


**Westland Mineral Sands Ltd – Applications for West Coast Regional Council
Resource Consent RC-2023-0133 and Westland District Council Resource Consent
RC240013 – Submission**

Pursuant to s96 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Submitter Details	
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Date	2/03/2025

We support the applications referenced within this document and wish to be heard in support of this submission at any hearing that may be held.

If others make a similar submission we are willing to make a joint case with them at any hearing.

We wish to receive electronic copies of the s42A Officer's Report and Decision.

We have served a copy of our submission on the Applicant as per s96(6)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991.



Te Ohu Whakawhanake o Te Tai Poutini

Subject: Submission in Support of Westland Mineral Sands Co. Ltd. Consent Application

To whom it may concern,

Development West Coast (DWC) is the Economic Development Agency and Regional Tourism Organisation for the West Coast region. DWC's role is to promote sustainable economic benefit and sustainable employment for the West Coast region.

DWC strongly supports the consent applications for the Mananui Mineral Sands Project by Westland Mineral Sands Co. Ltd. (WMS). This project aligns with the strategic economic priorities of the West Coast region and New Zealand's broader economic growth strategy. Our support is based on several key considerations outlined below:

- 1. Strategic alignment with economic growth priorities:** This project aligns closely with [Te Whanaketanga West Coast Economic Strategy 2050](#), which prioritises the responsible utilisation of natural resources as a means to strengthen the region's economy. It also supports the Government's Going for Growth strategy, which emphasises leveraging New Zealand's natural resources sustainably to drive productivity, innovation, and regional economic development. By unlocking the West Coast's mineral resource potential, WMS directly advances both regional and national economic objectives.
- 2. Contribution to critical mineral and renewable energy goals:** The Mananui project will extract minerals such as titanium (ilmenite), garnet, gold, and rare earth elements, supporting New Zealand's transition to a sustainable, low-emissions economy. These minerals are essential components of renewable technologies such as wind turbines and electric vehicle batteries, as well as important applications like medical implants. The project aligns closely with the [Government's Minerals Strategy to 2040](#) and [Te Tai Poutini West Coast Renewable Energy Strategy](#), directly enhancing New Zealand's economic resilience, decarbonisation efforts, and energy sustainability.

3. **Significant economic contribution:** An independent economic analysis by Sense Partners estimates that the Mananui project will generate \$71 million in export revenue annually, significantly boosting New Zealand’s foreign earnings and contributing to national economic recovery. The project will also add \$37.9 million per year to the West Coast economy. This substantial economic injection will boost regional productivity, while providing tangible benefits for local communities, businesses, and infrastructure.
4. **Boost to productivity:** Mining is a critical and highly productive sector for the West Coast, with each job in the sector contributing \$447,126 to regional GDP, more than three times the national average of \$149,163.¹ This high productivity underscores the mining sector’s critical role in generating substantial economic value and supporting broader regional growth.

Table 1: Productivity – GDP contribution per job in 2024 ¹	
Mining productivity (West Coast)	\$447,126
Average productivity (West Coast)	\$172,706
Average productivity (New Zealand)	\$149,163

5. **Economic diversification and resilience:** By expanding the region’s mining sector beyond traditional coal and gold extraction, the Mananui project will diversify the West Coast’s economy, enhancing long-term resilience and providing essential inputs for emerging technologies critical to New Zealand’s clean energy transition.
6. **High-quality employment opportunities:** The Mananui project will create up to 70 well-paid jobs across various roles, including engineering, geotechnical, maintenance, and associated services. The median salary for mining jobs in New Zealand is \$103,740, which is 48.5% higher than the median salary across all industries (\$69,836).² Beyond direct employment, the project will generate significant indirect job opportunities through a multiplier effect, benefiting allied industries. This employment growth will help diversify the regional economy.
7. **Workforce development and retention:** Youth retention is a key issue identified in Te Whanaketanga West Coast Economic Strategy 2050. By providing internships, scholarships, and employment opportunities, WMS is actively supporting talent retention, enhancing workforce capability, and contributing to long-term economic growth on the West Coast. By providing clear career

¹ Source: [Infometrics \(2024\)](#)

² Source: [StatsNZ \(2025\)](#)

pathways, the project will help address workforce challenges and support the region's population stability.

8. **Locally owned and operated business:** As a New Zealand-owned and operated company, WMS ensures that the project's economic benefits remain within the local community, strengthening regional business resilience and long-term economic sustainability.
9. **Investment in critical infrastructure:** The project will support much-needed investment in the Greymouth Port, helping to open new export opportunities for the region. Improving the port's functionality will increase export viability and reinforce the resilience of the West Coast's transport network.
10. **Proven track record in responsible mining:** WMS has demonstrated its ability to deliver on its commitments through its existing mining operation at Nine Mile in Buller. The successful execution of that project, with positive environmental and operational outcomes, provides confidence in the company's ability to manage the Mananui site responsibly and effectively.
11. **Commitment to community and stakeholder engagement:** From the project's inception, WMS has actively engaged with local communities, iwi, and key stakeholders to ensure that environmental, cultural, and community expectations are fully considered. This approach has involved working closely with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, undertaking extensive measures to protect the cultural and ecological integrity of Māhinapua Creek and Lake Māhinapua. Stakeholder feedback has been incorporated into the project's design, laying a strong foundation for responsible, community-supported operations.
12. **Sustainable and regenerative mining practices:** WMS has integrated best-practice environmental management into the project to minimise ecosystem disruption, using chemical-free, water and gravity-based separation methods. Progressive rehabilitation will promptly restore disturbed land, with wetlands and native vegetation enhancing biodiversity. Electric-powered equipment and water-efficient processing reduce the project's carbon footprint, aligning with New Zealand's sustainability goals. Robust safeguards, including ecological reserves, buffer zones, water management plans, and continuous monitoring, will protect sensitive areas such as Māhinapua Creek and Lake Māhinapua.

Given the above factors, DWC strongly supports the approval of Westland Mineral Sands Ltd's applications for Resource Consents. The Mananui Mineral Sands Project represents a well-considered and strategically aligned opportunity to drive economic growth and resilience on the West Coast. We encourage the councils to approve these

applications, enabling WMS to establish operations that will provide significant economic benefits and contribute positively to the region's strategic objectives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves slightly upwards at the end.

Heath Milne

Chief Executive
Development West Coast