

In support of a Strategic Refresh where DCC planning enables our natural and social habitats to thrive with less energy, resources and greater well being for All.

Public Forum Strategy, Planning and Engagement, Dunedin Public Art Gallery 8th May 2023

Kia Ora,

We are members of Seniors Climate Action Network (SCAN for short). Our focus has shifted from raising awareness about climate change to the immediate challenges of addressing underlying causes and to local responses (Adaptation and Mitigation).

Climate change is just one symptom of our overshooting of planetary limits. Together, the effects of our exceeding the boundaries of what the planet can support are the biggest threat to the future wellbeing of all communities.

Action at local level is a vital part of the response to mitigate and adapt to the negative impacts of overshoot - global warming, loss of biodiversity, pollution and dwindling supply of natural resources, including reduced availability, and increased cost, of energy. We see this in terms of sustainability and resilience.

We are here to support the council's ongoing efforts in addressing these issues. In these times of rapid change and dwindling resources, we encourage the council to prioritise environmental and community health and resilience in its strategic planning and to engage extensively and creatively with the community in this vital work.

Communities and citizens now need to be able to organise themselves to live well on a much-reduced budget of energy during and after a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and infrastructure. It is possible to do this because much of our current, high consumption of energy in the form of goods and services does not lead to greater well-being. It is as supportive localised communities that we can continue to thrive. We believe the council can help facilitate and provide visibility to this.

We believe our local government has to prioritise fulfilling the basic needs of its communities - clean air, water, healthy food and shelter for all, while respecting nature. Without clean air, water, food and shelter, people cannot thrive and

participate in communal activities and local trade. Without a healthy biodiversity there is no basis for humans to flourish. DCC needs to plan for unexpected events and shortfalls.

We are particularly worried about food security and energy as we live with increased weather instability affecting both food production and distribution. We need to 'think local'.

We fully support a refresh of DCC strategies that enable our natural and social habitats to thrive with less energy, less resources and greater well being for All. These cannot be implemented soon enough.

Thank you

Sue Novell and John Hogue

On behalf of Seniors Climate Action Network
seniorsclimateactionnetwork.com