



Message from the Chair

In recent months, the West Coast Regional Council has achieved two significant milestones.

The signing of the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe arrangement with Poutini Ngāi Tahu representatives at Arahura Marae is particularly significant for us as an organisation and is the first in New Zealand. The Arrangement strengthens the ties we have had with Poutini Ngāi Tahu for many years now. The Kotahitanga ki te Uru Alliance (Working as one in the West), with iwi, the Department of Conservation and Development West Coast, unlocks funding through the Government's Jobs for Nature programme providing economic assistance to Franz Josef at a time it is needed the most.

Late last year, Council welcomed Vin Smith as our new Chief Executive. Vin has more than 25 years' experience in the planning and regulatory sector, most recently, as Director/General Manager of Policy Planning and Regulatory Services at Environment Southland. This experience in local government planning and essential freshwater regulation will stand us in good stead as we work through new government legislation and the challenges ahead.

We are currently drafting the Long-Term Plan which sets out the priorities and projects, and the 10-year work programme to deliver on this. Changes in central government legislation and direction mean that we have had to look at what we deliver and how we do it given the funding we have available. We will be consulting on the Long-Term Plan in April-May and it is really important that we hear from you to help us confirm our direction for the future.



Allan Birchfield
CHAIRMAN



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**THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Council signs milestone agreement with Poutini Ngāi Tahu



The West Coast Regional Council and Poutini Ngāi Tahu marked a significant milestone in October with New Zealand's first signing of a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (Iwi Participation Arrangement) at the Arahura Marae.

The Arrangement, signed by representatives from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and the West Coast Regional Council sets out a framework for iwi and Council to work together on processes and protocols for the future – an expression of the strong relationship between the parties. Many of these already existed but the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe brings them together in one place. The Arrangement signing will continue to strengthen the existing relationships, enhance our collaborative work and guide future work programmes for better outcomes on the West Coast.

The signing sends a strong signal to central government of regional alignment and strategic collaboration between the Regional Council and Poutini Ngāi Tahu.

Two parts to the document

1. The Partnership Protocol (Paetae Kotahitanga ki Te Tai Poutini) relates to broad relationship matters.
2. The Iwi Participation Arrangement (Mana Whakahono ā Rohe) sets out how Poutini Ngāi Tahu participate in regional resource management including processes, procedures and other arrangements.

Key future workstreams

- Appointment of Poutini Ngāi Tahu Partnership Manager
- Cementing and developing governance arrangements
- Clarifying Poutini Ngāi Tahu understanding of Te Mana o te Wai
- Transfer of powers / joint management agreements

Long-Term Plan 2021

Get ready to have your say!

Council is currently drafting the 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan (LTP).

Undertaken every three years, the LTP sets out the projects, priorities and work programme we plan to deliver over a ten-year period, the proposed budgets and how this work will be funded.

We will be seeking your feedback on the draft LTP in April-May this year. Some of the significant changes we want your feedback on is how we manage our rating districts, and quarries, into the future.

Your feedback shapes the activities and direction we take over the next ten-year period. This is your chance to have a say on the future of our region.

We will be seeking your feedback on:

- 1 General rating district management
- 2 Changes to the Hokitika rating district
- 3 Wanganui rating district works
- 4 Quarry management

How can I find out more?

We will be advertising widely when we release the draft LTP for consultation. Keep an eye out for more information in your local paper, on our facebook page, or our website www.wcrc.govt.nz

Field team members learn more about the new predator monitoring system.



PREDATOR FREE TE KINGA

Information gathering on Lake Brunner's Predator Free Te Kinga project is underway as the team begins to gather data and form a picture of the area's predator populations and behaviours.

Cameras have been installed around an inner ring at the predator control site. This will help the team monitor predator levels and determine how much pressure is being placed on native flora and fauna both inside and out of the boundary.

Two Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology students have been assisting the team with field work and data processing. Initial findings have identified several species including wild pigs, possums, rats, stoats, goats, deer and feral cats present in the area.

This five-year project aims to completely remove possums from the 4,800ha Mt Te Kinga and Iveagh Bay settlement. Suppressing the population of rats, possums and stoats across the Lake Brunner basin through a targeted predator control



Camera images of predators in the area attracted to the mayonnaise lure.

Cheque Payments

In line with changes currently underway by all banks nationwide, as of **30 April 2021**, the West Coast Regional Council will no longer be able to accept cheques as a form of payment.

Our preferred payment for rates is by direct debit, which allows you to make payments to suit your budget without incurring a penalty. You can pay weekly, fortnightly, monthly, per instalment or annually.

Direct debit forms are available on our website: www.wcrc.govt.nz go to 'Rates' and follow the prompts, or at the Council office in Paroa, Greymouth.

We also accept Eftpos and cash at our office, and credit card payments via our website.

Want to receive your rates invoice by email?

If this sounds like you, follow the links on our website to register your email against your properties.

programme will help a number of threatened and endangered species, including rooroa/great spotted kiwi, kaka and kea, to thrive.

The project has received great support from landowners and the community around the area who are keen to see successful long-term outcomes for the programme.



How can I find out more?

Go to wcrc.govt.nz and follow the links from our homepage.



New farming regulations

– what you need to know for this winter

In September 2020, Government released a raft of new requirements and rules designed to protect and restore New Zealand's waterways. These include a new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, and National Environmental Standards (NES) for Freshwater which relate to farming activities.

There are new standards for stock holding areas (standoff/wintering areas) intensive winter grazing (crop paddocks), intensification of land use, managing synthetic nitrogen fertiliser, wetland protection, installation of culverts and stock exclusion.

The NES has different timelines for compliance with the various farming activities.

For this winter, farmers need to be aware of the requirements for stock holding areas and intensive winter grazing. Please ensure you make yourself familiar with the regulations and if you are unable to comply with the standards, apply for a resource consent to authorise your activity.

Council is here to help you through this process and provide advice and assistance.

Information on the regulations are on our website or contact the Consents and Compliance Team on 0508 800 118 if you have any questions or need assistance.

Look out for Sea Spurge

If you're out and about on West Coast beaches this summer keep a close eye out for Sea Spurge, a fast spreading and invasive weed that is starting to crop up around the country. Sea Spurge, or *Euphorbia paralias*, is a hardy European shrub that was first discovered on our shores in 2012 and has been located around Karamea on the West Coast, and Karekare Beach, Aotea Harbour, Mokau and Himatangi elsewhere in New Zealand.

It is believed that the seeds have travelled by ocean currents from Australia where this species is now widely established along coastlines and has caused major environmental problems at many of their beaches. The plant invades the shore just above the high tide mark, disrupts sand dunes and stops native plants from being able to grow, spreading quickly and taking over an entire area in a short space of time.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and the Department of Conservation want people to report any sightings, but if you find it don't try to remove it. It has a sap that is toxic to humans and animals that can cause skin irritations and temporary blindness if you get it in your eyes.



If you think you've found sea spurge, remember:

- ▶ Don't disturb the sea spurge plants as it could spread the seeds.
- ▶ Don't cut sea spurge or try and remove it, as its sap is toxic.
- ▶ Take a photo of the location and a close up of the plant.
- ▶ Try to confirm your location as accurately as possible. Use GPS if possible.
- ▶ Call the MPI Exotic Pestline: 0800 80 99 66.



Te Tai o Poutini PLAN

A combined district plan for the West Coast

Staff have been working hard to develop the best Plan for the West Coast

Work is progressing well on Te Tai o Poutini Plan, the combined district plan for the West Coast, with topics from infrastructure and transport to natural and historic heritage underway. 2021 is going to be a big year as natural hazards and the protection of biodiversity are added to the policy development schedule.

A first draft of Te Tai o Poutini Plan is intended to be available for community feedback before the middle of 2022. Staff will visit towns and settlements to hear what you think about the parts of the Plan that will affect you. Keep an eye out on the Regional Council Facebook page for dates and times, and other general updates.



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