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## Lync Aronson Launches Campaign to Stop the "Architects of High Spending and Rates"

**DUNEDIN** – Lync Aronson has officially entered the 2026 by-election with a blunt warning for ratepayers. "Many of the former councillors, the architects of high spending and rates, are lining up to take their jobs back, and the city cannot afford them."

Mr Aronson's campaign is a direct challenge to the crowded field of former councillors and a former mayor running for the vacant seat. He is centring his campaign on highlighting the fiscal record of the establishment candidates who oversaw the city's crippling 2024/25 17.5% rates hike.

"The failed spending experiments of past councils blew the budget, and Dunedin ratepayers will carry that debt for decades. Right now, the city can only afford essential spending."

"Like any household right now, we must cut our cloth differently. I'll vote to protect household budgets, freeze bureaucracy, cut red tape, and deliver core services to a first-world standard, getting clean water in and bad water out, without selling assets."

"I will support these basics over seesaws and street furniture, while still protecting our city's social fabric such as our parks, community halls, and libraries."

The 30-year-old handed in his nomination for the by-election on the weekend, after taking leave from his new frontline Dunedin City Council customer services officer role. He continues his governance roles as Dunedin Community House Chairperson and President of Brain Injury NZ.

"After my 2025 campaign, I proudly chose to work on the DCC front line to continue serving our people and community," he said.

Mr Aronson came 21st in the race for 14 councillor positions in the October 2025 election. As a first-time, independent candidate with no political ticket in 2025, he surprised political pundits after coming narrowly close to established councillors in critical first-preference votes.

He secured 578 primary votes, landing within 30 votes of former councillors Houlahan and Acklin, while comfortably beating Stedman.

"Everyone else is running on their past titles. I am running on 10 years of proven governance experience, fresh energy, and optimism for Dunedin's future."

Aronson said he will continue to listen to key community concerns and ideas during the campaign. "Once elected, I will hold monthly, no-appointment clinics at three venues around town, so the public always has a direct line to the council table."

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