEW OUTFALLS
0 km OF OPEN CHANNELS	1 NEW GW PUMP STATIONS	

Future 3 - Protect

Future 3 – Protect, seeks to keep the land dry through a focus on engineered systems — pipes and pumps — with some land raising and coastal protection.

To complement upgraded stormwater and groundwater infrastructure, the seawall along Portsmouth Drive would be upgraded to protect from coastal inundation. An area of Forbury Corner would be raised to expand the existing high ground, creating low risk intensified space for people to relocate to, away from areas of highest risk.



Future 3 - Protect

Future 3 – Protect, seeks to keep the land dry through a focus on engineered systems — pipes and pumps — with some land raising and coastal protection.



Future 4 - Restore

Future 4 – Restore, seeks to make space for water, by reintroducing open waterways, wetlands, and other green spaces to complement the pipes and pumps.

Future 4 – Restore makes space for water by creating a network of greenspaces, open waterways and wetlands, supported by pipes and pumps to manage stormwater and groundwater. There is no land raising.



Future 4 - Restore

Future 4 – Restore, seeks to make space for water, by reintroducing open waterways, wetlands, and other green spaces to complement the pipes and pumps.

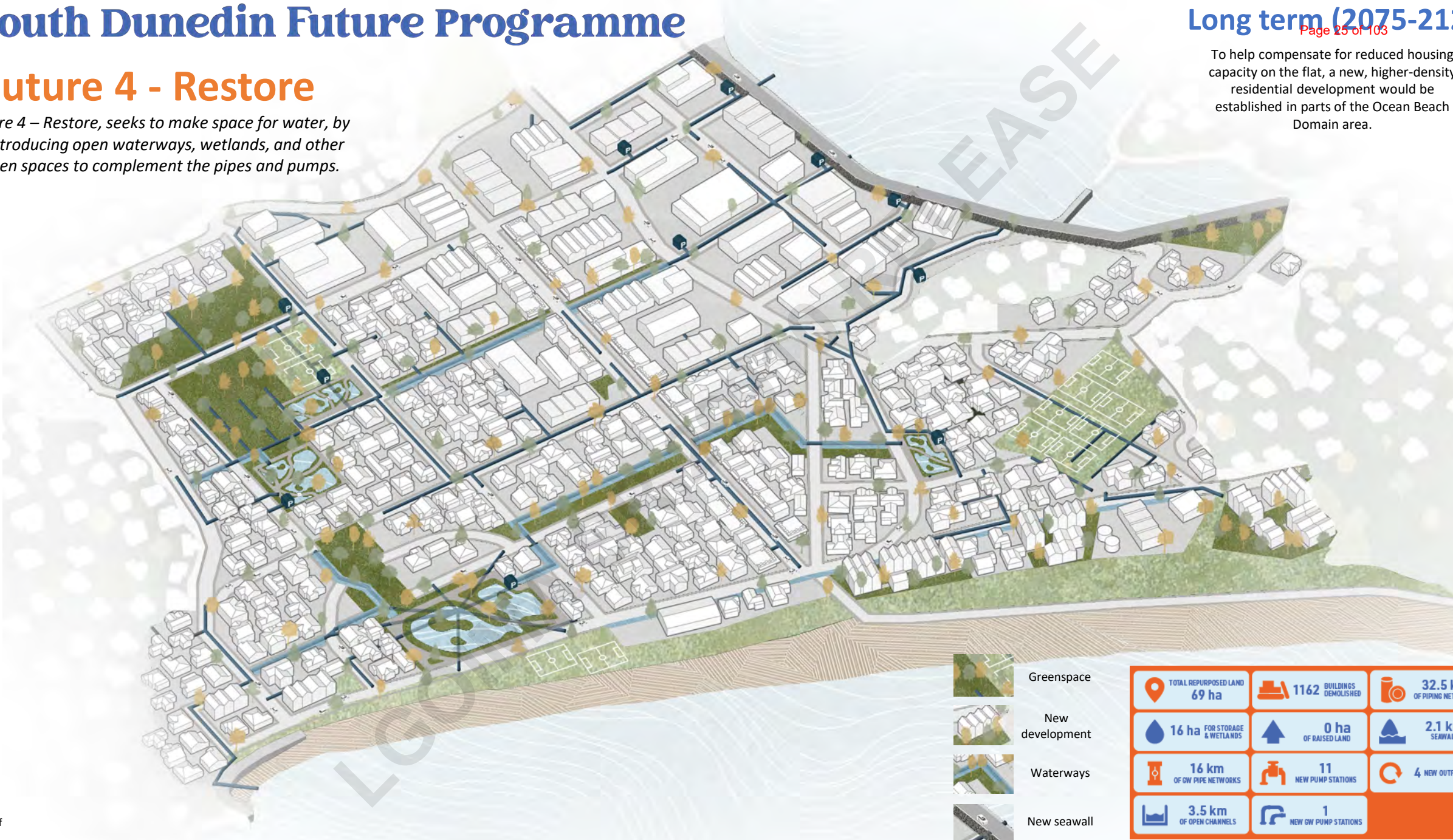
The seawall along Portsmouth Drive would be upgraded to protect from coastal inundation. Additional greenspace helps mitigate high groundwater and manage excess run-off. This also creates the opportunity for an extended town belt-type landscape, integrating South Dunedin into the city’s wider green network.



Future 4 - Restore

Future 4 – Restore, seeks to make space for water, by reintroducing open waterways, wetlands, and other green spaces to complement the pipes and pumps.

To help compensate for reduced housing capacity on the flat, a new, higher-density residential development would be established in parts of the Ocean Beach Domain area.



South Dunedin Future Programme

Future 5 - Reshape

Future 5 – Reshape, is the most transformative, moving people out of harm’s way using land raising and infrastructure alongside green and blue networks.

Short term (2025-50)

Page 26 of 103

Future 5 – Reshape focuses on creating space for water and people through a combination of open waterways, green infrastructure and raised land development. The initial focus is on underground infrastructure, land use changes, and property acquisition to enable land raising.



South Dunedin Future Programme

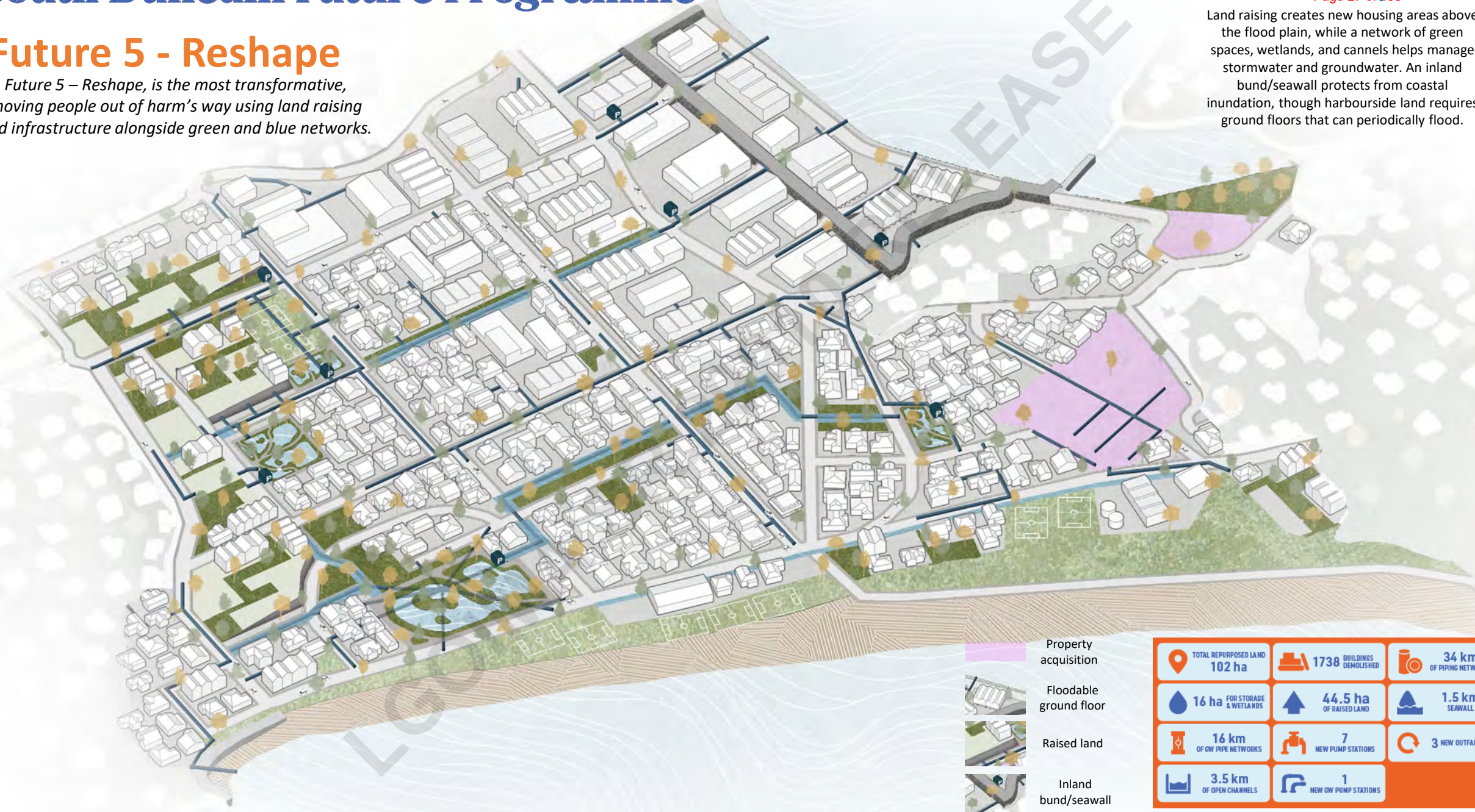
Future 5 - Reshape

Future 5 – Reshape, is the most transformative, moving people out of harm's way using land raising and infrastructure alongside green and blue networks.

Medium term (2050-75)

Page 27 of 103

Land raising creates new housing areas above the flood plain, while a network of green spaces, wetlands, and cannels helps manage stormwater and groundwater. An inland bund/seawall protects from coastal inundation, though harbourside land requires ground floors that can periodically flood.



South Dunedin Future Programme

Future 5 - Reshape

Future 5 – Reshape, is the most transformative, moving people out of harm's way using land raising and infrastructure alongside green and blue networks.

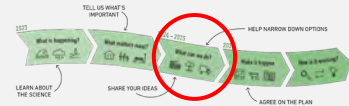
Long term (2075-2125)

Additional greenspace helps mitigate high groundwater and manage excess run-off. Coastal setback at Andersons' Bay Inlet requires relocation of Bayfield High School. To help compensate for reduced housing capacity on the flat, a new, higher-density residential development would be established in parts of the Ocean Beach Domain area.

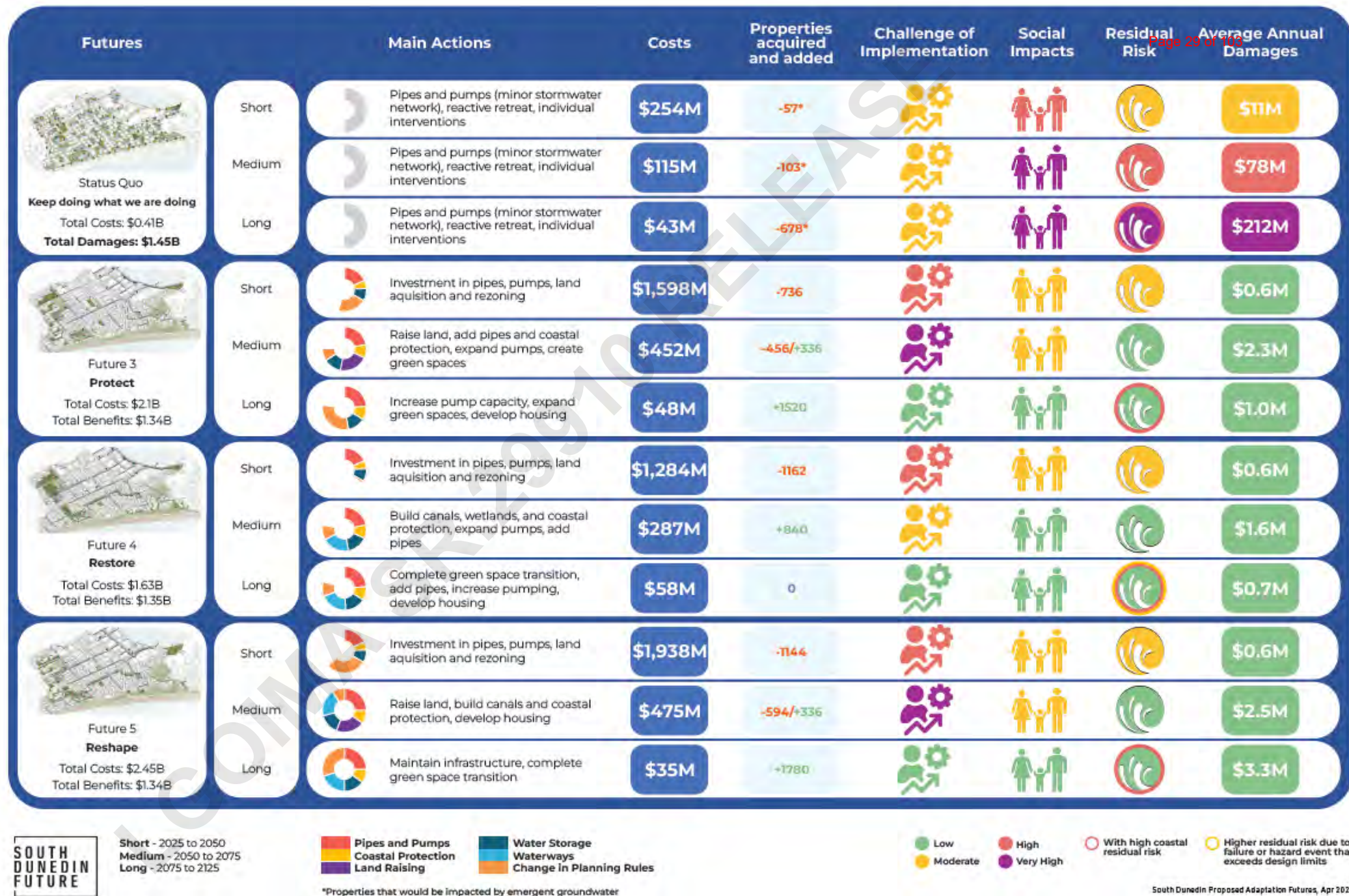


South Dunedin Future

What can we do?



- The costs of the Futures range from \$1.63B-\$2.45B.
- Compared to status quo of \$1.5B-\$2.0B (incl. costs + damages).
- Costs are front loaded in short-term, with benefits accruing in later years via avoided damages.
- Funding and financing strategy could be developed once preferred futures is identified.



South Dunedin Future Programme

3 Proposed Adaptation Futures – Reports to Councils

- Council reporting process
- Key documents to be presented to Councils



South Dunedin Future Programme

Summary of key outputs and findings

Four key outputs from this stage of the SDF programme include an overview of the 3 proposed adaptation futures for South Dunedin, and background technical reports on stormwater, groundwater, and economic assessments.



Report	Title	Purpose	Audience
	Three Proposed Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin	To provide a technical, but plain language overview of the key features of each of the 3 Proposed Futures . This includes key features, stages of development, performance, costs and benefits. The report includes visualisations of each future in the short, medium, and long term. The report draws on content from the stormwater, groundwater, and economic reports (see below).	Primary audience is Councillors and council staff, though much of the content will be used or adapted for community engagement. The content is technical, but at a summary level and written in plain language, aligned to most council reports and products.
	South Dunedin Stormwater Modelling Report	This report includes technical assessments of feasibility of a range of potential interventions to mitigate flood and other risks affecting South Dunedin. This includes through 'grey' infrastructure like pumps and pipes, and green infrastructure such as open water ways and water detention areas, as well and land use change. Modelling has enabled testing of the technical performance of potential interventions, preliminary configurations, sizing, and costing to support comparison and community engagement.	Primary audience is Councillors and council staff. The content is written in plain language (where possible) or technical language accessible to those with skillsets and experience in stormwater, groundwater, and finance and economics.
	South Dunedin Groundwater Assessment Report	This report describes early-stage technical assessments to determine the feasibility of groundwater drainage systems aimed at managing risks from shallow and rising groundwater across South Dunedin. Building on research by Earth Science New Zealand (formerly GNS) it uses modelling to scope the technical performance of potential interventions, preliminary configurations, sizing, and costing to support further analysis. Potential adverse effects of drainage, such as subsidence and saline intrusion, as well as mitigations for these effects are also explored.	The content provides more detailed information to support the conclusions presented in the overview report, includes additional information for interested stakeholders, and will inform future more detailed assessments and design work.
	Economic Assessment of the 3 Proposed Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin	This report evaluates the economic performance of each of the three proposed adaptation futures for South Dunedin , comparing these to a status quo counterfactual scenario in which no substantive adaptations occur. Standard cost-benefit methodologies are used to analyse anticipated costs, benefits (including avoided costs), and to calculate these over a 100-year period to 2125.	

South Dunedin Future Programme

Summary of key outputs and findings

Three supplementary outputs looking at health and equity, property, and Ocean Beach Domain.

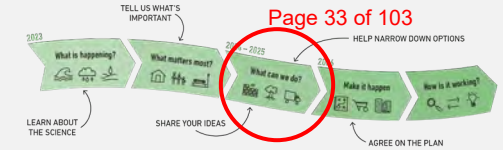


Report	Title	Purpose	Audience
	Health & Equity Assessment Report	This research into the health and equity implications of flooding, the implications of the three proposed futures, is intended to provide stronger insights into social aspects of adaptation (in addition to environmental, political, and economic). The visualisation materials are intended to support all stakeholders to access, understand, and offer informed responses on a range of complex issues relating to climate adaptation (e.g. health, environment, housing, finance, fairness, trade-offs, etc.)	Primary audience for the research report is Councillors and council staff, intended to support analysis of the futures; though key findings re-packaged in plain language and visualised to support wider community access. Science communications and visualisations are aimed at the community, supporting them to access and process complexity of these issues.
	Property Development Assessment Report	PWC was engaged to provide high-level commercial property insights across the three shortlisted futures, focusing on feasibility, sequencing, market response, value creation, and the funding and financing implications of early adaptation interventions, including land raising and redevelopment opportunities. This report builds on a Phase 1 report completed in 2025 that focussed on the longlist of 7 potential futures.	The primary audience of this report is Councillors and council staff, intended to support analysis of the futures, including consideration of next steps and potential approaches to implementation.
	Ocean Beach Domain Due Diligence Report	To undertake a preliminary assessment of the potential to redevelop areas of council-owned land at Ocean Beach Domain, within the context of making best use of available land in South Dunedin, potentially enabling more residents to remain local. Such development could reduce or avoid the more complex and costly process of land raising elsewhere. Preliminary investigations included a desktop analysis of natural hazards, geotechnical conditions, and contaminated land. A preliminary legal review of title was also undertaken.	The primary audience of this report is Councillors and council staff, intended to support analysis of the futures, including consideration of next steps and potential approaches to implementation.

South Dunedin Future Programme

Summary of key outputs and findings

The four key outputs from this stage of the programme sit within a wider body of SDF programme work:



	Report	Title/Subject	Author(s)	Description
Communications and Community Engagement		Communications	SDF Team; DCC + ORC Comms	Media and communications activities associated with public release of the technical reports (e.g. flyer, letter drop, media releases, etc)
		Engagement	SDF Team; various DCC + ORC	Community engagement activities (e.g. public workshops and drop-ins, targeted stakeholder sessions, youth activities, etc.)
		Reporting	WSP (Kia Rōpine) / SDF Team	Analysis and reporting on community engagement results and covering Council papers.
Technical Summary		Council papers	SDF Team	Covering Council papers for Proposed Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin and six supporting technical reports.
		Three Proposed Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin	BECA (Kia Rōpine)	Technical but plain language overview describing the key features of each of the 3 Proposed Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin.
Background Technical Reports		Stormwater Modelling Report	BECA (Kia Rōpine)	Technical feasibility assessment of stormwater network systems and approaches (grey and green infrastructure) in South Dunedin.
		Groundwater Assessment Report	WSP (Kia Rōpine)	Technical feasibility assessment of groundwater drainage systems and risk management in South Dunedin.
		Economic Assessment Report	WSP (Kia Rōpine)	Evaluation of the economic performance of each of the three proposed adaptation futures for South Dunedin against a status quo.
		Health & Equity Assessment Report	University of Otago	Research into the health and equity implications of flooding, the potential impacts of the 3 Futures, and community engagement.
		Property Development Assessment Report	PWC	Advice on potential property market implications, commercial insights, potential market responses, and financing tools or models.
		Ocean Beach Domain Due Diligence Report	Stantec	Preliminary assessment of natural hazards, HAIL, and geotech at potential future development sites in Ocean Beach Domain.

South Dunedin Future Programme

Council reporting - Next steps and timing



- **Technical reports and Council papers** – Subject to Councillor and other feedback, technical reports will be finalised by mid-April. The reports and a covering Council paper will be presented to Councils (and public) on 24 June (ORC) and 25 June (DCC).
- **Community Engagement** – Subject to Council approvals, community engagement would run from 1 July – 9 August 2026 and include a range of public communications (media releases, flyers, collateral) and a mix of public and targeted stakeholder engagement sessions.
- **Climate adaptation masterplan** – Community engagement results will be combined with further technical and economic assessments to develop a single, preferred adaptation future by October 2026. This becomes the basis of the climate adaptation masterplan for South Dunedin, which should be completed and presented to Councils for approval in mid-2027.
- **Implementation** – The fastest and most efficient way of transitioning to implementation is to align the final stage of the SDF programme with Councils' LTP processes. SDF insights can inform budgets and workplans for the LTP (2027-37), with approved activities commencing from 1 July 2027, as part of a 'launch package' of projects.

South Dunedin Future Programme

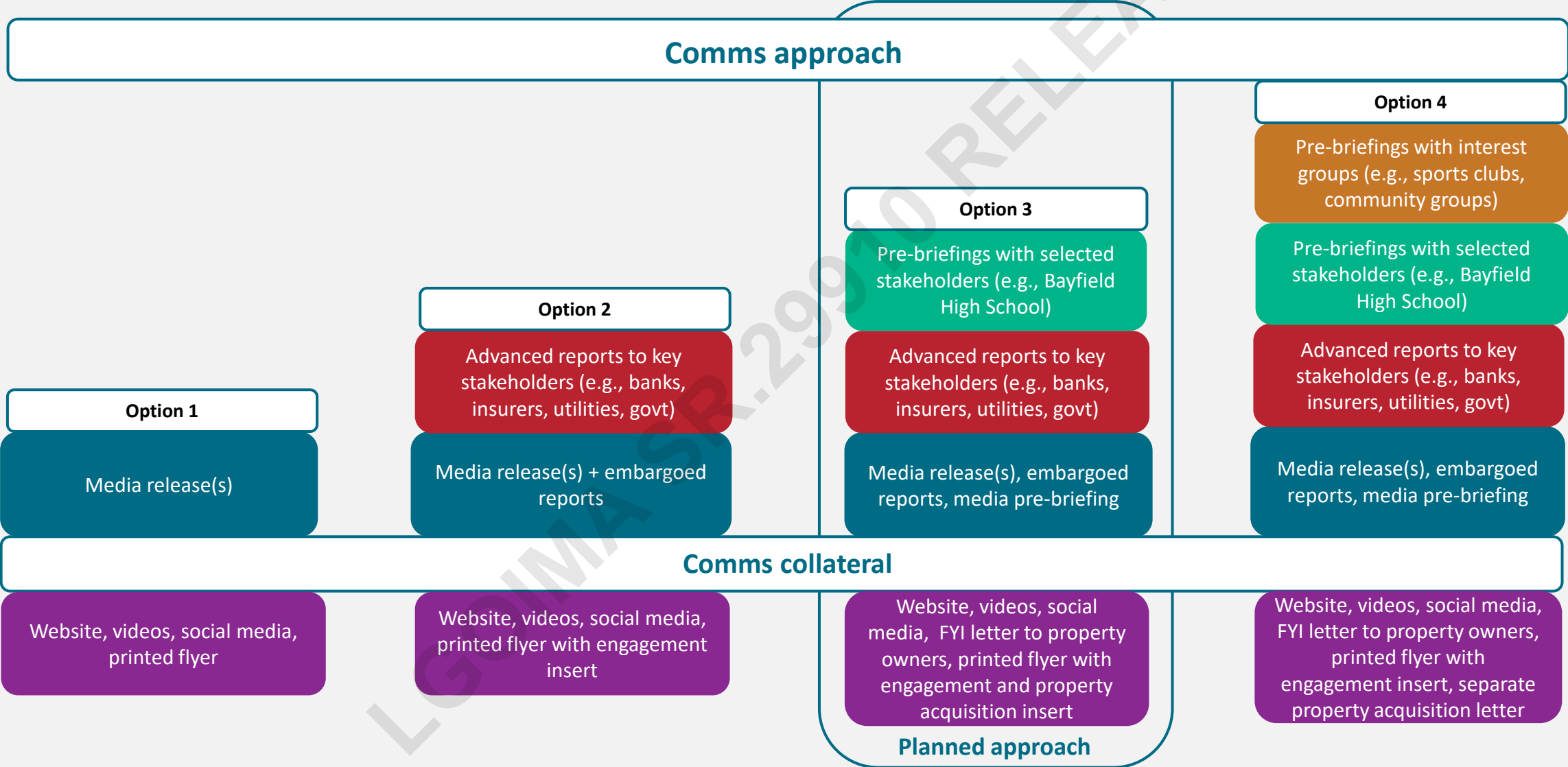
Planned approach to communications and engagement

- Communications options and planned approach
- Specific comms approach to property acquisition
- Community engagement options and planned approach
- Calendar of key events pre- and post-Council meetings



South Dunedin Future Programme

Planned approach to communications



South Dunedin Future Programme

Planned approach to communications

Option 1

What it means

- Relying on media release to convey key messages only.
- Detail provided in Council paper and technical reports.
- Basic package of comms collateral simplifies key elements, improving accessibility.

Risks

- Media may not accurately interpret and report key information.
- Opportunity for other stakeholders and/or narratives to dominate.
- Important information may not reach stakeholders.
- Stakeholder confusion and/or disengagement.
- Extensive public discourse and queries on property acquisition.

Option 2

What it means

- Supplementing the media release with advanced copies of Council paper and technical reports.
- Media and key stakeholders like banks and insurers are better placed to make more informed public comment.
- Comms collateral simplifies key elements and flyer insert directs stakeholders to engagement opportunities, further improving accessibility.

Risks

- Despite advanced copies of reports, media may misinterpret or misreport key information.
- While reduced, opportunity remains for other stakeholders and/or narratives to dominate.
- Important info may not reach key stakeholders, including on property acquisition.

Option 3

What it means

- Selected high priority stakeholders receive advanced briefing.
- Supplementing media release and advanced reports with media briefing.
- Media and key stakeholders like banks and insurers are better placed to make more informed public comment.
- Comms collateral specifically addresses property acquisition.

Risks

- More stakeholders have advanced information, increasing risk of leaks.
- Perception that certain stakeholders have received 'special' treatment.
- Additional complexity makes implementation more challenging.

Planned approach

Option 4

What it means

- A larger selection of stakeholders receive advanced briefing.
- Supplementing media release and advanced reports with media briefing.
- Media and wide range of stakeholders are better placed to make more informed public comment.
- Comms collateral addresses property acquisition at individual property-level.

Risks

- Many more stakeholders have advanced info, significantly increasing risk of leaks.
- Widespread perception that many stakeholders have received 'special' treatment, creating 'us and them' sentiment.
- Additional complexity makes implementation very challenging, including risk of individual property level errors.

South Dunedin Future Programme

Comms relating to property acquisition

- In the three futures there is **no 'managed retreat'** in the sense of property acquisition for the purpose of alleviating flood risk to *individual* properties (e.g. buy-outs due solely to flood risk being too high).
- Rather, the futures include property acquisition for the purpose of **enabling public works** that would reduce wider *community* flood risk (e.g. to enable creation of a stormwater detention basin).
- There is **existing legislation, precedent, and process** covering property acquisition related to public works, including the Public Works Act 1981.
- Key messages on property acquisition would be included in media releases and engagement materials, including the **flyer insert** shown on this slide (which would be sent to all properties in South Dunedin).

FLYER INSERT – SIDE A

Property acquisition

Councils are exploring options to reduce flood risk in South Dunedin over the next 50–100 years, including the three proposed futures. It is likely that reducing flood risk over time will require the purchase of some private properties in certain areas.

No decisions have been made, but councils are considering if and where property acquisition may be needed to support work such as new or upgraded infrastructure, raising land above flood levels, and creating green and blue spaces to store and move floodwater.

These would be significant actions, but they reflect the size of the challenge. They would be aimed at reducing flood risk and supporting the long-term future of the South Dunedin community.

Which areas might be affected?

The three futures identify general areas where things like new pumps and pipes, land raising, and parks, wetlands and waterways could be located.

These areas are shown on maps and in visualisations. They are indicative only at this stage, based on current analysis, and may change as more detailed work is completed.

Councils understand this information may cause concern or uncertainty and are committed to keeping the community informed and involved.

What this means for property owners and residents

- No decisions have been made. These are options only, and community feedback will help inform planning and Council decisions.
- The locations shown in technical reports are indicative and based on current information. They would be confirmed later, following detailed design work.
- If property acquisition is required, it would follow established council processes and approvals, and depend on available funding.
- The current intention is that any purchase of property would happen over time, on a voluntary basis where possible, and in line with relevant legislation.

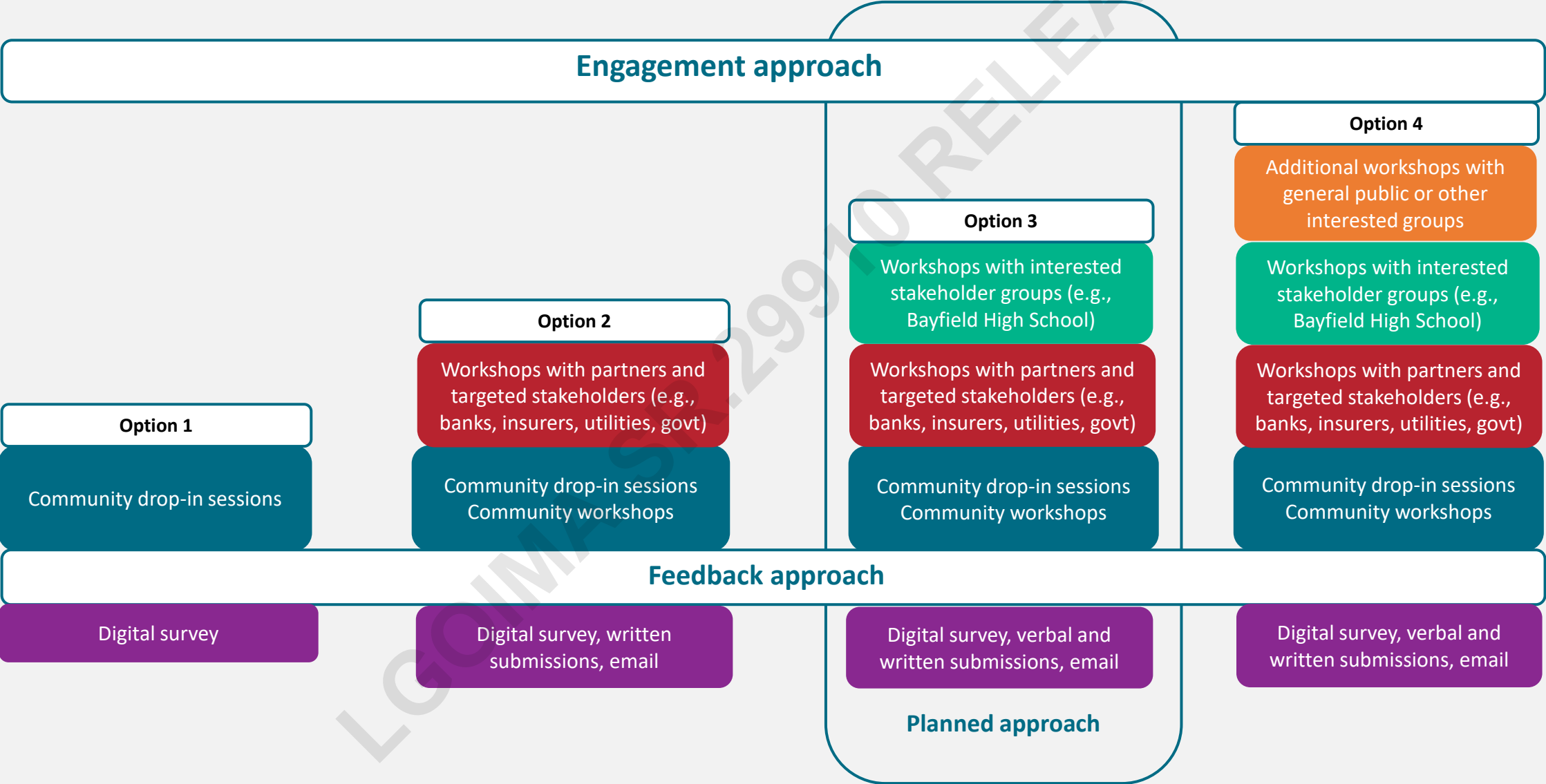
For more information

Please visit the South Dunedin Future webpage, email southdunedinfuture@dcc.govt.nz, or call (03) 477 4000. Details about community drop-in sessions and workshops can be found on the other side of this flyer.

[INSERT QR CODE]

South Dunedin Future Programme

Planned approach to community engagement



South Dunedin Future Programme

Planned approach to community engagement

Option 1

What it means

- Simple, streamlined engagement approach for partners, stakeholders and the whole community.
- Engagement primarily takes place online or through print channels with minimal face-to-face engagement available.
- Primarily a passive/neutral form of engagement.

Risks

- Limited depth of feedback on complex or high-impact details presented in digital or print form.
- Community understanding may remain surface-level.
- High potential for confusion or misinterpretation without deeper engagement.
- May miss large cohort of community due to digital aspects of survey/information gathering.

Option 2

What it means

- Builds on option 1 by adding facilitated in-person sessions with targeted stakeholders to explore information in detail.
- Workshops support more in-depth conversations, with potential for more informed and comprehensive feedback.
- Targeted workshops help ensure feedback is collected from key stakeholders.

Risks

- Proactive engagement required with targeted stakeholders – potential perception of ‘special treatment’ of some stakeholders.
- Possible risk of creating bias in engagement results by targeted some stakeholders and not others.
- Increased complexity in delivery and resourcing for engagement programme.

Option 3

What it means

- Expansion of targeted workshops help ensure feedback is collected from wider range of key stakeholders.
- A mix of proactive and reactive engagement – high touch engagement seeking to involve as many partners, stakeholders and the community as possible.
- Potential for in-depth feedback captured as part of digital and verbal survey collection.
- Consistent with approaches taken throughout SDF engagement to date.

Risks

- Increased complexity in delivery and resourcing for engagement programme.
- Potential for perceptions of special treatment, bias of results, or expectations of undue influence of process or outcome.

Option 4

What it means

- Engagement is focused on speaking with and obtaining feedback from as many individuals and groups as possible.
- Public, targeted and interested stakeholders are prioritised.
- Stakeholders could be involved in multiple workshops across engagement period.

Risks

- Highly complex, resource and time intensive, and requires reactive capacity that may exceed DCC resources. Potential to over promise and under deliver, leading to dissatisfaction and/ or disengagement.
- Risk of prioritising quantity of feedback over quality, limiting more in-depth analysis and understanding of what are complex and nuanced issues.

Planned approach

South Dunedin Future Programme

Calendar of communications and engagement

1 June King's Birthday	2	3	4 DCC Council Meeting	5	6	7
8 Council presentation slides sent to Councillors	9	10 DCC Cr Workshop ORC Cr Briefing ORC Council papers and agenda finalised.	11	12 ORC Council agenda / SDF reports sent to Councillors. Advanced reports sent to selected stakeholders.	13	14
15 ORC regular agenda published.	16 Advanced media briefing Advanced briefings with key stakeholders.	17 Council agendas public (ORC as supplementary) Media embargo lifts (4am) Issue SDF communications Publish Council papers, SDF technical reports.	18 Anticipated media reporting on reactions to SDF reports. Follow up interviews.	19 Anticipated media reporting on reactions to SDF reports. Follow up interviews.	20	21
22	23	24 ORC Council Meeting	25 DCC Council Meeting Issue comms on Council decisions	26	27	28
29	30 June	1 July Community engagement period opens (subject to Council approvals).	2	3	4	5

South Dunedin Future Programme

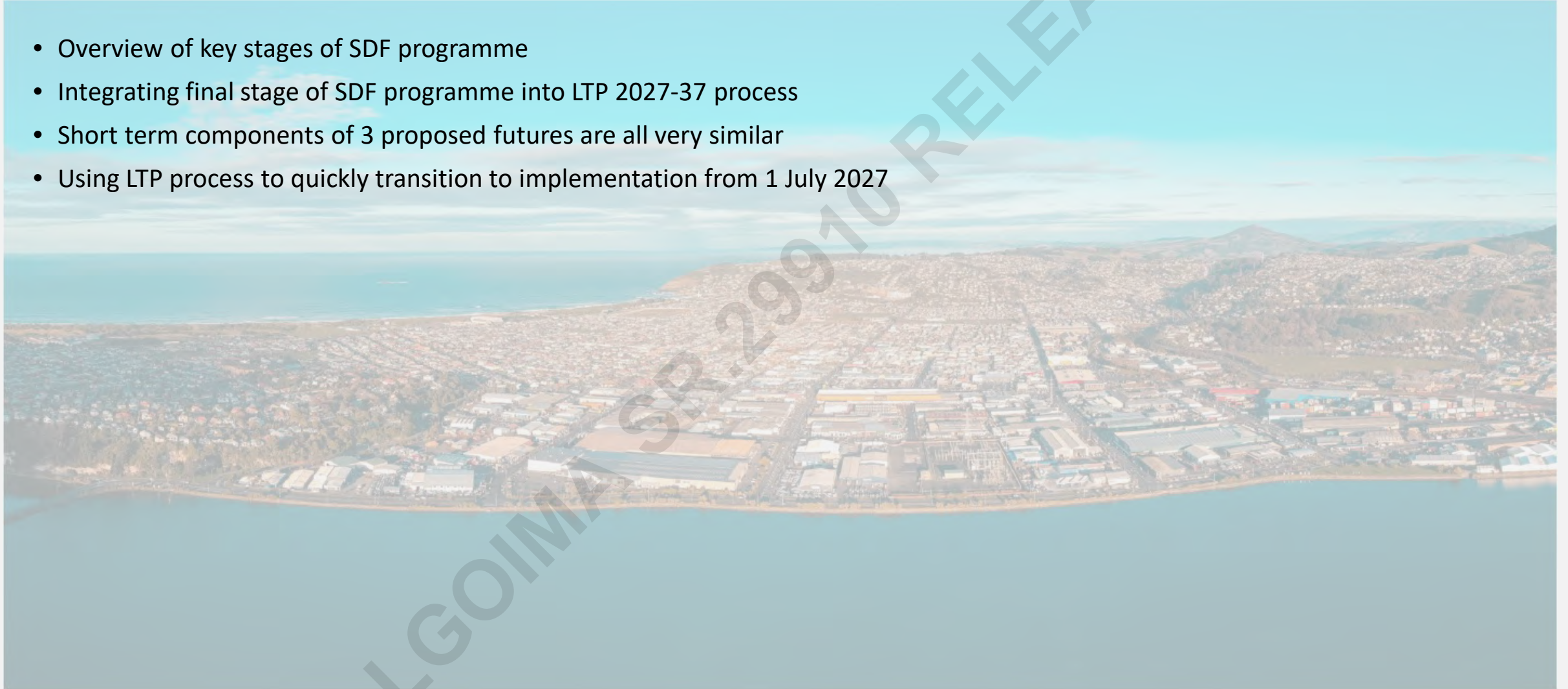
Calendar of communications and engagement

29	30 June	1 July Community engagement period opens (subject to Council approvals).	2	3	4	5
6 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (9:30am-5:00pm) School holidays start	7 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (9:30am-5:00pm)	8 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (9:30am-5:00pm)	9	10 Matariki	11 Matariki Wknd	12 Matariki Wknd.
13	14	15 NZ Science Festival	16 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (12pm-7:30pm)	17 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (11am-4:00pm)	18 Public Drop-in @ South D Library (10am-3pm)	19 School holidays end
20 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (11am-4:00pm)	21 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (11am-4:00pm)	22 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (11am-4:00pm)	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (12pm-7:30pm)	31 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (11am-4:00pm)	1 August Public Drop-in @ South D Library (10am-3pm)	2
3 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (11am-4:00pm)	4 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (11am-4:00pm)	5 Public Drop-in Session @ South D Library (11am-4:00pm)	6	7	8	9 Community engagement period closes

South Dunedin Future Programme

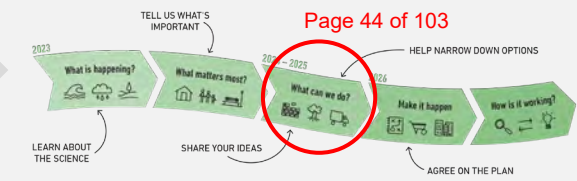
Final stage of SDF programme and transition to implementation

- Overview of key stages of SDF programme
- Integrating final stage of SDF programme into LTP 2027-37 process
- Short term components of 3 proposed futures are all very similar
- Using LTP process to quickly transition to implementation from 1 July 2027



South Dunedin Future Programme

Developing a climate adaptation masterplan for South Dunedin



Steps 1 & 2

Best Practice Research & Adaptation Approaches
(16 Generic Adaptation Approaches)

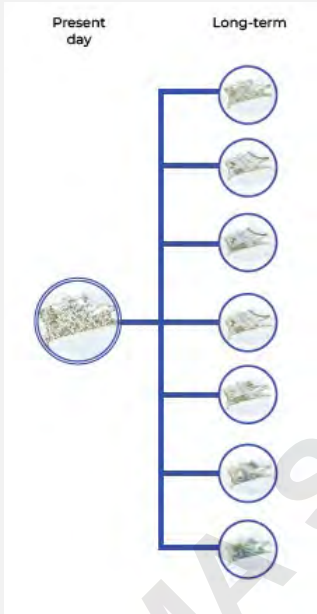


2023/24

Drawing on best practice and crowd sourced ideas, an initial list of 16 generic approaches for helping South Dunedin adapt to flooding and climate change was developed. The approaches were categorised as protect, accommodate, retreat, and avoid. Community engagement occurred in early 2024, with feedback informing further analysis.

Step 3

7 Potential Adaptation Futures
(Longlist)

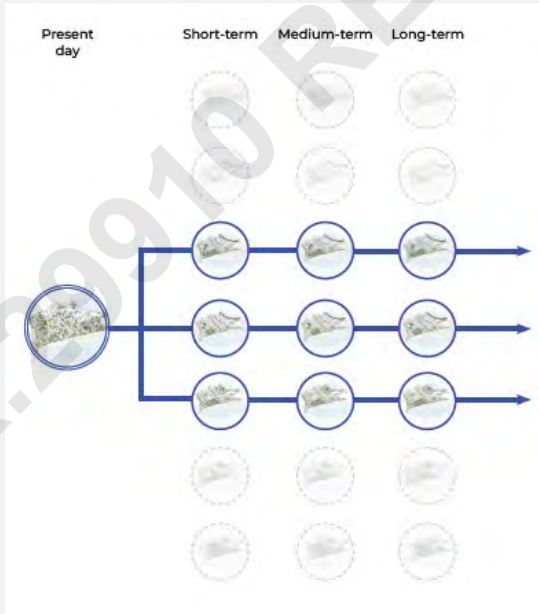


2025

The 16 approaches were combined in different ways to form 7 Potential Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin. The 7 futures represented a spectrum of potential responses. Community engagement occurred in April/May 2025.

Step 4

3 Proposed Adaptation Futures
(Shortlist)

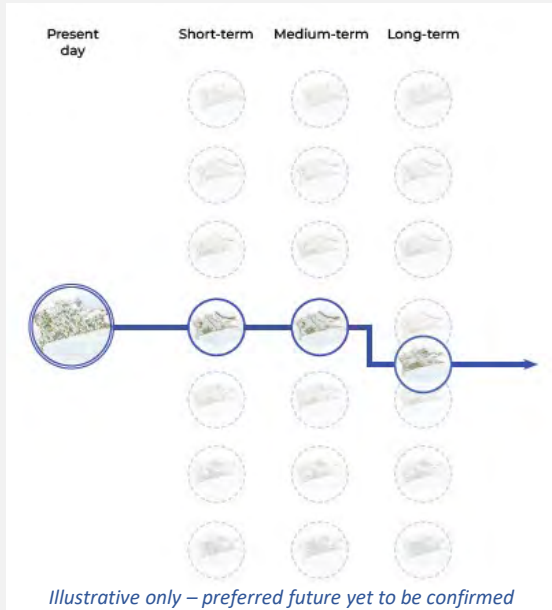


2026

Following a shortlisting process, stormwater and groundwater modelling was undertaken for 3 futures to determine an appropriate mix of infrastructure, green and blue space, and land use change required to manage risk in different areas of South Dunedin. Community engagement is planned for July/Aug 2026.

Step 5

Preferred Adaptation Future
(Climate Adaptation Masterplan for South Dunedin)



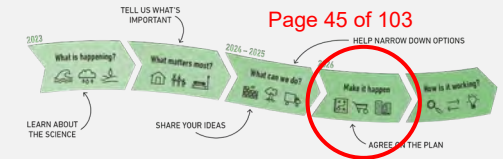
Illustrative only – preferred future yet to be confirmed

2027

Following community engagement, further assessments, modelling, and economic analysis will refine the options and identify a single preferred future that best manages risk while enabling long-term opportunities. This future will form the basis of the Climate Adaptation Masterplan for South Dunedin.

South Dunedin Future Programme

Aligning SDF implementation with Long Term Plan

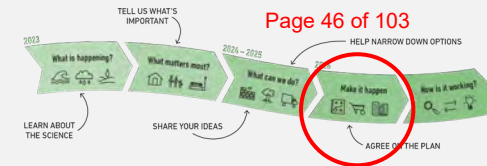


- **Purpose:** Use the upcoming LTP process to “ground-truth” the SDF work and enable an accelerated implementation of the climate adaptation master plan from 1 July 2027.
- **Situation:** SDF has identified a suite of short-, medium-, and long-term actions across three proposed adaptation futures. Critically, short-term actions are largely common to all futures, so planning for implementation can begin now.
- **Proposed approach:** Align the final SDF stage (preferred future and masterplan) directly with the LTP 2027–36 process. Working with infrastructure and planning teams to confirm what can realistically be delivered over the next 10–30 years. Once approved by Councils, use that data to populate short-term (2025-50) period of the masterplan; recalibrate later periods.
- **Outcome:** An adaptation master plan for South Dunedin (100 years); ‘short-term’ (next 25-30 years) actions included in Infrastructure Strategy and Water Services Delivery Plan; approved LTP budgets and workplans initial tranche of projects (next 10 years) ready to start in July 2027.



South Dunedin Future Programme

Connecting short, medium, long term



All three futures are broadly similar in the short term, focusing on infrastructure upgrades and preparing for potential land-use change.

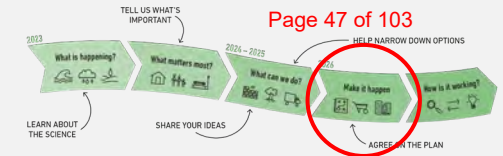


Larger changes emerge over the medium term, including land raising, new development patterns, and expanded green and blue spaces. By the long term, major capital works reduce, while new housing in lower-risk areas supports future growth.



South Dunedin Future Programme

Short term actions are similar across all Futures

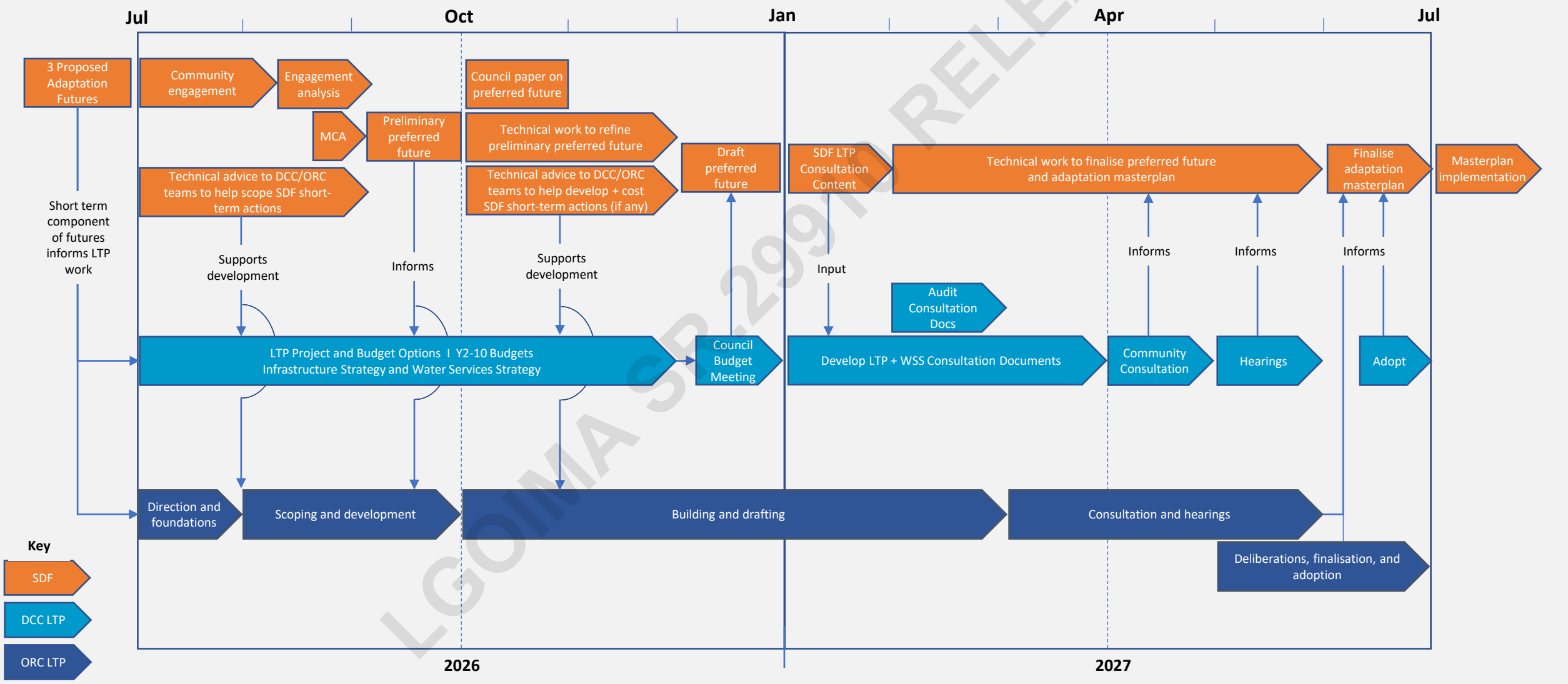
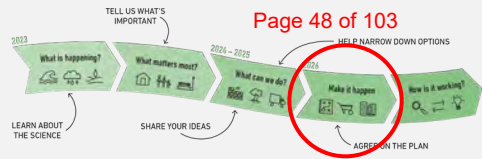


- **New and upgraded pump stations** added to divert flows from Hillside Road and MacAndrew Road to the harbour, including an upgrade of the Tainui pump station.
- **New rising mains** proposed along Midland Street, Orari Street, and Royal Crescent.
- **New pump station** at Hillside Road–Burns Stre
- et to service Forbury Corner, freeing capacity downstream and discharging to the Wilkie Road Conduit.
- **Trunk main upgrades** on Bay View Road, Marlow Street, and upper Hillside Road, plus a new Kirkcaldy Street trunk main to divert MacAndrew Road flows.
- **Network reconfigured** so flows are diverted upstream of the Tainui Pump Station, enabling conversion of Royal Crescent trunk main to a rising main.
- **Forbury Aqueduct twinned** from Forbury Road to the ocean outfall to increase capacity.
- **Overflow basin proposed at Tonga Park** to manage excess flows from the Forbury Road Aqueduct.
- **New stormwater storage proposed at Forbury Park**, with a Council Street trunk main to relieve pressure on Bellona Street.
- **Additional wider network upgrades** (mains, sump leads, megapits) included to further reduce flooding and maximise use of new infrastructure.
- Preparing for proposed land-use changes and redevelopment through:
 - **planning measures** (re-zoning, resource and building consent requirements, etc.)
 - **property acquisition** (strategy, delivery vehicle, funding and financing, etc.)
 - **project and development partnerships** (central gov't, private sector, iwi, etc.)



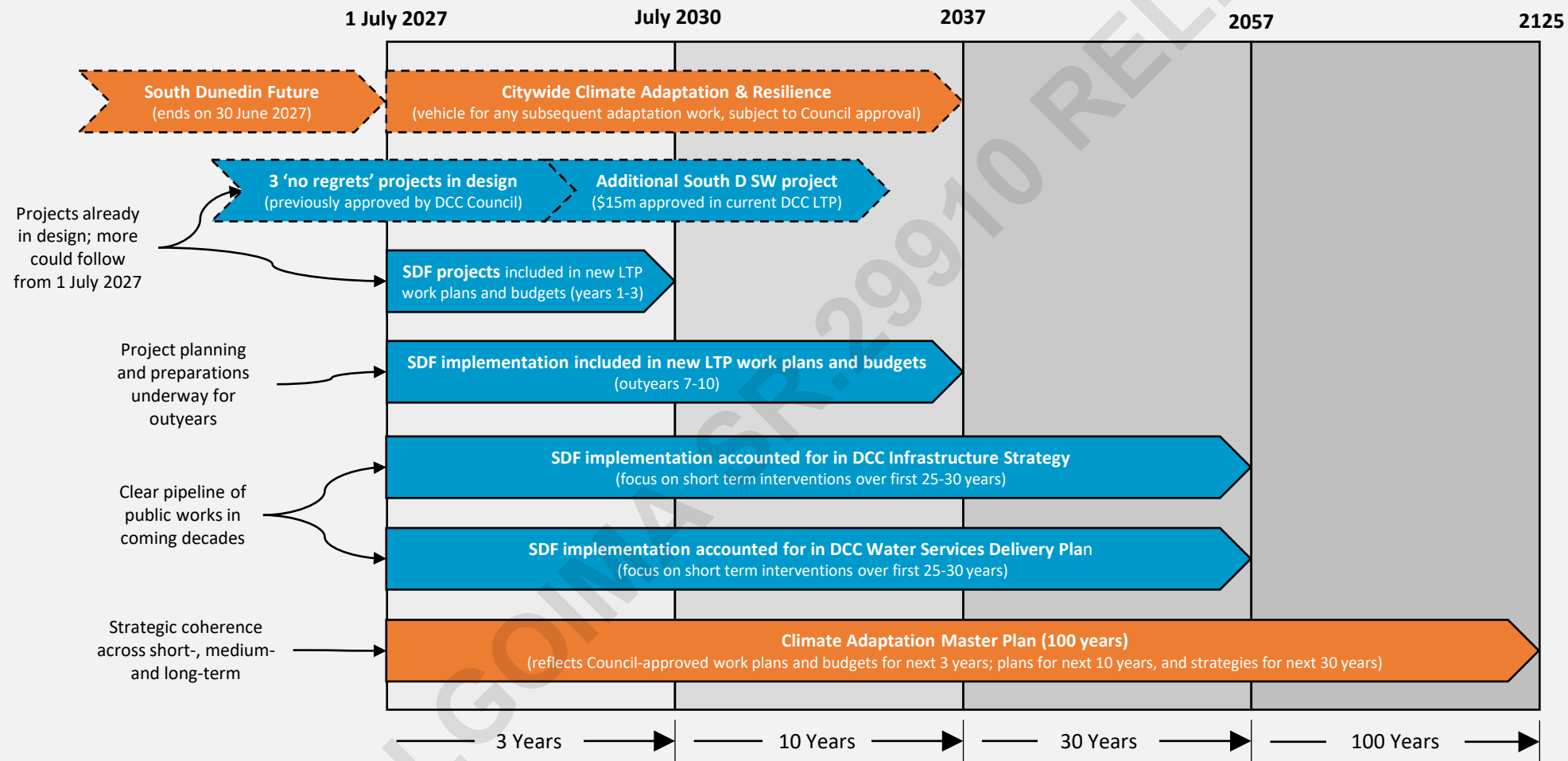
South Dunedin Future Programme

Stage 5 - Preferred future, masterplan, and implementation



South Dunedin Future Programme

What would happen after South Dunedin Future?



South Dunedin Future Programme

Page 50 of 103

Council Presentation: 3 Proposed Adaptation Futures (10 June 2026)



Q&A

South Dunedin Future Programme

Previous reporting to Councils



Report title	DCC report details	ORC report details	Key update(s) or decision(s)
SDF – Programme Update	Item 8, DCC Council, 23 November 2021	HAZ2109, ORC Council, 24 November 2021	Note current state assessment and planned activities during programme definition stage (4).
SDF – Interim Update	Item 8, Planning & Environment Committee, 4 April 2022	OPS2215, ORC Strategy and Planning Committee, 13 April 2022	Note key activities undertaken and pending workshop with Councillors. (3)
SDF – Programme Plan	Item 9, Planning & Environment Committee, 6 July 2022	OPS2223, ORC Strategy and Planning Committee, 13 July 2022	Note and endorse scope, governance, management, collaboration, and approve the SDF Programme Plan. (9)
SDF – Programme Update	Item 9, Strategy, Planning & Engagement Committee, 14 August 2023	HAZ2302, ORC Safety and Resilience Committee, 10 August 2023	Note key activities undertaken. (1)
SDF – Programme Strategy Update	Item 10, DCC Council, 28 November 2023	HAZ2302, ORC Council, 22 November 2023	Note activity update and approve revised SDF Programme Strategy. (4)
SDF – Risk Assessment & Adaptation Approaches	Item 6, DCC Council, 5 December 2023	GOV2343, ORC Council, 6 December 2023	Note South Dunedin Risk Identification Report and 16 Adaptation Approaches, endorse reports for community engagement, and approval for staff to engage. (13)
SDF – Programme Update (July 2024)	Item 9, DCC Council Meeting, 31 July 2024	GOV2419, ORC Council, 24 July 2024	Note key activities undertaken. (3)
SDF – Risk Assessment Update and Programme Changes	Item 10, DCC Council Meeting, 24 September 2024	GOV2430, ORC Council, 25 September 2024	Note information and data gaps causing delay to South Dunedin Risk Assessment. (4)
SDF – Risk Assessment and Potential Adaptation Futures	Item 7, DCC Council Meeting, 18 March 2025	GOV2531, ORC Council, 19 March 2025	Note South Dunedin Risk Assessment and 7 Potential Adaptation Futures, endorse reports for community engagement, and approve staff to engage. (12)
SDF – Community Engagement Results and Programme Update	Item 9, DCC Council Meeting, 30 July 2025	HAZ2504, ORC Council, 23 July 2025	Note the results of the community engagement and SDF work plan. (4)
SDF – Shortlist of Potential Adaptation Futures	Item 10, DCC Council Meeting, 23 September 2025	HAZ2509, ORC Council, 24 September 2025	Note the process and outcome of shortlisting, note Futures 3, 4, and 5 will be advanced, and note work plan. (7)

From: Governance
Sent: Monday, 8 June 2026 1:36 p.m.
To: Cr Chanel Gardner
Subject: FW: Presentation - Proposed South Dunedin Futures - Public Excluded
Attachments: Presentation - Council Workshop on 3 Proposed Futures for South Dunedin (10 June 2026) .pdf

Hello Cr Gardner

I've printed a copy of these for you and left for collection at Customer Service,

Kind regards

7(2)(a)



Governance

Governance@orc.govt.nz



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From: Governance <Governance@orc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 8 June 2026 9:39 am
To: Councillors <Councillors@orc.govt.nz>
Cc: GM Team <GMTeam@orc.govt.nz>; Jonathan Rowe 7(2)(a)
Subject: Presentation - Proposed South Dunedin Futures - Public Excluded

Good morning, Councillors

Please find attached the confidential presentation regarding the Proposed South Dunedin Futures for 10 June. This is now viewable in our Resource Centre (sync first) in Diligent: [LINKED HERE](#)

Best regards

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From: Jonathan Rowe 7(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, 8 June 2026 8:34 am

To: Governance <Governance@orc.govt.nz>; Governance Support Officers <governance.support@dcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Sandy Graham <Sandy.Graham@dcc.govt.nz>; Scott MacLean <Scott.MacLean@dcc.govt.nz>; David Ward <David.Ward@dcc.govt.nz>; Richard Saunders <Richard.Saunders@orc.govt.nz>; Anita Dawe <Anita.Dawe@orc.govt.nz>; Tom Dyer <Tom.Dyer@orc.govt.nz>; 7(2)(a) 7(2)(a)

7(2)(a)

Subject: Presentation for SDF workshop with Crs on Wednesday

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Kia ora koutou,

Please find attached the final version of the presentation to be circulated to Councillors ahead of the non-public South Dunedin Future workshops on Wednesday.

Attached is the pdf version, but I'll bring a ppt version to each session, so I can work through the animations.

Kā mihi / Best regards,

Jonathan

Jonathan Rowe

Kaiwhakahaere / Manager

Climate Adaptation & Resilience

City Services Group

M 7(2)(a) | **E** 7(2)(a)

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz



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a-rohe o
Ōtepoti

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From: Cr Chanel Gardner
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 12:23 p.m.
To: Governance
Subject: Re: Presentation - Proposed South Dunedin Futures - Public Excluded

Thank you

From: Governance <Governance@orc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 1:36:06 PM
To: Cr Chanel Gardner <Chanel.Gardner@orc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Presentation - Proposed South Dunedin Futures - Public Excluded

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Best regards

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Sent: Monday, 8 June 2026 8:34 am

To: Governance <Governance@orc.govt.nz>; Governance Support Officers <governance.support@dcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Sandy Graham <Sandy.Graham@dcc.govt.nz>; Scott MacLean <Scott.MacLean@dcc.govt.nz>; David Ward <David.Ward@dcc.govt.nz>; Richard Saunders <Richard.Saunders@orc.govt.nz>; Anita Dawe <Anita.Dawe@orc.govt.nz>; Tom Dyer <Tom.Dyer@orc.govt.nz>; 7(2)(a) 7(2)(a)

7(2)(a)

Subject: Presentation for SDF workshop with Crs on Wednesday

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Attached is the pdf version, but I'll bring a ppt version to each session, so I can work through the animations.

Kā mihi / Best regards,

Jonathan

[Jonathan Rowe](#)

**Kaiwhakahaere / Manager
Climate Adaptation & Resilience
City Services Group**

M 7(2)(a) | E 7(2)(a)

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054
New Zealand
www.dunedin.govt.nz



From: Tom Dyer
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 2:27 p.m.
To: Cr Gretchen Robertson; Cr Gary Kelliher
Subject: Catch Up tomorrow
Attachments: S&R portfolio ToR - climate change work; 2025_06_24 S&R Papers to Council Briefing Papers.pdf

Hi Gretchen and Gary,

I hope you are both having a good week. I just wanted to send you a quick outline for our catch up tomorrow as we have a fair bit to get through.

Amanda will join us at 9.30 to take us through an update on the Climate Strategy. Her last email on this matter is attached for reference.

We will then spend some time on papers for the next meeting - I have also attached a pre-agenda summary - we have a few so if you get the chance to have a glance at that doc that will help to focus our conversation.

We also have 3 workshops this week - Deep Lakes TAG Science Programme Proposal, South Dunedin Futures, and Lower Clutha and Lower Taieri Rates Review. It would be good to discuss how we handle these with regard to chairing, presenting and questions. I think each of them has a bit of a nuance.

Lastly we have the opportunity to talk about any projects you would like updates on. If there is anything in particular you would like to know about and I will make sure I come with the latest info.

Look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

Thanks
Tom



Otago
Regional
Council



Tom Dyer

General Manager Science and Resilience
Executive Leadership

7(2)(a) | Tom.Dyer@orc.govt.nz

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How should Otago's pests be managed?

Have your say!



Feedback closes 8 July

LGOIMA SR.29910 RELEASE

**Safety & Resilience Papers going to Council
Briefing Papers**

**Pre Agenda Portfolio Leads Meeting
Wednesday 10 June 2026 at 9:30 am**

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LGOIMA SR.29910 RELEASE

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PAPER: South Dunedin Future - Futures and Pathways

PURPOSE

- [1] The purpose of this paper is to provide an outline and update on the South Dunedin Future (SDF) programme, present the latest technical reports relating to the three Proposed Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin, and seek approval of Councils to engage with affected communities and other stakeholders. At this stage, Councils have committed to completing the SDF programme only, with any future decisions on land use, infrastructure, and implementation subject to further consideration by Councils through long-term planning and financial processes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] The SDF programme is a joint initiative between the Dunedin City Council (DCC) and Otago Regional Council (ORC) to develop a climate change adaptation masterplan for South Dunedin. The Council-approved programme strategy is guided by the vision of “a safer and better South Dunedin, where sustainable urban regeneration leads to improved community resilience and wellbeing”. The SDF programme is on schedule to deliver the final climate adaptation masterplan in the first half of 2027 and to transition to implementation from 1 July 2027.
- [3] Creating a safer and better future for South Dunedin will require balancing a range of trade-offs, including choices about the scale and rate of change, the affordability of different options, and the level of ongoing risk that may be considered acceptable now and in the future. The SDF programme was designed as a vehicle for facilitating related analysis, discussions, and decisions.
- [4] Building on previous work and community feedback, the current stage of the SDF programme has undertaken further technical and economic analysis to develop a shortlist of three Proposed Adaptation Futures for South Dunedin. These include:

- Future 3 – Protect (Keep the land dry – raise land and pump water)
- Future 4 – Restore (Make space for water – waterways and wetlands)
- Future 5 – Reshape (Move out of harm's way – raised land and green spaces)

- [5] Each future outlines a potential approach and proposed set of actions that could be taken over time to reduce flood risk and adapt South Dunedin to the anticipated impacts of climate change. The futures also illustrate the likely consequences of inaction. Findings are presented across four technical reports: on stormwater, groundwater, and economics, and an overview report describing the three proposed adaptation futures.
- [6] Encouragingly, this work indicates that it is technically feasible to significantly reduce flood risk in South Dunedin over the next 50–100 years, despite the anticipated increase in climate-related hazards. However, achieving this would require extensive and ongoing investment, disruption, and change over that period (and likely beyond). Reducing flood risk would involve a mix of new and upgraded infrastructure, land raising and redevelopment, and the creation of parks, wetlands, and waterways in some areas of South Dunedin. Implementing these public works would require councils to change planning rules and acquire private property in some areas.
- [7] The futures combine different adaptation actions across the short term (2025–2050), medium term (2050–2075), and long term (2075–2125). The futures are broadly similar in the short term, focusing on investment in stormwater and groundwater infrastructure and preparing for potential land-use change through planning measures and property acquisition. In the medium term, more substantive changes would be introduced, including land raising, new development patterns, and the creation of parks, wetlands, and waterways, alongside coastal protection and continued infrastructure upgrades. In the long term, major capital works would taper off, while new housing in lower-risk areas would provide additional development capacity.
- [8] The proposed actions and changes outlined in the three futures are significant, reflecting the scale and nature of the challenges facing South Dunedin. It is therefore important that councillors and the community consider these proposals in their wider context, including the expected benefits of being proactive and taking decisive action, as well as the likely consequences of delay and inaction. While there is acknowledged community frustration regarding the perceived lack of action on flooding since 2015, it has taken time to build a comprehensive understanding of the underlying problems and to identify workable long-term solutions. This analysis confirms there are no quick or simple fixes and that system-scale responses are required.
- [9] The economic assessment shows that maintaining the status quo in South Dunedin has an estimated cost of \$1.45 billion in net present value (NPV) over a 100-year period and likely more than \$2 billion once wider factors are considered. All three proposed futures deliver significantly better outcomes, with net costs ranging from approximately \$280 million to \$1.112 billion NPV over a 100-year period, reflecting the benefits of adaptation action, including avoided flood damages and associated disruption over time. While the futures all involve substantial upfront costs, benefits grow over time, and the anticipated costs of inaction are even higher.
- [10] Achieving meaningful flood-risk reduction in South Dunedin over the next 50–100 years will require system-wide interventions and consequential intergenerational decisions. The scale and duration of investment needed may commit future generations to specific adaptation pathways, long-lived infrastructure, and escalating operating costs. Even with decisive action,

residual risks associated with sea-level rise and climate change will persist. Decisions made today will therefore shape not only near-term outcomes, but also the choices, obligations, and risks inherited by future communities.

- [11] Subject to approval by Councils, the next step in the SDF programme involves engaging with affected communities and other stakeholders on the Proposed Adaptation Futures. Feedback would inform further technical and economic analysis aimed at identifying a single preferred future and finalising a climate adaptation masterplan for South Dunedin. Technical work is now sufficiently advanced that implementation of 'no regrets' actions can commence in parallel of this final stage. This includes DCC continuing delivery of three stormwater projects previously approved by Council and staff working to integrate proposed short-term actions (common across all three futures) into Long Term Plan (2027-36) processes, enabling a faster transition to implementation from 1 July 2027.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

South Dunedin Future Technical Reports

- 1) **Notes** the background of the South Dunedin Future programme, including the Council-approved programme plan and strategy, and the work undertaken since the previous report to Council in September 2025.
- 2) **Notes** the contents of the attached South Dunedin Future technical reports, including:
 - a) *Three proposed adaptation futures for South Dunedin*, which provides an overview of the futures including the key features, actions, and associated costs and benefits;
 - b) *South Dunedin Stormwater Modelling Report*, which describes technical assessments of feasibility of a range of potential stormwater-related interventions intended to mitigate flood and other risks affecting South Dunedin;
 - c) *South Dunedin Groundwater Modelling Report*, which describes early-stage technical assessments to determine the feasibility of groundwater drainage systems aimed at managing risks from shallow and rising groundwater across South Dunedin; and
 - d) *Economic Assessment of the three proposed adaptation futures for South Dunedin*, which evaluates the economic performance of each of the futures against a status quo scenario.
- 3) **Notes** these four reports have undergone external technical peer review, and where technical issues remain outstanding, these are acknowledged in the reports or will be addressed in subsequent stages of the SDF programme.
- 4) **Notes** that additional reports have also been completed on the health and equity implications of the three proposed adaptation futures, the potential property implications of various adaptation actions, and on initial due diligence on potential future development in Ocean Beach Domain. Summaries of these reports are included in this paper and the full reports will be available on the South Dunedin Future webpage.
- 5) **Endorses** the attached South Dunedin Future technical reports for the purposes of community engagement, noting any future decisions on land use, infrastructure, and project implementation would be subject to further consideration by Councils through long-term planning and financial processes.

Community Engagement

- 6) **Approves** progressing to the next step of the SDF programme, which involves staff engaging with partners, stakeholders and affected communities to seek feedback on the three proposed adaptation futures for South Dunedin.

- 7) **Notes** the proposed communications and engagement activities, including range of media and public communications, and mix of public and targeted stakeholder engagements planned for early-July to mid-August 2026.

Final stage of the SDF programme

- 8) **Notes** that following completion of community engagement in August 2026, feedback will be analysed, and key findings reported to Councils in September 2026.
- 9) **Notes** that community feedback will also inform a multi-criteria assessment of the three proposed adaptation futures against a decision-making framework previously approved by Councils, and that results of this assessment will be reported to Councils in September 2026.
- 10) **Notes** the final stage of the SDF programme will involve identifying a preferred adaptation future as the basis for finalising a climate adaptation masterplan for South Dunedin for Councils' consideration and approval by 30 June 2027.
- 11) **Notes** staff will seek to align the final stage of the SDF programme with Council's Long-Term Plan (2027-36), Infrastructure Strategy, and Water Services Delivery Plan processes, to promote coherence and support efficient transition to implementation of the masterplan and related activities from 1 July 2027.

Other Options

- 12) **Notes** other options explored in this paper, which include:
- a) One or both Councils requesting further technical, economic, or other work on the climate and natural hazard-related risks affecting South Dunedin and potential responses, including those outlined in the proposed adaptation futures, before seeking approval of Councils to undertake planned engagement with partners, stakeholders, and affected communities; and
 - b) One or both Councils directing an alternative course of action from those described in previous options above.

From: Amanda Vercoe [Amanda.Vercoe@orc.govt.nz]

To: Cr Gretchen Robertson; Cr Gary Kelliher

Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 1:35:08 p.m.

Subject: S&R portfolio ToR - climate change work

Attachments: image001.png (88 KB); orc-logo-png-125px_6ba7d464-04aa-4e72-a0b6-65e3bcc6d940.png (6 KB); facebook-logo-blue-circle-large-transparent-png_4b54f44a-c12d-4aaf-a929-03b16184c327.png (2 KB); linkedin-circle-logo-for-signature_1a487568-4962-4633-a528-10dd42d6893d.png (2 KB); youtube-circle-logo-for-signature_cd5605db-dfce-4a18-bca9-cb6ee6f79ea3.png (1 KB); 250625 2024 Climate Strategy Implementation and Effectiveness Report.pdf (557 KB);

Hi Gretchen and Gary,

Hope you've had a good week.

There are a couple of areas of your S&R ToR that are generated from the Strategy and Customer Group related to climate change. I wanted to get in touch to update you on a couple of key things happening in the space. There's probably not enough activity to warrant regular meetings, but please let me know if this was your preference, as I am more than happy to!

1. **Climate Strategy:** This is an ongoing programme of work as we implement the strategy and its actions. We have an annual reporting milestone this coming up in June, and it would be great to understand whether you'd like to provide any feedback on how to make this useful for governance, had any questions, or whether you'd like further information. We could potentially tag onto one of your briefings with Tom, or set up a separate time when it suited.

Background info has been provided below, and attached. Please let me know what your preference would be and we can make it happen.

2. **Climate Change Risk Assessment:** Year 2 in the Long-term plan had a project included to look at the 2021 risk assessment and turn it into more useable district level summaries, to help make the information more accessible and engaging (breaking down the fairly dense and long 2021 report). This project is progressing well, it won't come to Council for endorsement, as it is the same information from 2021, but being presented in a more engaging interactive way. Our team would be happy to provide a briefing on this once we're closer to having the final products to show you, which will be middle of the year.

Climate Strategy Background:

In December 2024, ORC's Climate Strategy was adopted by Council. This provides an overview of how we are addressing climate change through our work and helps to inform ORC work programmes to ensure progress is made towards our climate-related goals. The actions listed in the strategy reflect that ORC has a key role to play in supporting climate resilience across the region (this is the focus of the strategy) but also has a responsibility to reduce the organisation's dependency on fossil fuels and support others to do the same.

The 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan set the following level of service target regarding the 2024 Climate Strategy: *ORC actions from the Regional Climate Change Strategy are implemented, and the effectiveness of the strategy is monitored and reported on annually.*

The first of these reports was brought to Council in June 2025 (see attached). This reported that while many work programmes and projects have been progressed, there is still work to do. The status of each action was provided as an appendix to the paper.

S&R Terms of Reference

Science and Resilience Portfolio

Portfolio Leads	Gary Kelliher, Gretchen Robertson
Senior Officer	General Manager Science and Resilience

Areas of Responsibility

1. Resilience

- ORC's programme of work on climate change adaptation
- Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment
- ORC's Climate Change Strategy, implementation and effectiveness
- Natural hazards risks and programmes to manage those risks
- Waterway management, flood control and land drainage
- River management, flood control and land drainage schemes and service delivery risks
- Natural hazards monitoring and warning systems and processes

Best regards,
Amanda.



Amanda Vercoe

General Manager Strategy and Customer - Deputy CEO
Executive Leadership

7(2)(a) | Amanda.Vercoe@orc.govt.nz

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10.12. 2024 ORC Climate Strategy - Implementation and Effectiveness

Report Prepared for: Council

Report No.	STG2502
Activity:	Community: Governance and Community
Author:	Rebecca McLeod (Principal Advisor- Strategy), Hilary Lennox (Manager Strategy), Ema Kurbos-Cooper (Advisor Strategy)
Endorsed by:	Amanda Vercoe, General Manager Strategy and Customer Richard Saunders, Chief Executive
Date:	25 June 2025

PURPOSE

- [1] To provide an annual report on the implementation and effectiveness of the 2024 Climate Strategy, which is a level of service target in the 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- [2] This report summarises outputs (progress on actions) of the Climate Strategy and provides observations on its effectiveness in coordinating and elevating the focus on climate-related work across the ORC in the six months since it was adopted by Council.
- [3] Most of the actions are underway, and several have already been completed. Importantly, an assessment of ORC’s organisational carbon emissions is nearing completion and will be reported to Council later this year. This emissions inventory provides the foundations for developing an organisational Emissions Reduction Plan, which will drive reduction of the organisation’s emissions. Another highlight is the collaborative and community-facing work carried out in climate adaptation, with projects such as South Dunedin Futures and Head of the Lake reaching significant milestones in this reporting period.
- [4] Many of the actions were already underway prior to the adoption of the Climate Strategy. The Strategy has brought them together into a cohesive programme of works.
- [5] A GAP analysis planned for 2025/26 will identify how much additional work will be required to deliver on the Strategy’s goals.
- [6] Having a Climate Strategy has increased the credibility of the ORC, and the organisation is well placed to continue building public perception of the ORC as a regional leader on climate action and a trusted source of information regarding our climate future. This is reflected in our engagement with peers from Otago’s territorial authorities (TAs), members of the Zero Carbon Alliance, and with peers nationally.
- [7] An analysis of actions against the Strategic Directions 2024-2034 demonstrates that climate action is a strong theme across the ORC. This is noticeable in the way that we work, with an increased awareness of climate-related work being conducted by various teams across the council and improved information sharing and collaboration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council

1) **Notes** this report.

BACKGROUND

- [8] Council adopted ORC's Climate Strategy on 4 December 2024.
- [9] The 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan sets the following level of service target regarding the 2024 Climate Strategy:
 - ORC actions from the Regional Climate Change Strategy are implemented, and the effectiveness of the strategy is monitored and reported on annually.
- [10] Although this is an annual report on the implementation and effectiveness of the Strategy, it captures only the first six months since the Strategy was adopted.

DISCUSSION

Progress on Actions in the 2024 Climate Strategy

- [11] While many work programmes and projects have been progressed, there is still much to be done. See Attachment 1 for detail on the status of each action.
- [12] The actions are being progressed by many teams across the council, including Strategy, Science, Policy and Planning, Natural Hazards, Engineering, Environmental Implementation, Environmental Monitoring, Compliance, Emergency Management/Civil Defence, Transport, Fleet and Facilities, Finance, Communications and Marketing, and Partnerships and Engagement.
- [13] Of the 53 actions identified in the Strategy, six have been completed and 43 are on track. The actions range in their level of granularity: some are discrete projects, others contain multiple projects, and several are ongoing business-as-usual ways of working and are not tied to specific projects.
- [14] Please note that not all actions were planned to have started in Year One of the Strategy.
- [15] Four actions are "off track", due to being deprioritised, or due to central government policy being reformed. These actions include exploring ways to decarbonise the Total Mobility scheme, developing a public and active transport connectivity strategy, and notifying the Regional Land and Water Plan – illustrating the impact central government direction on these matters has at the regional council level.
- [16] By adopting this Strategy, ORC reinforced its commitment to better managing organisational emissions. As noted earlier, work on this has progressed significantly through the development of ORC's organisational emissions inventory, which is nearing completion. This will enable the development of an organisational Emissions Reduction Plan in the year ahead.

Impact of the 2024 Climate Strategy – Beyond Listed Actions

- [17] Progress on the Strategy's actions only reflects part of the impact that the Strategy has had. The Strategy has provided much-needed clarity across the ORC in how various workstreams are linked to improved climate outcomes (adaptation and mitigation/emissions reduction). This clarity of purpose has raised organisational awareness about relevant work occurring in other departments and has fostered collaboration across the council.
- [18] The Strategy has defined the role of the ORC with respect to climate action to staff, Councillors, TAs and the Otago community. It has highlighted where we have responsibility and influence to act on climate, the kinds of information we hold that can assist others on climate matters, and the importance of our role to support others to prepare and act.
- [19] Having a Climate Strategy has granted us a seat at the table with other councils and agencies involved in climate-related work, thereby facilitating knowledge sharing, support and collaborative opportunities.
- [20] Examples of collaboration between the ORC and others following the adoption of the Climate Strategy include:
- Progressing conversations with Aukaha, Te Ao Marama, and local rūnaka regarding how ORC can support their climate adaptation planning;
 - Expansion and refresh of the Zero Carbon Alliance;
 - Working with other councils to determine how to ensure the next Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment (OCCRA) meets the needs of the region;
 - Preparing a submission on Dunedin City Council's 9 year-plan to express support for climate related work that would act as a multiplier for ORC's own work.
- [21] The 2024 Climate Strategy has also been used internally as a reference document when progressing other work, such as:
- Scoping the next OCCRA;
 - Understanding what ORC is aiming to achieve, to provide continuity for Otago communities when considering upcoming resource management reforms;
 - Developing the Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035;
 - Developing the draft Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy;
 - Bringing climate change considerations into the Regional Pest Management Plan;
 - Ongoing development of the Integrated Catchment Management approach.

New actions and alignment with Strategic Directions

- [22] New climate-related actions have come to our attention during this review that are not captured in the Climate Strategy 2024 (Appendix 2). These new actions include work to expand our knowledge, monitoring capabilities and use of climate projections, and advocacy on climate action.
- [23] An assessment of the alignment between 2024 Climate Strategy actions and Strategic Directions goals has been completed to illustrate where our efforts are currently focussed and where further action is needed (Appendix 3). This assessment demonstrates that the Climate Strategy reaches all 18 goals in the Strategic Directions,

across partnership, communities, environment, resilience, climate and transport. This reiterates that climate is a strong theme in the mahi of ORC.

OPTIONS

[24] This is a noting paper, so no options have been provided.

CONSIDERATIONS

Strategic Framework and Policy Considerations

[25] Nine of ORC's Strategic Directions 2024-2034 goals have been adopted as the nine goals of the 2024 Climate Strategy (although it can be argued that the Strategy reaches all 18 goals in some way). The Strategy includes goals from the Environment, Resilience, Climate, and Transport Strategic Directions focus areas. Additionally, the Partnership and Communities focus areas are identified in the 2024 Climate Strategy as guiding how we work.

[26] This report fulfils a level of service measure in ORC's 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan.

Financial Considerations

[27] Over the lifespan of the 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan, \$650,000 has been set aside for implementation of the 2024 Climate Strategy.

Significance and Engagement

[28] The 2024 Climate Strategy met ORC's Engagement Significance criteria for a medium-high level of engagement.

[29] To achieve this level of engagement, the Strategy was shared for public consultation in the spring of 2024, and feedback was incorporated before a final version of the Strategy was presented to Council. Both ahead of and following public consultation, key stakeholders were engaged in Strategy development.

[30] This paper itself does not require further engagement, though reporting on the implementation and effectiveness of the Strategy will likely be of interest to those who shared feedback through engagement during Strategy development. We will develop an efficient and effective means of communicating our progress with interested parties.

Legislative and Risk Considerations

[31] There are no direct legislative or risks to consider.

Climate Change Considerations

[32] ORC's 2024 Climate Strategy identifies ORC's role in both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Effective implementation of this Strategy will result in organisational emissions reductions in addition to increased climate resilience for at-risk communities in Otago.

Communications Considerations

- [33] This annual report on the implementation and effectiveness of ORC's 2024 Climate Strategy may be reported in the media, as interest in climate change is high.

NEXT STEPS

- [34] A comprehensive review of ORC's current climate-related work and capabilities related to climate will be assessed via a GAP analysis of the Climate Strategy 2024. This has commenced and will continue in FY 2025/2026.
- [35] Development of an Outcome Reporting Framework for the 2024-2034 Strategic Directions is underway and when complete, will provide further insight into the effectiveness of the Climate Strategy.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 Progress on Actions Listed in Climate Strategy 2024 [**10.12.1** - 9 pages]
2. Attachment 2 Alignment of actions listed in Climate Strategy 2024 with SD Goals [**10.12.2** - 3 pages]
3. Attachment 3 New actions identified during review of Climate Strategy [**10.12.3** - 1 page]

2024/25 Progress on actions listed in Climate Strategy 2024

Action #	Actions	Responsible Team(s)	Implementation Status
1	Undertake a review of the environmental monitoring network to ensure it is fit for purpose and includes additional climate monitoring parameters.	Science, Environmental Monitoring, Natural Hazards	State of the Environment monitoring network stocktake completed 2024/25 Hydrology: Internal water quantity network review completed 2024/25, primarily focused on water allocation monitoring (low flows). Any further reviews are on hold due to the non-notification of the LWRP. Air Quality: Options for the airsheds have been provided for consideration by external consultants. In the interim, ongoing expansion and upgrade of the existing network is in progress. Biodiversity: Monitoring network under development - ongoing Climate-related parameters: Monitoring being considered in new and existing stations where appropriate - ongoing.
2	Develop drainage models for assessing scheme capacity against the impacts of climate change (East Taieri, West Taieri, Lower Clutha and Tokomairiro).	Engineering, Natural Hazards	2024/25 - No progress 2025/26 onwards - Will start approaching these scheme by scheme
3	Collaborate with Otago's city and district councils to ensure civil defence and emergency management is informed by specific risks across the region.	EMO, Natural Hazards, Strategy	BAU to collaborate among councils. 2024/25 - Completed: Natural Hazards Risk Assessment - facilitated collaboration. 2024/25 - Completed: Natural hazard risk assessment workshop series to inform the Group Plan. 2025/26 - Planned to do an Otago Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment, which will inform CDEM.
4	Operate a network of near real-time rainfall and water level stations across the region to support flood forecasting and emergency response with a 24/7 duty roster to support forecasting duties and any necessary response.	Natural Hazards, Environmental Monitoring, EMO	New initiative to collaborate between Natural Hazards and EMO, now BAU. 2024/25 - Completed: Leith and Lindsay's Creek improved modeling and trigger levels identified. 2025/26 - onwards - improved modeling and identification of trigger levels for other waterways.

5	Review the rainfall monitoring network to determine whether it can be used for purposes other than flood warning, e.g. drought predictions, management of water allocation, etc.	Environmental Monitoring, Natural Hazards, Science	2024/25 - No progress due to Regional Plan: Land and Water being put on hold.
6	Undertake operational monitoring of coastal mouths and respond to channel flow and flood risks.	Engineering	BAU, ongoing. 2025/26 will begin to install telemetered monitoring stations around selected coastal mouths.
7	Collect data to inform assessments of climate-related impacts in Otago, including coastal, river cross-sections and morphology, landslide and sea-level rise.	Natural Hazards	BAU, ongoing data collection (groundwater, sea level, river and lake cross sections, LIDAR). 2025/26 - Finalise Coastal Monitoring Plan to guide activities for next 10 years.
8	Maintain a register of contaminated sites in Otago and advocate for risk assessments and remediation of contaminated sites vulnerable to the effects of climate change.	Compliance, Natural Hazards	BAU to maintain the register. Risk assessments for some as instigated by the site owner. 2024/25 - in progress: MFE leading a project aimed at developing a new climate change risk tool for landfills. ORC involved.
9	Undertake an Otago Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and develop a prioritisation framework to assess natural hazard exposure.	Natural Hazards	2024/25 - Natural Hazards Exposure Assessment presented to council 2025/26 - Prioritisation framework will be developed and applied
10	Administer the ECO Fund to deliver projects to improve the resilience of local ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity.	Environmental Implementation	BAU - ECO Fund administration. 2024/25 - Determine focus and criteria for large scale environmental fund 2025/26 (dependent on Council decision) - Implement large scale environmental fund
11	Expand ORC's biosecurity programme to better manage the impact of exotic pest species on indigenous biodiversity and improve the resilience and adaptive capacity of desirable ecosystems.	Environmental Implementation	2024/25 - Dedicated surveillance budget enabled targeted monitoring for exotic pest species. 2025/26 - Will begin review of Regional Pest Management Plan and assess this action
12	Work through Emergency Management Otago to support mana whenua-led approaches to emergency readiness and response by co-funding a two-year emergency management mana whenua facilitator.	EMO	2024/25 - Underway - contracted facilitator until March 2026

13	Collaborate with Dunedin City Council on the South Dunedin Futures work programme by providing risk assessments, natural hazard investigations, environmental monitoring of groundwater, sea level and rainfall, and supporting the identification and execution of adaptation options.	Natural Hazards	2024/25 - released the Risk Assessment and Options Reports, carried out public consultation on options. 2025/26 - Detailed development and analysis of 2 future options 2026/27 - Development of Master Plan BAU - operation of monitoring sites (groundwater, sea level, ground level monitoring, rain radar etc.).
14	Work through Emergency Management Otago to raise community awareness of climate hazards and how to prepare, including through the community response network, which provides training and resources to support communities' capabilities and capacity to manage emergency events.	EMO	BAU Annual Community Resilience Survey across Otago, which includes questions on climate risks.
15	Support mana whenua in undertaking climate change risk assessments and managing the exposure and vulnerability of taonga by providing technical information and guidance as needed.	Natural Hazards, Strategy	2024/25 - Began conversations with mana whenua to assess needs and wishes. 2025/26 - Continue to assesss mana whenua needs and wishes, and determine how ORC can best provide support.
16	Collaborate with Otago's city and district councils to build on the Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment to provide valuable adaptation information for the region.	Strategy	2024/25 - Developed Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment objectives and scope 2025/26 - Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment work undertaken
17	Collaborate with Otago's city and district councils to codesign community education messaging on adaptation needs for the region.	Natural Hazards, Communications	BAU as required. 2024/25 - Community education messaging on South Dunedin Future and Head of the Lake (Glenorchy). Community mesaging on nature based solutions projects (eg. Tomahawk Lagoon) 2025/26 - South Dunedin Future and Head of the Lake work to continue. Roxburgh (led by CODC) and Clutha Delta Natural Hazard Adaptation Programmes (led by CDC).
18	Provide adaptation planning support to mana whenua at a rūnaka level.	Natural Hazards, Strategy	2024/25 - Began conversations with mana whenua to assess needs and wishes. 2025/26 - Continue to assesss mana whenua needs and wishes, and determine how ORC can best provide support.

19	Ensure that Catchment Action Plans for different freshwater management units include identification of climate adaptation needs.	Environmental Implementation	BAU, to provide communities with available information to help inform their assessment of place-based values and threats. Note that discussions on any topic are led by the community, so climate adaptation considerations will vary among catchments.
20	Review the Otago Lifelines Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment to inform ongoing emergency management work.	EMO, Natural Hazards	2024/25 - Complete. Otago Lifelines Group: Vulnerability and Interdependency Study published October 2024.
21	Collaborate with Otago's city and district councils to develop shared adaptation priorities based on a consistent risk assessment framework, and to agree on consistent use of dynamic adaptive pathways planning.	Natural Hazards, Strategy, Planning	2024/25 - In progress with DCC on city-wide adaptation priorities 2025/26 - 2026/27 - Risk assessment and adaptation priorities to be carried out with each district council.
22	Collaborate with Queenstown Lakes District Council on adaptation needs, including regarding wildfire risk on Mount Iron, Ben Lomond and other red zone locations and Gorge Road alluvial fan risk.	Natural Hazards	2024/25 - Discussion commenced. Ongoing work required to inform QLDC LTP.
23	Collaborate with Queenstown Lakes District Council on the Head of Lake Whakatipu Natural Hazard Adaptation Strategy to inform adaptation in Glenorchy and Kinloch, considering climate and other natural hazard risks.	Natural Hazards	2024/25 - Complete. Head of Lake Whakatipu Natural Hazard Adaptation Strategy presented to ORC and QLDC May 2025.
24	Collaborate with Waitaki District Council on adaptation projects and initiatives for Waitaki coastal risk assessment and management.	Natural Hazards	2024/25 - ORC Natural Hazards Team supported WDC in workshop on coastal hazard and adaptation options. Ongoing - ORC offer to assist WDC with future work.
25	Collaborate with Clutha District Council on a multi-hazard adaptation strategy, including reviewing the Lower Clutha Flood Protection scheme regarding engineering solutions compared to retreat, and considering adaptation risks relating to the wider Clutha Delta, including monitoring sea and groundwater levels and shoreline change.	Natural Hazards, Engineering	2024/25 - Work commenced. Safety and Resilience Committee briefed on progress in March 2025. 2025/26 onwards - work will continue

26	Develop the Lower Taieri Plains Adaptation Strategy, which reviews the flood protection schemes and the impacts of increased climate impacts and natural hazard risks on existing infrastructure, including floodbanks, drainage systems and pump station adequacy.	Natural Hazards, Engineering	BAU to review the function and adequacy of existing infrastructure in Lower Taieri Plains. Development of the Lower Taieri Plains Adaptation Strategy will commence once the Lower Clutha Flood Protection scheme review is completed.
27	Conduct an organisational climate change risk assessment (following the agreed regional framework) to scope the risk levels to various ORC assets, infrastructure and operations.	Strategy	2024/25 - Project scoping in progress 2025/26 - Organisational climate change risk assessment will be prepared if considered a priority.
28	Ensure ORC's budgeting process builds in climate assumptions, including emergency funds for repairing/ replacing infrastructure and reviewing adaptation needs for ORC infrastructure.	Engineering, Finance	BAU Long term infrastructure projects (adaptation) that accommodate forecast climatic conditions are built into 30yr Infrastructure Plan. Maintain Emergency Response Fund, which could be accessed for an emergency climate-related response if required. Continue to access central government funding as needed to assist in flood recovery where eligible, and apply for other funding opportunities that ORC may be eligible for in relation to climate resilience and adaptation.
29	Investigate adaptation needs as part of the Leith to Harbour Amenity Project.	Natural Hazards, Engineering	2024/25 - Structural integrity of walls under assessment. Outcome will inform the amenity work.
30	Ensure that climate-related impacts are understood when developing the proposed Regional Plan: Land and Water, and revising the Regional Plan: Coast.	Policy & Planning, Strategy, Natural Hazards	2024/25 - Regional Plan: Land and Water on hold. Climate-related impacts have been considered, based mostly on current environmental data. 2025/26 - Regional Plan: Coast review to begin. 2025/26 - Otago Regional Climate Change Risk Assessment work to be undertaken. Potential to inform Regional Plans.

31	Ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation policies are embedded in the Regional Policy Statement and Future Development Strategies and these reflect the natural hazard and climate impacts and risks for the region.	Policy	2024/25 For Future Development Strategies: central to approach with South Dunedin Future. Included policy direction in regional policy statement and future regional plans that: - avoids creation, exacerbation or seeks mitigation of natural hazards when providing for the use or development of natural and physical resources - enabling land use changes that promote resilience of ecosystems and communities - enabling renewable energy generation - provide for activities that support implementation of national adaptation plans and national, regional or local targets for greenhouse gas reductions - recognise the importance of water availability and security
32	Advocate to central government for legislation to support local government with managed retreat and other adaptation actions.	Natural Hazards, Policy	Ongoing/BAU 2024/25 examples: - ORC participated in Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network submissions to central government - ORC submission on wastewater management standards, including overflows in context of increasing high rainfall and flood events 2025/26 - expecting consultation on changes to National Direction and RM reform.
33	Act as a conduit between Fire and Emergency NZ and research institutes to understand how we can best use regulatory settings and regional relationships to manage increased wildfire risk for the region.	EMO	2024/25 - Joint agency workshop June 2025 to examine 4 R's in relation to roles and responsibilities in event of wildfire. 2025/26 - Conduit role of ORC will continue.
34	Develop an organisational emissions inventory.	Strategy, Fleet & Facilities, Finance	2024/25 - ORC Emissions Inventory submitted to Toitu, to be audited June 2025. This will form the organisational emissions baseline for future annual inventories.
35	Develop and implement an organisational emissions reduction plan.	Strategy	2025/26 - Development of organisational emissions reduction plan.
36	Support and collaborate with the Zero Carbon Alliance and Otago Climate Officers Group to understand shared emissions reduction priorities and ensure we're coordinating on common emissions reduction pathways and utilising common tools and methodologies.	Strategy	BAU - regular engagement with Zero Carbon Alliance Key Representatives Group and development of shared projects. Progress reported to Zero Carbon Alliance Collaboration Group (Oct 2024; Mar 2025) BAU - ORC convenes monthly meetings of Otago Climate Officers Group. OCOG provides a forum for sharing knowledge and experience, and to understand shared goals and priorities.

37	Participate in the Enviroschools programme to promote environmentally friendly behaviour change in Otago communities.	Communications, Partnerships and Engagement (new)	BAU - ORC provides regional support and direction for the programme (delivered by TLAs). 2024/25 - Many hui with students (professional development of teachers and young people). - growing collaborations with TLAs, community groups, iwi, charities 2025/26 - expect an increase in the number of hui due to demand from students.
38	Collaborate with Otago's city and district councils to fund the Regional Waste Officer role (employed by DCC) to pursue opportunities for regional-level approaches to waste management including resource recovery, waste reduction at source and sludge management.	Strategy	2024/25 - Regional Waste Officer appointed Aug 2024.
39	Develop consistent assumptions on climate projections for Otago to underlie all ORC work.	Strategy, Natural Hazards	2025/26 - Will be established through the Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment work.
40	Collaborate with Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora, National Public Health Service and the region's city and district councils to explore and better understand the impacts of climate change on human health, and explore how to incorporate these considerations into decision making.	Strategy	2024/25 - Workshops with Health NZ Te Whatu Ora on the impacts of climate change on human health held at Clutha District Council and Waitaki District Council. 2025/26 - Progress with scoping workshops for remaining TAs, and incorporation of considerations into decision making slow and uncertain due to ongoing resourcing constraints at Health NZ Te Whatu Ora.
41	Develop an Otago Natural Hazards Adaptation Plan.	Natural Hazards	2024/25 - Otago Region Natural Hazards Exposure Analysis completed 2025/26 - Work to begin on Otago Natural Hazards Adaptation Plan.
42	Revise ORC's Biodiversity Strategy and ensure it is aligned to this strategy and factors in increased climate impacts and natural hazard risks and sets out actions ORC will deliver to enhance Otago's biodiversity.	Strategy	2024/25 - ORC Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy developed, in alignment with Otago Climate Change Strategy. 2026/27 - Implementation of the ORC Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy will be informed by the Otago Climate Change Risk Assessment.

43	Ensure that climate-related impacts and opportunities are understood when revising other regional plans.	Policy & Planning, Environmental Implementation, Transport	2024/25 - Air Plan - climate implications (opportunities) are being considered during review. - Land and Water Plan on hold. - Regional Public Transport Plan - climate implications (opportunities) have been considered during review, but the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 does not direct investment in transport to be aligned with the Emissions Reduction Plan. 2025/26 - Regional Pest Management Plan review will begin, and climate-related impacts and opportunities will be considered as part of the cost benefit analysis that is undertaken. - Regional Coast Plan: review and, if needed, update the coastal hazard mapping and provisions that seek to promote or increase climate change resilience and adaptation.
44	Provide education and advice through catchment advisor programmes to increase knowledge and interest in environmental issues and build community resilience to the impacts of climate change.	Environmental Implementation	2024/25 - not achieved. Current focus of catchment advisors does not include providing education and advice regarding climate change to landowners. This focus could be included in future if council resourced the team to do so. Or alternatively, industry groups may be better placed to deliver this.
45	Engage with landowners in Otago to understand existing knowledge about nature-based solutions for water quality and flood hazard mitigation outcomes, with a view to exploring barriers and benefits for adoption at an individual property level.	Environmental Implementation, Natural Hazards	2024/25 - Project completed (MfE funded). Provides assessment of the barriers to and benefits of nature-based solutions on private properties.
46	Provide efficient, reliable and accessible public transport services to meet community needs.	Transport	2024/25 - BAU where possible. Note that the release of Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 altered BAU of transport team at ORC. Reduced funding to Transport led to readjusting of targets (eg. frequency and service spans).
47	Decarbonise the public transport fleet.	Transport	2024/25 - In progress. Thirteen electric buses now part of fleet. 2025/26 and beyond dependent on Council decision on RPTP (June 2025). Proposal in draft RPTP was an additional 11 electric buses in 25/26, and an additional 42 electric buses in 26/27.
48	Coordinate public transport services with school travel plans.	Transport	2024/25 - underway. Ministry of Education has reduced school bus services, by ending services/routes that are poorly subscribed. Ministry of Education-contracted buses tended to be diesel powered. ORC is responding by re-routing existing services to factor in school passengers (eg. for Wakatipu High School, Otago Boys High School - Green Island). Overall reduction in emissions as public bus fleet is electrified.

49	Explore opportunities to support decarbonisation through the Total Mobility Scheme.	Transport	2024/25 - not achieved. Note that the release of Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 has had an impact on this action. ORC and NZTA subsidise this scheme (25% share from ORC). ORC has no influence over make up of fleet (ie. proportion electric vehicles)
50	Undertake total mobility survey, bus user survey and annual survey to understand current modes of transport and community views on reliability, equitability, sustainability and safety.	Transport	BAU - annual surveys conducted.
51	Collaborate with Otago's city and district councils to reduce car use and encourage public transport uptake through traffic demand management initiatives such as parking plans, active transport, micro-mobility and carpooling.	Transport	In progress. 2024/25 Collaboration with DCC and QLDC included: - reflection of collaboration in draft RPTP - advocating for improved parking management - working on a region-wide active and public transport connectivity strategy
52	Submit on consent applications at the district level to maximise potential integration with the public transport network.	Policy, Transport	2024/25 - not applied 2025/26 onwards - expect to submit on consent applications for large developments that follow the Fast Track process. May include considerations such as road layout/design to facilitate bus route(s) and potential for connectivity with active transport and public transport infrastructure.
53	Develop and implement a public and active transport connectivity strategy to encourage active modes of travel and reduce vehicle emissions.	Transport	On hold: project not prioritised/resourced.

2024/25 Alignment of actions listed in Climate Strategy 2024 with 2024-2034 Strategic Direction Goals

	PARTNERSHIP			COMMUNITIES			ENVIRONMENT			RESILIENCE			CLIMATE			TRANSPORT		
Action #	Te Ao Māori concepts of intergenerationally and deeply connected systems are incorporated throughout Council's work programmes.	Mātauraka Māori and the principle of te mana o te wai are incorporated into our environmental planning, management, and decision making.	We always go above and beyond our statutory responsibilities (as prescribed in local government and treaty settlement legislation) to support the intention of the Crown to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi.	Our communities trust us, and they are satisfied with us and the outcomes that we are delivering.	Our communities are supported and empowered to achieve better environmental outcomes.	The social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing of Otago is consistently improving.	Ecosystems are healthy, our water and air are clean, and biodiversity loss is arrested across the region.	We predict and address emerging environmental issues before they arise.	Our regional plans are effective at ensuring our resources are managed sustainably within biophysical limits in a planned and considered way.	Plans are in place to ensure that the region's most vulnerable communities (geographic and demographic) and ecosystems are resilient in the face of natural hazards.	Our infrastructure is designed and built to accommodate variability and uncertainty associated with changing weather patterns and sea level rise.	Our Regional Policy Statement and regional plans control development in areas that are vulnerable to natural hazards.	The carbon footprint of our organisation is reduced in line with our climate change strategy, and we are supporting and collaborating with others to do the same.	Climate change mitigation and adaptation are key considerations in all our decisions.	Our agriculture and horticulture systems are more climate resilient in the face of changing weather patterns, water availability and consumer choice.	Congestion is reduced and connection is increased throughout the region.	Carbon emissions are reduced and air quality is improved across the region, supported by our efficient and affordable public transport services.	Active transport is the preferred mode for short journeys in urban areas.
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	PARTNERSHIP			COMMUNITIES			ENVIRONMENT			RESILIENCE			CLIMATE			TRANSPORT		
Action #	Te Ao Māori concepts of intergenerationally and deeply connected systems are incorporated throughout Council's work programmes.	Mātauraka Māori and the principle of te mana o te wai are incorporated into our environmental planning, management, and decision making.	We always go above and beyond our statutory responsibilities (as prescribed in local government and treaty settlement legislation) to support the intention of the Crown to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi.	Our communities trust us, and they are satisfied with us and the outcomes that we are delivering.	Our communities are supported and empowered to achieve better environmental outcomes.	The social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing of Otago is consistently improving.	Ecosystems are healthy, our water and air are clean, and biodiversity loss is arrested across the region.	We predict and address emerging environmental issues before they arise.	Our regional plans are effective at ensuring our resources are managed sustainably within biophysical limits in a planned and considered way.	Plans are in place to ensure that the region's most vulnerable communities (geographic and demographic) and ecosystems are resilient in the face of natural hazards.	Our infrastructure is designed and built to accommodate variability and uncertainty associated with changing weather patterns and sea level rise.	Our Regional Policy Statement and regional plans control development in areas that are vulnerable to natural hazards.	The carbon footprint of our organisation is reduced in line with our climate change strategy, and we are supporting and collaborating with others to do the same.	Climate change mitigation and adaptation are key considerations in all our decisions.	Our agriculture and horticulture systems are more climate resilient in the face of changing weather patterns, water availability and consumer choice.	Congestion is reduced and connection is increased throughout the region.	Carbon emissions are reduced and air quality is improved across the region, supported by our efficient and affordable public transport services.	Active transport is the preferred mode for short journeys in urban areas.
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	PARTNERSHIP			COMMUNITIES			ENVIRONMENT			RESILIENCE			CLIMATE			TRANSPORT		
Action #	Te Ao Māori concepts of intergenerationally and deeply connected systems are incorporated throughout Council's work programmes.	Mātauraka Māori and the principle of te mana o te wai are incorporated into our environmental planning, management, and decision making.	We always go above and beyond our statutory responsibilities (as prescribed in local government and treaty settlement legislation) to support the intention of the Crown to uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi.	Our communities trust us, and they are satisfied with us and the outcomes that we are delivering.	Our communities are supported and empowered to achieve better environmental outcomes.	The social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing of Otago is consistently improving.	Ecosystems are healthy, our water and air are clean, and biodiversity loss is arrested across the region.	We predict and address emerging environmental issues before they arise.	Our regional plans are effective at ensuring our resources are managed sustainably within biophysical limits in a planned and considered way.	Plans are in place to ensure that the region's most vulnerable communities (geographic and demographic) and ecosystems are resilient in the face of natural hazards.	Our infrastructure is designed and built to accommodate variability and uncertainty associated with changing weather patterns and sea level rise.	Our Regional Policy Statement and regional plans control development in areas that are vulnerable to natural hazards.	The carbon footprint of our organisation is reduced in line with our climate change strategy, and we are supporting and collaborating with others to do the same.	Climate change mitigation and adaptation are key considerations in all our decisions.	Our agriculture and horticulture systems are more climate resilient in the face of changing weather patterns, water availability and consumer choice.	Congestion is reduced and connection is increased throughout the region.	Carbon emissions are reduced and air quality is improved across the region, supported by our efficient and affordable public transport services.	Active transport is the preferred mode for short journeys in urban areas.
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New actions identified during review of Climate Strategy

Action #	Actions	Responsible Team(s)	Implementation Status
54	Ongoing reviews of science reports as new climate-related data is generated	Science	BAU
55	Scoping and pitching of place-based projects that are focused on predicting emerging environmental issues linked to climate change before they arise.	Science	2024/25: Groundwater monitoring and modelling in the Catlins, in anticipation of drying conditions leading to more demand for irrigation. 2025/26: Project in proposal stage
56	Advocate to city and district councils for investment in projects that build local resilience to climate change.	Strategy, Policy	BAU 2024/25 - Submission to DCC on LTP that advocated for inclusion of projects from proposed Climate Change Investment Packages.

From: Cr Gretchen Robertson
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 2:44 p.m.
To: Tom Dyer; Cr Gary Kelliher
Subject: Re: Catch Up tomorrow

Thank you Tom for your meticulous preparation here and I hope Gary and I can help steer us through some important workshops tomorrow and Thurs.

I'm happy to chair deep water lakes and South Dunedin if you'd like to do flood scheme rates Gary?

See you two and Amanda in the morning,

Gretchen



Gretchen Robertson
Councillor

| Gretchen.Robertson@orc.govt.nz

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From: Tom Dyer <Tom.Dyer@orc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 09 June 2026 14:27:00
To: Cr Gretchen Robertson <Gretchen.Robertson@orc.govt.nz>; Cr Gary Kelliher <Gary.Kelliher@orc.govt.nz>
Subject: Catch Up tomorrow

Hi Gretchen and Gary,

I hope you are both having a good week. I just wanted to send you a quick outline for our catch up tomorrow as we have a fair bit to get through.

Amanda will join us at 9.30 to take us through an update on the Climate Strategy. Her last email on this matter is attached for reference.

We will then spend some time on papers for the next meeting - I have also attached a pre-agenda summary - we have a few so if you get the chance to have a glance at that doc that will help to focus our conversation.

We also have 3 workshops this week - Deep Lakes TAG Science Programme Proposal, South Dunedin Futures, and Lower Clutha and Lower Taieri Rates Review. It would be good to discuss how we handle these with regard to chairing, presenting and questions. I think each of them has a bit of a nuance.

Lastly we have the opportunity to talk about any projects you would like updates on. If there is anything in particular you would like to know about and I will make sure I come with the latest info.

Look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

Thanks
Tom

From: Media
Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2026 4:14 p.m.
To: Councillors
Cc: GM Team
Subject: EMBARGOED media release - South Dunedin flood risks can be significantly reduced, but difficult choices lie ahead
Attachments: South Dunedin Future media release.pdf

Good afternoon

EMBARGOED UNTIL 4am Wednesday 17 June

South Dunedin flood risks can be significantly reduced, but difficult choices lie ahead

Three proposals released this week show it is feasible to significantly reduce flood risks in South Dunedin over the next 50 to 100 years, including in the face of increasing climate related hazards.

The work has been undertaken through the joint Dunedin City Council and Otago Regional Council **South Dunedin Future** programme, and will be presented to councils on 24 and 25 June respectively.

More details are in the attached release, which will be sent to media shortly.

Please note the embargo and do not publish or share this information until then.



Media
media@orc.govt.nz



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EMBARGOED UNTIL 4am Wednesday 17 June

South Dunedin flood risks can be significantly reduced, but difficult choices lie ahead

17 June 2026 — Three proposals released this week show it is feasible to significantly reduce flood risks in South Dunedin over the next 50 to 100 years, including in the face of increasing climate related hazards.

The work has been undertaken through the joint Dunedin City Council and Otago Regional Council **South Dunedin Future** programme, and will be presented to councils on 24 and 25 June respectively.

South Dunedin Future Programme Manager Jonathan Rowe says the analysis provides a more comprehensive picture of what it would take to manage flooding in one of Dunedin's most complex and exposed urban environments.

"The encouraging finding is that, even as flood hazards increase, it is feasible to significantly reduce risk – potentially to levels comparable to, or lower than, today," Mr Rowe said. "However, achieving that outcome would require sustained effort over many decades, including major investment, disruption, and change."

Three proposed futures

To help guide discussions about how South Dunedin might adapt over time, councils have developed three proposed adaptation futures. These are options only at this stage - no decisions have been made. Community consultation and further technical work will take place before a final masterplan for South Dunedin is presented to Council.

The Futures build on previous work and reflect community feedback during earlier stages of the South Dunedin Future programme. Each outlines a different approach to managing flood risk through combinations of infrastructure investment, land use change, and urban development.

The futures span the short (2025-50), medium (2050-75), and long term (2075-2125) timeframes.

Reducing flood risk at this scale would require:

- Upgrading stormwater and groundwater infrastructure
- Creating new parks, wetlands, and waterways
- Raising land in some areas
- Potentially moving people and buildings from the highest-risk locations

Each future adopts a particular way of managing risk and comes with different trade-offs in terms of costs, disruption, and change.

- **Future 3 – Protect** (*Keep the land dry – raise land and pump water*)
Seeks to keep the land dry through a focus on engineered systems — pipes and pumps — with some land raising, green space and coastal protection.
- **Future 4 – Restore** (*Make space for water – waterways and wetlands*)
Seeks to make space for water, by reintroducing open waterways, wetlands, and other green spaces to complement the pipes and pumps.
- **Future 5 – Reshape** (*Move out of harm's way – raised land and green spaces*)
Seeks to move people out of harm's way using land raising and infrastructure alongside new green spaces and waterways. Coastal protection is moved inland.

The futures are similar in the short term, focusing on infrastructure upgrades and preparing for potential land-use change. Larger changes would emerge over the medium term, including land raising, new development patterns, and expanded green and blue spaces. By the long term, major capital works reduce, while new housing in lower-risk areas supports future growth. "The proposed changes are significant, but they reflect the scale and nature of the challenges facing South Dunedin now, and in the future," Mr Rowe said.

Proposals, not decisions

Mr Rowe emphasised that **no decisions have been made**. The three futures are proposals, intended to inform discussion and decision making rather than to predetermine outcomes.

The advice on the proposed futures will be considered by Councils on 24 and 25 June.

Any future decisions – including potential plan changes, rezoning, or infrastructure investment – would be made by Councillors, subject to further analysis, community input, and standard council processes.

Property acquisition

As councils explore options to reduce flood risk in South Dunedin over the next 50–100 years, including the three proposed futures, it is likely that achieving meaningful risk reduction will require the purchase of private properties in some areas. This may be needed to support work such as new or upgraded infrastructure, raising land above flood levels, and creating green and blue spaces to store and move floodwater.

The three futures identify general areas where interventions such as new pumps and pipes, land raising, and parks, wetlands and waterways could be located. These areas are shown on maps and in visualisations, but are indicative at this stage, based on analysis to date.

"The locations shown in the technical reports are based on current information and are indicative only. Specific properties would be confirmed later, after detailed project design. Any final decisions would be made by Councils, after considering community feedback and further technical advice", Mr Rowe said.

If property acquisition is required, this would follow established council processes and approvals, and be subject to available funding. The current intention is that any acquisition would be undertaken over time, on a voluntary basis where possible, at market value, and in accordance with relevant legislation.

Additional information about potential property acquisition will be made available on council websites and shared with the South Dunedin community.

Managing uncertainty over the long term

While the futures are grounded in scientific, engineering, and economic analysis, councils are clear that the work necessarily relies on assumptions and simplified representations of complex social, environmental, and economic systems evolving over a century.

“There is uncertainty that cannot be removed,” Mr Rowe said. “Adaptation planning can help manage that uncertainty, for example by keeping options open, staging decisions, and avoiding lock-in, but it cannot eliminate it altogether.”

While acknowledging community frustration regarding the perceived lack of action on flooding since 2015, it has taken time to build a comprehensive understanding of the underlying problems and to identify workable long-term solutions. This analysis confirms there are no quick or simple fixes and that system-scale responses are required.

This longer-term, system-wide work under South Dunedin Future is part of a broader package of flood-related investment. It complements current work to design and deliver three South Dunedin stormwater projects previously approved by DCC (valued at \$29.2 million), as well as work to address wastewater overflows at Surrey Street.

Cost of the Futures is less than the cost of the status quo

The stormwater and groundwater modelling undertaken in this stage of work has supported more detailed economic assessments. These show the estimated costs of the three futures are less than previously predicted and less than continuing with a status quo approach (when factoring in the benefit of avoided flood and other damagers).

Costs for the three futures range from \$1.63B to \$2.45B in present day value over 100 years. For context, the cost of implementing the lowest cost future (Future 4) is roughly 8 per cent of DCC’s annual capital budget of around \$200 million, noting South Dunedin comprises around 10 per cent of the city’s population. When accounting for the expected benefits of each future, in the form of avoiding loss and damages from flooding and coastal inundation, the net cost of the futures range from \$280 million to \$1.1 B.

This compares favorably to indicative costs of \$2B to \$7.1B for options considered in the previous stage of the programme and the overall cost of continuing the current approach under a status quo approach, which is estimated to be between \$1.45B – over \$2B.

The analysis also highlights that delayed or insufficient action would see flood impacts

continue and worsen over time.

Community engagement

People seeking additional information can visit DCC's webpage [Link].

Subject to Council approvals, public engagement on the proposed adaptation futures runs from **1 July to 9 August 2026**.

Council staff will also be available to speak with the community during public drop-in sessions and workshops, and feedback can be shared in-person or via an online survey.

"There is more work to do, and there will be many opportunities for the community to ask questions and provide feedback", Mr Rowe said.

ENDS

LGOIMA SR.29910 RELEASE

For more information.

[Can add some additional content here drawn from the flyer]

Notes for editors / reporters

South Dunedin Future is a joint programme of the Dunedin City Council and Otago Regional Council to develop a comprehensive climate change adaptation plan for South Dunedin, and to do this in a way that is robust, transparent, and inclusive.

The programme has been going since 2020. The plan-making phase began in mid-2022 and we expect to agree an adaptation plan for the area by the end of 2026.

South Dunedin is home to 13,500 people living in 6,000 households and about 1,000 businesses. There have been two major floods in South Dunedin in the past 10 years and the area has a history of flooding.

LGOIMA SR.29910 RELEASE

South Dunedin proposed futures – dashboard

Futures		Main Actions	Costs	Properties acquired and added	Challenge of Implementation	Social Impacts	Residual Risk	Average Annual Damages
 Status Quo Keep doing what we are doing Total Costs: \$0.41B Total Damages: \$1.45B	Short	 Pipes and pumps (minor stormwater network), reactive retreat, individual interventions	\$254M	-57*				\$11M
	Medium	 Pipes and pumps (minor stormwater network), reactive retreat, individual interventions	\$115M	-103*				\$78M
	Long	 Pipes and pumps (minor stormwater network), reactive retreat, individual interventions	\$43M	-678*				\$212M
 Future 3 Protect Total Costs: \$2.1B Total Benefits: \$1.34B	Short	 Investment in pipes, pumps, land acquisition and rezoning	\$1,598M	-736				\$0.6M
	Medium	 Raise land, add pipes and coastal protection, expand pumps, create green spaces	\$452M	-456/+336				\$2.3M
	Long	 Increase pump capacity, expand green spaces, develop housing	\$48M	+1520				\$1.0M
 Future 4 Restore Total Costs: \$1.63B Total Benefits: \$1.35B	Short	 Investment in pipes, pumps, land acquisition and rezoning	\$1,284M	-1162				\$0.6M
	Medium	 Build canals, wetlands, and coastal protection, expand pumps, add pipes	\$287M	+840				\$1.6M
	Long	 Complete green space transition, add pipes, increase pumping, develop housing	\$58M	0				\$0.7M
 Future 5 Reshape Total Costs: \$2.45B Total Benefits: \$1.34B	Short	 Investment in pipes, pumps, land acquisition and rezoning	\$1,938M	-1144				\$0.6M
	Medium	 Raise land, build canals and coastal protection, develop housing	\$475M	-594/+336				\$2.5M
	Long	 Maintain infrastructure, complete green space transition	\$35M	+1780				\$3.3M

Key actions

The image below depicts key actions that would be taken across all proposed futures. Some actions - including upgraded pipes and pumps and coastal protection - are shared across multiple futures.

Each key action is shown on the central map, illustrating how different parts of South Dunedin would be supported to manage flooding, adapt to climate change and build long-term resilience. Locations and size have been informed by community feedback on what level of flooding is acceptable.

Greenspace



Some areas would need to become greenspace in the future where it is too difficult to manage flooding to keep communities safe. This includes places around the western end of Hillside Road where water naturally flows and areas near King Edward Street or in Musselburgh that are very low-lying.

Land Raising



Some futures include land raising to extend the terrace along Forbury Road, building up land so that communities can live in places out of harm's way. This raised land extends areas that are already elevated and near the shops and town centres retaining a compact urban form. This builds up some low-lying areas that would be not otherwise suitable for housing.

Pipes and Pumps



To manage groundwater and reduce flooding when it rains, pipe upgrades within the road corridors and new pump stations would be required. This location of pumps and pipes uses the existing network as much as possible to reduce disruption and enhance cost-effectiveness. The overall strategy was to divide the catchment into smaller sub-catchments with their own outfalls to the harbour to avoid the need for a large ocean outfall.

Water Storage



Many open spaces would be designed to collect and hold water when it rains and then slowly release it after the peak passes to reduce flooding. These storage areas were located in existing parks and green spaces to minimise the amount of land acquisition required.

Changes to Planning Rules



To avoid increasing the risk, there may be changes to planning rules required in the future. This could include floodable ground floors near the coast, increased floor level requirements or existing use only in the flat.

Coastal Protection



Along Portsmouth Drive, additional coastal protection would likely be required around mid-century to protect from coastal flooding and erosion. This could be via increasing the height of the seawall or constructing an inland bund along Ulaki Street. This coastal protection would be designed to protect against a coastal flood from the harbourside with a 1% chance of occurring in 2130.

New Development



Existing elevated areas may be developed to make space for people in South Dunedin in areas where there is lower risk. These locations are set back from the coast to reduce erosion risk and are presently green spaces to minimise the need for disruption and redevelopment.

Waterways



Some futures include waterways to capture, temporarily store and move groundwater and stormwater. The waterways are set along existing roads, and alignments were selected to integrate with the existing network where there were low-lying shallow pipes to reduce construction costs and disturbance. These waterways manage groundwater more effectively than a pipe network.

From: Cr Gretchen Robertson
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 11:08 a.m.
To: Richard Saunders; Tom Dyer
Subject: Fw: South Dunedin Comms
Attachments: Image.jpeg; IMG_4215.jpeg



Gretchen Robertson
Councillor

| Gretchen.Robertson@orc.govt.nz

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From: Cr Michael Laws <Michael.Laws@orc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 11:02 AM
To: 7(2)(a) Council 2025-2028 (Elected Members) <council.2025-2028@dcc.govt.nz>; Mayor <mayor@dcc.govt.nz>; Lee Vandervis4 <lee@vandervision.co.nz>; Councillors <Councillors@orc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: South Dunedin Comms

And here is Cr Galen's commentary on the issues she raises:



Michael Laws

Councillor

Elected Council Representative

From: Cr Michael Laws <Michael.Laws@orc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 10:29 AM
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7(2)(a) the ODT has asked the attached questions: can I ask if Cr Galen's claims are correct? As a Dunstan Ward councillor, I assume my Dunedin Ward colleagues are abreast of the detail better than I - was there a workshop finalising the options as presented?

Cheers

Michael



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Subject: South Dunedin Comms

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Morning,

You'll be aware some councillors have raised concerns about the process surrounding information release on the South Dunedin Futures programme.

Cr Galer has said the media briefing yesterday was done without sign-off from either group of councillors. She described it as a "slick PR exercise" to force a narrative on residents.

"We were thoroughly manipulated and silenced so that a certain controlled narrative could prevail.

"Councillors should have had the opportunity to debate this and vote on it first. This plan and these options may not have been approved. And South Dunedin people would not have learned about this in this callous way."

She has said a judicial review of staff actions was likely.

Do you have a brief comment on the councils' engagement approach, particularly regarding the areas of proposed property acquisition?

Kā mihi,

7(2)(a)

7(2)(a)

Reporter

Otago Daily Times

M: 7(2)(a)

P: (03) 477 4760 Ext: 8162

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PO Box 517

Dunedin

9016

W: www.odt.co.nz

Otago Daily Times



At the end of the briefing , we were reassured verbally and in a slide that any decision-making would not be made until a meeting on 25 June of the DCC.

I trusted in this process and understood no options, including communications, would be signed off or happen until June 25.

We were horrified to learn yesterday a media lock up was going ahead, and media were asked not to talk to anyone else either.

They wanted complete control of public of perceptions

South Dunedin community advocacy groups, the Surrey St Action Group and the South Dunedin Stormwater Justice group, now have grounds to seek a judicial review of the process used for yesterday's tone deaf and mean-spirited actions, the impacts of which South Dunedin people are waking up to today. This will

Councillors should have had the opportunity to debate this and vote on it first. This plan and these options may not have been approved. And south Dunedin people would not have learned about this in this callous way.

Local democracy didn't happen.

Residents are concerned the DCC has done nothing to fix their broken stormwater system since disastrous floods to homes in South Dunedin more than 10 years ago in 2015.

Residents and councillors have long advocated that the climate change narrative and overly complex solutions have been used to shift the focus from the council's own responsibilities to provide decent, working drainage in South Dunedin.

It has been well proven the council has neglected their stormwater system for decades.

Climate change is happening, but used as a convenient excuse to avoid millions needing to be spent on upgrading ageing, dysfunctional infrastructure.

At yesterday's media briefing, engineering options to fix the drainage took the back seat and once again look to be years away, while South Dunedin remains critically exposed floods. **See less**



**Jo Galer Dunedin City Councillor** · [Follow](#)

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A media briefing on South Dunedin yesterday was done WITHOUT sign off by the Dunedin City Council or the ORC and as a result, a judicial review of staff actions yesterday is likely.

As further insult, up to 1700 homes have been identified via the media as proposed to be condemned.

These properties could be acquired for public works - but no one bothered to tell the people who live in these houses.

An 'early engagement' meeting at the South Dunedin library of two advocacy groups - yesterday - had to stop when one of the group's leaders easily recognized her own home as impacted on a map. This person was too upset to continue with the meeting.

This was a slick PR exercise designed to force a DCC -led narrative via the media on the helpless residents of South Dunedin.

Councillors had wanted to make changes to the report when we saw it a week ago, and ensure communication plans were correct, but we were denied the opportunity to influence this.

As councillors, we had a confidential briefing or 'workshop' on June 10 where we were told not to tell anyone the contents, only ask questions, not give our views or vote on any motion or make decisions. We had two hours at the meeting to digest all of this - then we had to keep quiet.

At this confidential South Dunedin Future team's briefing I and another councillor expressed concern that property owners whose homes were identified did not appear to have had a heads up or been visited and advised.

I also said I was concerned at the way the report once again avoided placing priority on urgent council works needed to provide decent working stormwater drainage as residents have repeatedly sought for their suburb.

This was a 50 page report with complex tables, text and graphics uploaded for us in a shared folder the afternoon before the morning briefing on June 10.

The slides also showed us communications options, which in hindsight I see gave one reference to a June 17 media briefing buried in a table, but we were not given the option to stop this with any vote even if we'd wanted to.

I've now been told by two chief executives, Richard Saunders of ORC and Sandy Graham of DCC, we as councillors "agreed" to this approach. We could not legally vote, so did not agree on anything.

We were thoroughly manipulated and silenced so that a certain controlled narrative could prevail.

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South Dunedin community advocacy groups, the Surrey St Action Group and the South Dunedin



From: Tom Dyer
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 11:29 a.m.
To: Cr Gretchen Robertson; Richard Saunders
Subject: Re: South Dunedin Comms

Thanks Gretchen. We have had the same request for comment.

We are just work with DCC to put something together.

I'll give you a bell once we have that.

Cheers
 Tom



Tom Dyer

General Manager Science and Resilience
 Executive Leadership

7(2)(a) | Tom.Dyer@orc.govt.nz

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How should Otago's pests be managed?

Feedback closes 8 July



Have your say!

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Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 11:08 AM
To: Richard Saunders <Richard.Saunders@orc.govt.nz>; Tom Dyer <Tom.Dyer@orc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: South Dunedin Comms



Gretchen Robertson
 Councillor

| Gretchen.Robertson@orc.govt.nz

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Councillor

Elected Council Representative

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Michael Laws

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7(2)(a)

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Reporter

Otago Daily Times

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Dunedin

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W: www.odt.co.nz



From: Cr Gretchen Robertson
Sent: Wednesday, 17 June 2026 12:19 p.m.
To: Councillors; Tom Dyer; Richard Saunders
Subject: Fw: Presentation - Proposed South Dunedin Futures - Public Excluded
Attachments: Presentation - Council Workshop on 3 Proposed Futures for South Dunedin (10 June 2026) .pdf

Good afternoon councillors,

I am just responding to emails this morning regarding South Dunedin Futures Programme. Including a couple of questions from Michael.

Gary and I are the profile leads Science and Resilience and were briefed by Tom prior to the workshop.

Councillors had a chance to hear from Johnathon and ask questions at the workshop last week.

I've included the email we received regarding the **public excluded** workshop here. The workshop material has also been in diligent, available to Councillors. Towards the end of the slides there is a section on comms and engagement (look out for a calendar format component there). This includes the Council paper on the 24th ORC and 25th DCC.

Staff and aware of the media questions and are working on this.

Thanks,
 Gretchen

From: Governance <Governance@orc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, June 8, 2026 9:39 AM
To: Councillors <Councillors@orc.govt.nz>
Cc: GM Team <GMTeam@orc.govt.nz>; Jonathan Rowe 7(2)(a)
Subject: Presentation - Proposed South Dunedin Futures - Public Excluded

Good morning, Councillors

Please find attached the confidential presentation regarding the Proposed South Dunedin Futures for 10 June. This is now viewable in our Resource Centre (sync first) in Diligent: [LINKED HERE](#)

Best regards
 Kylie



Governance
Governance@orc.govt.nz



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From: Jonathan Rowe 7(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 8 June 2026 8:34 am

To: Governance <Governance@orc.govt.nz>; Governance Support Officers <governance.support@dcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sandy Graham <Sandy.Graham@dcc.govt.nz>; Scott MacLean <Scott.MacLean@dcc.govt.nz>; David Ward <David.Ward@dcc.govt.nz>; Richard Saunders <Richard.Saunders@orc.govt.nz>; Anita Dawe <Anita.Dawe@orc.govt.nz>; Tom Dyer <Tom.Dyer@orc.govt.nz>; 7(2)(a) 7(2)(a)

7(2)(a)

Subject: Presentation for SDF workshop with Crs on Wednesday

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Kia ora koutou,

Please find attached the final version of the presentation to be circulated to Councillors ahead of the non-public South Dunedin Future workshops on Wednesday.

Attached is the pdf version, but I'll bring a ppt version to each session, so I can work through the animations.

Kā mihi / Best regards,

Jonathan

Jonathan Rowe

Kaiwhakahaere / Manager

Climate Adaptation & Resilience

City Services Group

M 7(2)(a) | E 7(2)(a)

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

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New Zealand

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