

# Office of the Mayor



24 February 2017

Rt Hon Bill English  
Prime Minister  
Parliament Buildings  
Private Bag 18041  
Wellington 6160

[bill.english@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:bill.english@parliament.govt.nz)

Dear Prime Minister

## **Dunedin Hospital Rebuild**

I write to inform you of the resolution of the Dunedin City Council this week, and to convey our concern about the delay in progressing this essential project, and concerns about locations under consideration.

As an indication of those concerns, the Dunedin City Council, at its meeting on 21 February 2017, resolved the following:

That the Council:

- a) **Communicates** to Government its complete opposition to a rebuild of Dunedin Hospital outside the central city
- b) **Expresses** a preference for the hospital to remain as close as possible to its current location
- c) **Requests** the immediate removal from consideration of any sites outside the scope of (a) and (b); and
- d) **Asks** other organisations, agencies and individuals who support this view to also convey it to Government.

I know you understand the importance to the city of our University and its Medical School and the associated medical precinct. You will also know of the multi-million dollar investments committed in this central city area. These include tertiary building projects such as the new Dental School and Otago Polytechnic student accommodation. There are also NZ Transport Agency projects to improve highway and cyclist safety and a major initiative by the Otago Regional Council to establish a new bus interchange nearby.

The DCC will also be carrying out substantial expenditure on urban design and infrastructural improvements in George Street.

This is all powerful evidence of our commitment to maintain and further enhance our compact, accessible city for locals and visitors alike.

In this context you will understand the complete unacceptability of any suggestion of the much needed hospital rebuild being outside the central city area.

For that reason we are asking for the immediate removal of any non-central site from consideration in the site decision process. The Council is happy to provide any assistance we can to help with this process.

I'm sure your colleagues will have briefed you on the strength of local feeling on this issue. I hope, therefore, your office will help expedite the work to provide Southern people with the facilities they rightfully expect, and to ensure that these are located in the central Dunedin area alongside easily accessible complementary services, as is currently the case.

I would be pleased to discuss these issues further at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Cull', written in a cursive style.

Dave Cull  
**Mayor of Dunedin**

Letter copied to:

Minister of Health: Hon Jonathan Coleman ([jonathan.coleman@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:jonathan.coleman@parliament.govt.nz))  
Chancellor of the University of Otago: John Ward ([john.ward@otago.ac.nz](mailto:john.ward@otago.ac.nz))  
Vice Chancellor of the University of Otago: Harlene Hayne ([vice-chancellor@otago.ac.nz](mailto:vice-chancellor@otago.ac.nz))  
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Dunedin City Councillors