

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Mayor Aaron Hawkins  
Dunedin City Council  
Sent via email: [mayor@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@dcc.govt.nz)

Dear Mayor

We want to share our congratulations to Dunedin City Council for being awarded two IAP2A Core Value Awards in the categories "Planning" and "Project of the Year". These awards were for the project "Whakahekerau – Rakiātea Rautaki Tai: A community's vision for a resilient coast".

IAP2 Australasia applauds Dunedin City Council for making such a significant contribution to the field of public participation during a time when local authorities and communities were grappling with the effects of coastal hazards and climate change. Well done on the implementation of a plan that is well-informed and understood by the community, whilst navigating a COVID-19 related lockdown, retaining momentum and using delays as opportunities for iteration and improvement.

The IAP2 Australasia Core Values Awards build awareness, contribute to the practice and recognise excellence in public participation and community engagement.

The laureates of the awards represent best practice in our field and serve as model of excellence for others to emulate. Winners and finalists are recognized for their contributions to the practice in the areas of indigenous engagement, community development, health, infrastructure, environment, disaster and emergency services, as well as their creativity, innovation and inclusion. This is a testament to the tremendous expansion and impact of our field of expertise.

Congratulations to Dunedin City Council again on this significant achievement. Entries for the 2022 Core Values Awards open again early February 2022, and IAP2 Australasia looks forward to again recognising projects and organisations that are at the forefront of public participation.

Yours sincerely



Marion Short  
Chief Executive Officer

## About IAP2 Australasia

The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) is the leading public participation organisation globally which seeks to promote and improve the practice of community and stakeholder engagement.

As an international leader in public participation, IAP2 has developed tools that are widely used and acknowledged. These are the **IAP2 Core Values for Public Participation** for use in the development and implementation of public participation processes; and the **IAP2 Spectrum** which assists with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any community engagement program. The Spectrum is widely used and is quoted in most community engagement manuals.

Additionally, there is the **Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement**, which is recognised as the international standard for public participation practice.

## IAP2 Australasia has over 10,000 members throughout Australia and New Zealand.

IAP2 Australasia is committed to advancing the practice of community and stakeholder engagement through education, advocacy and building partnerships.

### Policy Position:

As the peak body for the community and stakeholder engagement sector, IAP2 Australasia believes that engagement, when done well, improves social, environmental, and economic outcomes and increases trust in the democratic process.

We advocate for all communities to be authentically engaged in decisions that affect them, in alignment with the IAP2 Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement.

### The evidence for engagement

Evidence for increased engagement to reduce risk and speed up the delivery of projects to support Australia's economic recovery includes:

- Community opposition has contributed to the delay, cancellation or mothballing of more than \$20B of infrastructure projects in the last decade.  
*Source: The Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019*
- Better functioning cities and towns could deliver a \$29B increase in GDP in the long term.  
*Source: The Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019*
- 80% of Australians indicate it is important that government considers the views of the community when planning of investing in major infrastructure  
*Source: The Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019*
- 82% of businesses said "communicating and engaging with stakeholders openly was seen as the most critical factor for building trust"  
*Source: Creating value and balancing stakeholder needs (KPMG and AICD survey – 2019)*
- Securing a social license to operate reduces the No. 1 ranked stakeholder risk *Source: Top 10 Business Risks and Opportunities – 2020 (EY)*