



Coastal cliffs on the Truman Track, Punakaiki.

## Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Councilors, I would like to thank submitters who took the time to read and provide feedback on the Long-Term Plan Consultation Document. The impact of the Covid-19 lockdown during printing and distribution meant that there were delays with it reaching letterboxes. However, the decision to send every ratepayer a copy meant that even during a lockdown we were still able to get the information to you, evidenced by the 621 submissions we received back. This information helped us to make the decisions that were needed as we worked to finalise the Long-Term Plan for 2021-31.

We have decided to forgo the traditional West Coast Regional News which accompanies the rates invoice this time round and provide a summary of the outcomes of the consultation. Again, thank you for your time and contribution to this process.



Allan Birchfield  
CHAIRMAN



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# Outcomes



## 1 Changing our rating instalments

**Council decided to retain the status quo.** While approximately 50% of ratepayers that made submissions wanted to see a change in the instalments, general feedback indicated that more flexibility was what was sought. Changing from two instalments to three was not going to provide the benefits sought, so Council have retained the twice yearly instalments and requested Staff provide more information to ratepayers on the options available to make weekly, fortnightly, monthly payments to suit their circumstances.

## 2 Infrastructure insurance cover

**Council decided to proceed with Option 2** - 70% of the Insurance cost funded by the rating districts and the remaining 30% funded from the General Rate. Retaining a portion to be paid from the General Rate recognises that those outside of a rating district receive indirect benefits from this infrastructure. Option 2 also aligns more closely with the user pays approach than how it had previously been funded. (The Kongahu Rating District was removed from the insurance policy as it is a drainage scheme).

## 3 Engineer, and other rating district services, cost recovery

**Council decided to proceed with Option 2** - 70% of the Engineer and other rating district services costs funded by the rating districts, and the remaining 30% funded from the General Rate. With similar reasoning as to Topic 2, Councillors also recognised the importance of having in-house expertise available for the region. Changes have been made to the Option 2 fixed fees allocation:

- Waitangitona Rating District now \$3,750
- Nelson Creek Rating District now \$3,750
- Westport allocation removed for the 2021/22 year.

## 4 Wanganui Rating District infrastructure upgrade

**Council decided not to proceed with either Option 1 or Option 2** but engage in further consultation on the Topic during the Annual Plan 2022/23 process. Council acknowledged the feedback received through Submissions that the Topic was not clearly understood by the ratepayers in the rating district. The impact of the COVID-19 lockdown had resulted in the cancellation of the planned drop-in session in the community as well as delays in receiving copies of the Consultation Document.

## 7 Hokitika Southside Rating District boundary extension

**Council decided to progress with Option 2** and retain the status quo. Hokitika Southside has a complicated funding arrangement, and feedback from ratepayers in this area reinforced the decision to retain the status quo.

## Prudent reserves

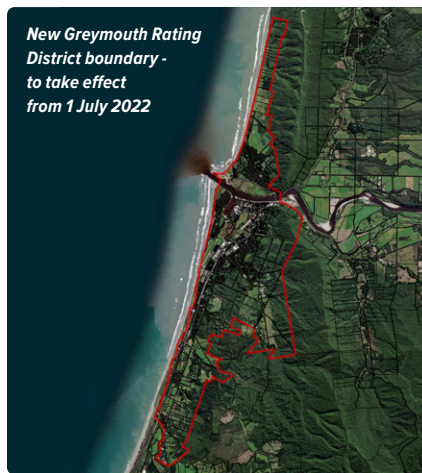
**Council decided to defer the rating for prudent reserve targets until a review of the Asset Management Plans could be undertaken.** The Asset Management Plans will provide the analysis to inform the decisions that are made for these assets.

## 5 Wanganui Rating District classification review

**Council decided to progress with Option 1** and undertake a review of the classifications of the rating district during the Annual Plan 2022/23 process, in line with Topic 4.

## 8 Greymouth Rating District boundary extension

**Council decided to progress with Option 2**, the smaller of the two boundary extensions. Ratepayers within the new boundary will see this reflected on their rates invoices from 1 July 2022.



## User Fees and Charges Schedule

**No changes were made to the User Fees and Charges Schedule** although Council had previously decided to retain the annual whitebait monitoring fee at \$150 + GST for the 2021/22 year. **Please note that if you hold a resource consent, or use our other services, these changes will apply to you.**

**i** **How can I find out more?** A copy of the User Fees and Charges Schedule is available on Council's website [www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz).

## 6 Hokitika Rating District boundary extension

**Council decided to progress with Option 1** and extend the boundary of the rating district. Ratepayers within the new boundary will see this reflected on their rates invoices from 1 July 2022.



## 9 Westport Rating District flood protection works

**Council decided to progress with Option 2.** There was overwhelming support from submitters for the construction of extensive floodwalls and stopbanks and to get this underway now. Council recognised that there was significant additional information that was provided during consultation and the work did not stop here. Council requested that consideration be given to the potential adverse impacts on the ratepayers outside the construction of the planned infrastructure. This is one tool in the tool-box for the further resilience, and future-proofing, of Westport.

## Want to make paying rates easier?

Council has a number of options for paying rates, however we do encourage ratepayers to consider setting up a direct debit payment. This assists with ensuring your rate payments are never late and gives you the option as to how you want to spread the payments – weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

**Contact our Rates Officer to find out more on 0508 800 118; or go to our website [www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz) and search 'direct debit', fill in the form and return to Council.**

## Are you experiencing issues with paying rates?

- Check out Council's Rates Remissions and Postponement Policy. Go to [www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz)
- See if you are eligible for a rebate under the Government's Rates Rebate Scheme - [www.govt.nz/getting-a-rates-rebate](http://www.govt.nz/getting-a-rates-rebate)

