

Vote for Nature – Candidate Questionnaire – Dunedin City Council

Forest & Bird Dunedin is conducting a questionnaire to understand the opinions held by Dunedin City Council candidates on conservation issues including the protection and restoration of nature and climate change.

We invite you to complete this before the 7th of September 2022 at 5pm, however responses will be published as they are received.

Please note:

- Answers will be made public as they were written.
- All written answers will have a 200 character limit.
- Unanswered questions will be noted as "did not answer".
- We will list the results of this survey, and the names of those who did not complete it, on our website.
- Results will be shared with our membership of 800, on our Facebook page, and with local media outlets.

General

What is your name?

Brent Weatherall

What role are you running for?

X Councillor

Agreement

X I understand that my responses will be published in full on Forest & Bird Dunedin's website.

What is the most pressing environmental issue in Dunedin?

Erosion along St Clair and St Kilda Beaches

If elected, what actions would you prioritise to protect and restore nature in Dunedin?

Restoring nature needs to be a community effort. It's great to see Dunedin has definitely turned a corner in restoring nature. Although I am no expert my view is that Predator eradication programmes are making the biggest impact in restoring nature.

Climate change

How would you rate Council's response to climate change in Dunedin?

1 (terrible) 2 3 X 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (excellent)

How should Dunedin City Council respond to the climate crisis?

Ensuring our infrastructure can cope with more extreme weather events and address the present erosion along our Coast line.

What is your long term vision for the city and to what extent does that vision rely on fossil fuels for personal transport?

My vision is for Dunedin to be New Zealand's most liveable City of choice. Where residents can choose to commute by walking, running, biking, driving, public transport etc conveniently & effortlessly. Supported by a council driven by realistic ideology. The world is not relying on fossil fuels now and hopefully the trend continues until fossil fuels are a thing of the past.

If elected, what specific actions will you take in response to the climate crisis?

I agree it is a crisis. All responses need to be within the boundaries of what ratepayers can afford. Central government needs to fund the majority of responses.

Freshwater

Do you support the Government's three waters initiative? Why or why not?

No. Dunedin needs to retain ownership and control of our assets.

Dunedin has its fair share of urban water issues, such as the Leith and Kaikorai having some of the highest levels of E.coli in the country and the storm water system for much of Dunedin draining directly into water bodies. How would you rate Council's effectiveness in managing drinking water, storm water and wastewater systems?

1 (terrible) 2 3 4 X 5 6 7 8 9 10 (excellent)

If elected, what specific actions will you take to improve freshwater across the city?

The best of support to maintain fresh water supply of the highest standards.

Public Transport

How would you rate public transport services in Dunedin?

1 (terrible) 2 3 4 5 X 6 7 8 9 10 (excellent)

If elected, what specific actions would you take to improve public transport in Dunedin?

We acknowledge that the management of public transport is not currently within Dunedin City Council's remit but that it plays a supporting role.

I would like to reinstate a better relationship with our regional council and engage with experts of which Councillors are not. Public transport issues never go away. Some of the problems are related to our population which is an awkward size to support along with our urban spread which is small compared to other cities which can support larger and more frequent public transport systems with much larger populations.

Do you support some form of transfer of public transport services from Otago Regional Council to Dunedin City Council?

X Yes No

Do you support a switch from the one-way to two-way system?

Yes X No

Do you support making George Street more accessible for pedestrians?

Yes X No

It was always perfectly accessible for pedestrians.

Predator Control

How would you rate Council's predator control efforts?

1 (terrible) 2 3 4 5 6 X 7 8 9 10 (excellent)

If elected, what specific actions will you take to support predator control efforts in Dunedin?

I'm not an expert. I would be more than happy to work with council and voluntary organisations to continue the great work in progress to achieve predator free goals.

If elected, would you support continued funding for Predator Free Dunedin?

X Yes No

Forest & Bird Dunedin has previously advocated for Council to explore opportunities for improved cat control. If elected, would you be supportive of this?

Absolutely. I totally support Forest & Bird efforts in cat control.

Do you support the use of 1080 to control invasive predators in areas where other methods are not practicable, or where this is the most cost-effective method?

Yes