

# Big urban challenges and Dunedin

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**Abstract:** It is a time of big change for Dunedin. From decades of slow or no growth, the city is now classified as a medium-growth urban centre. A number of big challenges lie ahead, including those relating to the environment (waste, pollution, energy, carbon, toxicity, etc.), to the social (identity, belonging, inclusivity, culture, individuality, etc.) and to the economic (affordability, status, equality, etc.). These challenges are faced by growing cities around the world; in this way, Dunedin is not unique and can choose to learn from related problem-solving efforts elsewhere. Yet equally, Dunedin's special character and strong network of communities set it apart. In this talk, I suggest that the greatest urban challenge facing Dunedin is the way in which its leaders derive and/or adopt creative visions for its future that are both competitive in terms of global 'best practice' urban design and genuinely responsive to local needs. To illustrate this point, I consider a small 'parklette' design for the *South Dunedin Community Pop-Up Hub*; core challenges associated with realising this design echo the big urban challenges faced by Dunedin more broadly.