# Peninsula Improvement Project – Connecting Communities

The Peninsula is home to many tourist and recreational attractions including the Albatross Colony, wildlife viewing, Larnach’s Castle, the Disappearing gun, beaches, and walking tracks. The road along the harbour side provides the main access to these and population centers of Macandrew Bay, Broad Bay and Portobello. Population on the Peninsula continues to grow with many subdivisions being approved over the last few years.

The route has been popular with cyclists but due to the narrow 6m carriageway and winding nature of the alignment conflict with vehicles was inevitable. Widening for shared pedestrian and cyclist use has only been provided in discrete locations. To unlock to full amenity value something had to be done.

In 2016 the Dunedin City Council received funding approval to upgrade the 15km route from Vauxhall to Portobello. The design provides for reclamation of up to 5m width into the harbour to provide an 8.4m wide carriageway as well as a 3m wide continuous shared pedestrian and cycle path, drainage improvements, raising the road in response to sea level rises, safety improvements and significant landscaping.

A feature of the project is the new hand placed stone wall that caps the reclamation. Other features of this $70M project include several retaining walls up to 8m high, regular stairway access to the harbour, landscaping, seating, boardwalks constructed to retain existing historic walls and boat sheds moved to provide the width we need.

This project has transformed how people live and has opened up huge recreational opportunities on the Peninsula. While the engineering challenges have been significant, this presentation will highlight how what we build impacts peoples lives, and often it is the little things that designers need to consider that are the most important to the Communities that use these assets.