



# THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

## **MEDIA RELEASE – 28 October 2022**

### **Franz Josef IRG project – Stage 1**

Contractors will commence an initial occupation of the works site at the northern bridge end of the stopbank next week for the purpose of site investigation works. This is in anticipation of resource consent being granted to undertake the first stage of protection works on the Waiho River.

Part of the investigation works will be on the stopbank toe and will be carried out by a digger. However, no physical works on the project itself will be undertaken until resource consent has been granted.

The other initial works will be limited to the following:

- Site set up
- Continued investigation of the site services and in particular the main power lines and fibre optic cables
- The identification, location and issues relating to the stormwater main that is located on or near the alignment of the new works
- Any community engagement not currently undertaken
- Any other matters that are able to be resolved prior to the full contract works commencing
- Site survey set out

Any specific questions about the planned works and site setup can be directed to James Bell by email [james.bell@wrc.govt.nz](mailto:james.bell@wrc.govt.nz)

Heather Mabin, West Coast Regional Council Chief Executive, said that this work was an important part of the future resilience for Franz Josef.

“Stage 1, when completed, will provide protection against a 1% AEP flood for the next 20 years for the township. It’s important the town is given this time so it can make sound decisions as to its future.”

Stage 1 of the project includes the upgrade of the northern flood protection assets on the Waiho River. This includes raising the existing stopbank and adding a new stopbank.

“We are still endeavouring to get a definitive response from central government about the funding to undertake Stage 2 of the project,” said Ms Mabin.

This work was triggered in 2020 when the West Coast Regional Council submitted a package of projects worth a total of \$45.1M across Franz Josef, Hokitika, Greymouth and Westport as part of Central Government’s economic stimulus package for ‘shovel ready’ projects announced during the COVID-19 lockdown.

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Media contact

Heather Mabin | Chief Executive | West Coast Regional Council | 021 346 829