



# THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MEDIA RELEASE – 26 January 2022**

## **Business as usual but office remains closed**

Due to the threat of the Omicron strain of Covid, WCRC staff work remotely while the actual offices of the West Coast Regional Council at 388 Main South Road will remain closed. This decision will be reviewed as the situation evolves.

While the office building is closed, staff will still be undertaking activities out in the field. This includes rating district meetings, compliance inspections, water quality monitoring, hydro site maintenance and the roadshow for Te Tai o Poutini Plan, the combined district plan for the West Coast. The caveat around this is that all interactions with the public, and other stakeholders, will require a vaccine certificate.

Chief Executive, Heather Mabin, said the closure was to ensure staff were protected as much as possible for their own health and well-being so that WCRC is able to provide a civil defence response should this be required.

“The regional council has a key responsibility in responding to, and staffing an emergency operations centre or emergency coordination centre, should the region face a flood event, earthquake or other disaster. Looking at the experiences of other businesses, we can’t afford to take the risk of having our staff exposed, the Council becoming a place of interest and having to isolate for an extended period of time, unavailable should the worse happen.”

“We recognise that the Omicron outbreak is an evolving situation, and should the threat to our workforce lessen, then we will reassess the situation which may lead to reopening our office. Staff will still achieve the levels of service expected by the community”

Staff continue to be available via their usual contacts, through the main Council number 0508 800 118 or [info@wcr.govt.nz](mailto:info@wcr.govt.nz).

“I want to reassure everyone, that while our doors may be closed, our staff are still here working hard on behalf of our community,” said Ms Mabin. “Please continue to contact us as you need too.”

ENDS

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Media contacts

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