



Dunedin City Council

Te Ao Turoa – The Natural World: Draft Environment Strategy

The Otago Chamber of Commerce would like to speak to this submission.

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INTRODUCTION

The Otago Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the Te Ao Turoa – The Natural World: Draft Environment Strategy.

The business community generates the wealth on which our city and its residents depend. It is for this reason that we make this submission. The Otago Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be able to present this submission on behalf of the 1050 Otago businesses that are our members.

The businesses that we represent are a broad cross-section of business demographics with regard to size, location and industry. Furthermore, these businesses are representative of the region's wealth generators as well as being owned, managed and staffed by the region's core residents. Our members employ almost 50% of the 50,393 FTE's employed in Dunedin and our estimate is that our members contribute significantly more than half of Dunedin city's \$4.84 billion GDP. As such, the Chamber's members are large stakeholders in the economic, social and environmental future of the Otago Region.

The Chamber has submitted on and been involved in discussions on a number of issues relating to Dunedin City, and we thank Council for your open dialogue with us. We are particularly pleased that the role of economic development and the environment is taking more prominence for the city.

We recognise and commend Council's commitment to a greener future.

We also acknowledge the leadership of the Chief Executive and the staff that have worked towards achieving Dunedin as one of the world's great small cities, where we treasure our healthy natural environments and unique ecosystems through active guardianship for current and future generations.



Treasuring the environment: we support the targets of:

- People being connected to the natural environment.
- Dunedin's community being aware of the ecological and cultural values of the environment and the impacts of human activity.
- Dunedin's community being actively involved and taking responsibility for caring for the natural environment.
- Community access to facilities is vital for the formation of connected communities. We need to be aware of the influence and cause and effect of our activities on the environment. We support the development of a biodiversity fund on the basis that it has community representation.

Healthy natural environment

Understanding the connections between our heritage, biodiversity and its ecosystems is integral to its maintenance and its survival. The interconnected elements of these systems and the effect they have on each other needs to be better understood and managed.

We are keen to make sure all parties are included on the discussions around discharges and land management processes. This will facilitate a better outcome by having better input from the full range of users and owners. This will need to be done in conjunction with the Otago Regional Council.

Environment for the future

We are keen to support the environmental monitoring, increased efficiencies of energy use and investigating the cost benefits of a reduction in emissions across the region. Instrumental in this is the vital need for a South Dunedin Strategy around infrastructure improvements to protect the businesses and livelihoods of those in the area. This also needs to be extended to other identified at risk areas throughout the region.

Conclusion

The Chamber submission is made in the positive spirit of developing a partnership with Council that supports and encourages business friendly innovation and growth for the benefit of all Dunedin residents.

We are committed to joining the Council to achieve our shared objective of attracting and encouraging the development of business opportunities in Dunedin.