

Media release

6 August 2024

WCRC Annual Report 2022-2023 adopted

West Coast Regional Council has adopted its Annual Report for 2022-2023.

Annual reports compare actual activities and performance against what was planned for the year.

Chief Executive Officer Darryl Lew says Council's performance during 2022-2023 was generally good, with 78% of performance targets either exceeded or achieved.

"We met most of our performance measures, particularly those measuring environmental standards.

"Where performance wasn't achieved there are clear explanations in the Report. For example, council meeting attendance targets weren't met, which was partially due to one councillor having approved leave of absence."

The end of year financial position was looking more favourable than had previously been suggested, with a \$2.8m surplus on paper, he says.

"However, Council should be cautious of looking at that figure without specific context. The majority of this on-paper-surplus relates to \$1.1m of unrealised gain on financial instruments with \$1.6m relating to subsidy received for capital projects.

"Excluding these elements, the end of year financial position was a minor operating loss. The Long-term Plan 2024-2034 sets out how Council will move from this type of deficit into surplus in four years, moving away from the previous borrowing approach, which is financially unsustainable for our community."

Council Chair Peter Haddock says the report was overdue under Section 98 of the Local Government Act 2002 which sets timeframes for council completing and adopting their Annual Report.

"Council hasn't met that deadline since the 2018-2019 financial year. This was primarily due to a previous lack of staff resources. In addition, all councils were given a time extension for the 2019-2020 financial year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm confident the CEO has put sufficient plans in place to make sure we deliver all future annual reports on time."

Councillors thanked staff for their work in delivering the Annual Report. It will be available on the Council website within the next four weeks.

–Ends–

More information

WCRC website: wrc.govt.nz