

**Dunedin:** Private Bag 1921, Dunedin 9054  
Ph: 03 476 9800 Fax: 03 476 9858

**Invercargill:** PO Box 1601, Invercargill 9840  
Ph: 03 211 8500 Fax: 03 214 9070

**Queenstown:** PO Box 2180, Wakatipu,  
Queenstown 9349  
Ph: 03 450 9156 Fax: 03 450 9169

**SUBMISSION ON:** **Central Otago District Council Plan Change 12**

**To:** Central Otago District Council  
PO Box 122  
Alexandra

**Details of Submitter:** The Southern District Health Board  
**Address for Service:** Public Health South  
Southern District Health Board  
Private Bag 1921  
DUNEDIN 9054

**Contact Person:** Delvina Gorton  
[delvina.gorton@southerndhb.govt.nz](mailto:delvina.gorton@southerndhb.govt.nz)  
03 450 9156

**Our Reference:** 17May12

**Date:** 14 June 2017



---

### **Introduction**

Southern District Health Board (SDHB) presents this submission through its public health service, Public Health South (PHS). This Service is the principal source of expert advice within Southern DHB regarding matters concerning Public Health. Southern DHB has responsibility under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities. Additionally there is a responsibility to promote the reduction of adverse social and environmental effects on the health of people and communities. With 4,250 staff, we are located in the lower South Island (South of the Waitaki River) and deliver health services to a population of 306,500.

Public health services are offered to populations rather than individuals and are considered a "public good". They fall into two broad categories – health protection and health promotion. They aim to create or advocate for healthy social, physical and cultural environments.

This submission is intended to provide general commentary to the Central Otago District Council (CODC) relating to proposed District Plan Change 12.

### **General Comments**

Urban design and the environments in which people live, work and play create the conditions that promote health and wellbeing. We support the CODC District Plan providing for development in a way that protects health and creates environments that enable people to live full and healthy lives. We neither support nor oppose Plan Change 12 but make recommendations if the district plan change is made.

Urban design can positively impact health through provision for green space, street connectivity, safe walking and cycling opportunities, public space to foster social connectivity, and increased density to limit the sprawl of Cromwell.

### **Opportunities for active transport, walking and cycling**

Physical activity is associated with many positive health outcomes for individuals, including reducing the risk of obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer and helping manage depression<sup>1</sup>. The design of communities can make it easier for people to be active as part of everyday life.

The proposed plan change allows for development in an area that is separated from the main residential and business area of Cromwell by SH6, with a speed limit of 80km/hour. This creates a barrier to connectivity and safe walking or cycling into the main area of Cromwell. We agree with Vivian & Espie's report that consideration would need to be given to provision of safe pedestrian and cycling connections across SH6. This needs to be achieved in a way that supports walking and cycling in the places where people naturally wish to cross the road, in a way that is attractive and safe. The suggested provision of an underpass needs to be carefully considered and designed as they have potential to create situations where people feel unsafe due to lack of visibility within a confined space. Safe crossing areas need to be usable day and night and by all ages and physical abilities, and should consider Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles. As SH6 would in effect dissect two parts of the town, we recommend assessing the appropriateness of the 80km/hour speed limit.

The provision of public green space and greenways within the development is important to promote active lifestyles, social interaction and mental wellbeing,<sup>2</sup> and should connect to and continue the greenways that run through Cromwell.

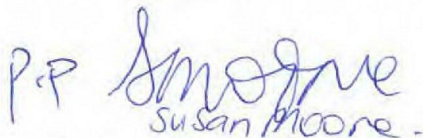
If the plan change progresses, we support in principle the recommendation for option 3 which provides for mixed use that enables provision of local services and destinations, and increased density as a way to limit urban sprawl, provided appropriate infrastructure is in place.

### **Summary**

If the proposed change to the district plan is accepted, Public Health South supports the use of urban design principles that promote community cohesion and provides opportunities for physical activity, walking and cycling, and access to connected green space. This would also provide connectivity with the main area of Cromwell through safe and attractive walking and cycling options across SH6.

We do not wish to be heard in regards to this submission.

Yours sincerely

P.P.   
Susan Moore

Delvina Gorton  
Health Protection Officer

<sup>1</sup> *Physical activity and health conditions*. Ministry of Health: Wellington. 30 September 2016. <http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/food-and-physical-activity/physical-activity/being-active-everyone-every-age/physical-activity-and-health-conditions> (accessed Feb 8, 2017)

<sup>2</sup> Umberson, D.; Karas Montez, J. Social Relationships and Health: A Flashpoint for Health Policy. *J Health Soc Behav.* 2010, 51(Suppl), S54–S66. doi:10.1177/0022146510383501.