

BRCT contribution to Managing Natural Hazards in Second Generation District Plan



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Dunedin City Council
PO Box 5045
Dunedin

Contribution to the Dunedin City Council's *Second Generation District Plan, Managing Natural Hazards.*

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1 Overview

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the Dunedin City Council's ***Second Generation District Plan (2GDP): Managing Natural Hazards***.

The Blueskin Resilient Communities Trust (BRCT) is a registered charitable trust formed in 2008 out of the need to support local sustainability and transition initiatives in a planned and structured way. Climate Change planning is one of our core work areas and we provide services for individuals and groups in Blueskin and Dunedin. Jeanette Fitzsimons is our patron.

We wish to acknowledge the strategic value of public policy and support the Dunedin City Council's approach to secure public participation in the development of policy.

We appreciate the commitment the DCC has shown in involving the community and inviting participation in the 2GDP process. We understand that people have greatly varying degrees of tolerance towards risk generally, and that public anxiety about the changes underway in a changing environment is growing. We support a science based precautionary approach to risk. We encourage investment in increasing public participation through public fora and community engagement activities to increase community participation in decision making. We support increasing public understanding of the nature of risk and the precautionary approach.

We are willing to meet with planners as the draft 2GDP progresses if we can assist in any way and we congratulate the 2GDP team for excellent work to date.

2 Climate Change Risk

2.1 *Acceptable Parameters*

We support a precautionary approach. The 5th IPCC report indicates that 1 metre of sea level rise above the 1986–2005 average is a distinct possibility by 2100. The 5th IPCC report does not declare an ‘upper limit’ to sea level rise, indicating that sea level rise could go beyond a metre this century under certain conditions.

Actions:

We request that the Council:

- Assumes sea level rise will be *at least* 1 metre above the 1986–2005 average by 2100 and plans accordingly, with attention to ‘combined effect’.

2.2 *Hazard Overlay Zones*

We agree with the Hazard Overlay Zone approach to managing Natural Hazards.

Actions:

We request that the Council:

- Incorporates as many expert analyses as possible into the final draft while confirming the final Hazard Overlay Zone.

2.3 *Managing Activities within Hazard Overlay Zones*

We know that many Blueskin residents desire to be well informed about the Climate Change risk to their properties, even when it threatens to devalue property. We understand that different risk tolerance thresholds and concerns about property value may cause anxiety in relation to managing hazards.

Actions:

We request that the Council:

- Take particular care in communicating with those households and landowners whose properties fall within Hazard Overlay Zones.