

## Sustainable Dunedin City Inc. Press Release (Oct. 3, 2007)

### **Candidates see climate change and peak oil as major threats that need to be addressed.**

The results of a recent survey of Dunedin City Council (DCC) and Otago Regional Council (ORC) candidates standing in the upcoming elections has the Sustainable Dunedin City Society (SDC) feeling positive about the potential for real action on the issues of climate change and peak oil over the next political term. Thirty-three candidates (52%) responded to the survey, which asked for candidates' views on the issues of climate change and peak oil.

#### **Climate change**

All the candidates who responded to the survey 1) accept that humans are at least in part responsible for global climate change and 2) think that New Zealand citizens, government and businesses have a responsibility to do what they can to address the issue. 73% of respondents believe that climate change will have major impacts on Dunedin, and 88% think that impacts are already starting to be felt.

#### **Peak Oil**

85% of respondents think that the effects of Peak Oil on Dunedin are/will be major.

SDC was encouraged to discover that over 80% of respondents see the need to incorporate the issues of climate change and peak oil into planning for resource use, land use, transport, energy efficiency, food availability, and renewable energy.

'It's great that a significant number of candidates purport to have a good grasp of the seriousness of the environmental challenges that Dunedin faces', says SDC committee member Jinty MacTavish. 'We hope that this will translate into some real action from the councils over the coming term'.

60% of candidates either responded to the survey or attended a public meeting organised by SDC to provide an opportunity for candidates to air their views on the subject of sustainability. Almost all of the candidates who responded seemed to have some understanding of the issues but some had clearly thought about the issues more than others. "We appreciate that 60% of the DCC and ORC candidates have thought about, and were willing to share their views on, how Dunedin can move forward in a sustainable way", said Marc Schallenberg of SDC. "We therefore formally endorse the candidates who have progressed this far in their thinking":

Mayor: Glenda Alexander, Felicity (Fliss) Butcher, Tracey Crampton-Smith, Nicola Holman, Olivier Lequeux, Lee Vandervis

Cargill Ward: Simon Gilmour, Nicola Holman, Paul Hudson, Elizabeth Kerr, George (Rex) Simpson, Teresa Stevenson

Green Island/Saddle Hill Ward: Colin Weatherall

Hills Ward: Felicity (Fliss) Butcher, Beverley (Bev) Butler, Phillip Cole, Ronald (Ron) Esplin, Darrel Robinson, David (Dave) Tucker, Lee Vandervis, Kelvin Wright

Mosgiel Ward: Katherine (Kate) Wilson

South Dunedin Ward: John Bezett, David (Dave) Cull, William (Peter) Fraser, Barbara Henderson-Wragge, Michael Hurley, Jennifer (Jenny) Newstead, Lyndon Weggery

Waikouaiti Coast Ward: Andrew Noone, Geraldine Tait

Otago Regional Council: Louise Croot, Michael Deaker, Edward Eillison, Alan Graham, Gretchen Robertson, Bryan Scott

Unfortunately, amongst the 40% of candidates who didn't respond to the survey or show up to the public meeting were eight incumbents:

Mayor:	Peter Chin
Cargill Ward:	Michael Guest
Hills Ward:	Richard Walls
Mosgiel Ward:	Maurice Prendergast
	Syd Brown
Dunedin South Ward:	Bill Acklin
	Neil Collins
Otago Regional Council:	Stephen Cairns

'I am disappointed to see that there are still some high profile candidates out there who are either unwilling, or unable to engage in the debate around how best to ensure a sustainable, secure future for Dunedin', said SDC co-chairperson, Jocelyn Harris.

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*Sustainable Dunedin City Inc. is a charitable society established in March with the aim of facilitating a positive, secure and sustainable future for Dunedin City in the face of challenges posed by climate change and unsustainable resource use. The Society has over 100 members and is growing.*

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