September 2022

To Dunedin City Council

Please find attached DPA’s submission on Harbour Arterial Project

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

Contact:

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Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a pan-impairment disabled person’s organisation that works to realise an equitable society, where all disabled people of all impairment types and including women, Māori, Pasifika, young people are able to direct their own lives. DPA works to improve social indicators for disabled people and for disabled people be recognised as valued members of society. DPA and its members work with the wider disability community, other DPOs, government agencies, service providers, international disability organisations, and the public by:

* telling our stories and identifying systemic barriers
* developing and advocating for solutions
* innovation and good practice

## United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

DPA was influential in creating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), a foundational document for disabled people which New Zealand has signed and ratified, confirming that disabled people must have the same human rights as everyone else [[1]](#footnote-2). All state bodies in New Zealand, including local and regional government, have a responsibility to uphold the principles and articles of this convention. There are a number of UNCRPD articles pertinent to this submission, including:

### Article 9 – Accessibility

“States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications.”

New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026

Since ratifying the UNCRPD, the New Zealand Government has established a Disability Strategy to guide the work of government agencies on disability issues. The vision is that New Zealand be a non-disabling society, where disabled people have equal opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations, and that all of New Zealand works together to make this happen [[2]](#footnote-3). It identifies eight outcome areas contributing to achieving this vision, including:

### Outcome 5 – Accessibility

“We access all places, services and information with ease and dignity.”

# The submission

DPA is providing this submission for the Dunedin City Council as part of its deliberations on the Harbour Arterial Project. This project will enable safe navigation by both pedestrians and traffic in this high-volume traffic area.

DPA recognises that there are changes which need to be made to ensure that this can be done safely, especially given that the New Dunedin Hospital build is about to ramp up.

However, DPA has concerns with some of the proposals made in the consultation, especially around the pedestrian refuge and parking (especially mobility parking) and therefore recommends in this brief submission that the suggested changes be further amended to ensure accessibility for disabled pedestrians and motorists in the area.

**Pedestrian refuge**

DPA welcomes the proposal for a new pedestrian refuge on Strathallan Street. We hope that this refuge will comply with relevant accessibility standards. However, pedestrian refuges do present some risks for people who are mobilising on foot or via a mobility device such as a wheelchair or mobility scooter in terms of being able to cross in a safe and timely way.

Therefore, DPA recommends that an audible traffic crossing be installed at this point with an audible traffic light so that pedestrians can safely cross from the mid-point.

Also, street lighting needs to be installed on the pedestrian crossing at Thomas Burns Street to ensure safety for pedestrians crossing at night.

DPA also approves of the installation of median barriers as a further safety measure at Thomas Burns Street.

**Car parking**

DPA recommends that for the six new carparks proposed to be installed on Tewsley Street that at least two be reserved as mobility car parks to enable disabled people to have continued access into this area.

**Need to work with DPA and Access for All Group**

DPA needs to be involved along with the wider Access for All Group (of which DPA is a member) in ongoing co-design engagement around this project. The best way to undertake engagement would be through Access for All, which is a grouping of disabled people, disabled people’s organisations (DPOs) and service providers which provides guidance on accessibility issues to local government and other community stakeholders. It meets on the third Monday of every month. We would welcome engagement from Council officers involved through this. Please contact our Regional Policy Advisor – Dunedin Kaituitui who can link in the others involved.

# DPA’s recommendations

The Disabled Person’s Assembly recommends:

* **Recommendation 1:** That an audible traffic crossing be installed on Strathallan Street so that pedestrians can safely cross from the mid-point.
* **Recommendation 2:** That lighting needs to be installed on the pedestrian crossing at Thomas Burns Street to ensure safety for pedestrians crossing at night.
* **Recommendation 3:** That ofthe six new carparks proposed to be installed on Tewsley Street that at least two be reserved as mobility car parks to enable disabled people to have continued access into this area.
* **Recommendation 4:** That DPA and the Access for All Group be involved in further co-design/planning discussions around this project before construction commences.
1. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, December 13, 2006. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Office for Disability Issues. (2016). *New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016 – 2026*. Retrieved from https://www.odi.govt.nz/assets/New-Zealand-Disability-Strategy-files/pdf-nz-disability-strategy-2016.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)