

About the GST Increase...

GST will apply at the rate of 12.5% to rates payable on invoices issued before 1 October 2010 and to any voluntary pre-payment of rates made prior to 1 October 2010.

GST will apply at the increased rate of 15% to rates payable on invoices issued on or after 1 October 2010.

The Council's first rates instalment invoices are issued in September 2010. This means the instalment for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010 will include GST at 12.5%. The payment due date for this instalment is 20 October 2010.

The second instalment for the period 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011 will include GST at 15%. The payment due date for this instalment is 20 April 2011.

If you voluntarily pay all your rates for the 2010/11 year before 1 October 2010, the whole payment will have GST applied at only 12.5%.

An example:

If your annual West Coast Regional Council rates for 2010/11 were \$200.00 + GST at the prevailing rate, then your GST liability for the whole year would be calculated as follows (assuming that you pay by instalment);

Instalment 1 (1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010)	\$100.00
Plus GST @ 12.5%	\$12.50
Total Instalment 1	\$112.50
Instalment 2 (1 January 2011 to 30 June 2011)	\$100.00
Plus GST @ 15%	\$15.00
Total Instalment 2	\$115.00
Total annual Rates including GST @ prevailing rates	\$227.50

If you paid your total annual rates before 1 October 2010, your total annual rates liability would only include GST applied at 12.5%

You would therefore in this example be able to save GST of \$2.50 by paying your total annual rates before 1 October 2010.

Any amount of 2010/11 rates pre-paid before 1 October 2010 will only have GST applied at 12.5%

To pay your rates...

Council operates a **direct debit** system for payment of its rates accounts.

This means:

- No more forgetting to pay your rates before the due date.
- No more penalties to pay on late payments.
- No need to post date cheques.
- Payments can be made to suit your budget.

We can offer a number of different payment options, e.g. weekly, fortnightly, monthly or per instalment.

If you would like to use **Ratepay** as a method of payment or would like more information please phone our office on 0508 800 118 or call in and pick up a form.

Other payment options include:

- Posting in our prepaid envelope enclosed with your rates account.
- Over the counter at any Westpac branch on the West Coast.
- Paying via internet or telephone banking (our details are lodged with all major banks.) Our bank account number is **03-0846-0121500-00**
- Credit Card payments can be made via council's website www.wcrc.govt.nz
Payment incurs a convenience fee



West Coast Campervan dump stations brochure reviewed

The fourth edition of the Campervan "Dump Stations on the West Coast" brochure has just been distributed to West Coast i-SITES, Visitor Centres, and all Council and Department of Conservation offices. Copies will also be sent to major campervan hire firms to ensure that visitors traveling to the West Coast in campervans know where they can empty on-board toilet and waste water.

Publication of this brochure has been a joint effort involving the Regional Council, District Councils, and Department of Conservation.

Burning of tyres, oil or plastic coated wires is banned

In 2004 the Ministry for the Environment made it illegal to burn various harmful materials in the open, as part of the National Standard for Air Quality.

The following are banned from being burned in the open:

- Rubber tyres
- Plastic coated wire
- Oil

Please call the council's pollution hotline on 0508 800 118 if you see anyone burning these substances. A burning car tyre emits several toxic substances: carbon monoxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, dioxins and volatile organic compounds.



Tsunami Advice - know what to look for

New Zealand's entire coastline is at risk from tsunami, including the West Coast. A large tsunami in New Zealand would likely be caused by a major earthquake, or an underwater landslide close to shore.

If you are at the coast and:

- You feel a strong earthquake (e.g. it is hard to stand up); or
- You feel a rolling earthquake with shaking of one minute or more; or
- You see strange sea behaviour, such as the sea level suddenly rising or falling; or
- You hear the sea making loud and unusual noises, especially roaring like a jet engine; then....

Go immediately to high ground, or go as far inland as possible. The first wave may arrive within minutes. Once away from the beach listen to the radio for more information.

Current national warning systems only provide for official warnings for tsunami that are more than three hours of travel time away. A tsunami caused by a local near-shore earthquake will not trigger any official warnings.

NEVER go down to the beach to watch a tsunami. You cannot outrun a tsunami, it moves faster than a person can run.



Council's new Coastal Plan Rule will enable re-opening of 45 rivermouths when they block up

The Council's Coastal Plan is about to allow the timely opening of blocked West Coast creek mouths, without the need for a resource consent. Small creeks can become blocked during heavy seas and this sometimes causes backup flooding of nearby land, unless the stream mouth is assisted to re-open. Currently, assisting the re-opening a blocked rivermouth requires a resource consent under the RMA.

This new change to the Council's Coastal Plan adds a rule that permits re-opening of 45 river and creek mouths, subject to certain conditions. The new rule will become operative as soon as Council obtains the approval of the Minister of Conservation. Council is hoping the Minister will sign off on the new rule within the next few weeks.

Greymouth Floodwall Upgrade now completed

Council recently completed its largest flood protection project since the Greymouth Floodwall was first constructed. The recent upgrade to the Greymouth floodwall gives townsfolk greater confidence that the floodwall will protect the town from major floods in the future. The Council were pleased that the final costs came in significantly less than the estimated cost of \$4 million. This was an excellent result for the Greymouth Floodwall rating district (the old Greymouth Borough), which is meeting the entire cost of the project. The Council was well supported in this project by the engineering consultants Good Earth Matters Limited and the works were completed to a high standard by the main contractors, MBD Contracting Limited, and their sub-contractors Downer EDI, and Smith Crane & Construction.



Construction work on the Mawhera Quay section of the floodwall upgrade in Greymouth.

The project was developed by the engineering consultants Good Earth Matters Limited, contracting out the work locally to MBD Contracting Ltd and their sub contractors Downer EDI and Smith Crane & Construction.

The work was completed on time and under budget.

Honda Tree Fund Allocations for 2010

The West Coast Regional Council recently allocated another round of Honda tree fund money to eight community groups. This fund is generated by local sales at Coastwide Honda. The fund has been providing grants for six years now, benefiting around forty West Coast community and school groups so far. Some groups have applied more than once – either to extend their original work, or for new projects.

Successful applicants for 2010 were:

- Kaniere Reserve Committee
- West Coast Speedway Association
- Kumara Community Association
- John Paul II High School

- Bois Gentil Kiwi Creche – Paparoa Wildlife Trust
- Tauranga Bay Working Party
- Greymouth High School
- Karamea Estuary Enhancement Project



James Thompson, Kieran Black and Angus Oliver at Kaniere School's Planting Day on July 23rd, 2010.

Kaniere School was allocated funding in the 2009 round.

What's inside...

Proposed Pest Plant Strategy
Planning Updates
New Mining Guidelines
Preparedness for Oil Spills
Reefton Air Quality Results
West Coast Tsunami Advice
New Campervan Dumpsite Brochure

For information about the GST increase and paying your rates see the back page.

Proposed changes to West Coast Pest Plant Strategy

The new Proposed Pest Plant Management Strategy for the West Coast was notified in July 2010 and submissions have recently closed. The proposal adds six new pest plants, with the aim of eradicating them from the region. Cathedral Bells, Cape Ivy, Woolly Nightshade, White Edged Nightshade, Dense Oxygen Weed and Parrot's Feather are plants that only occur in a handful of locations in the region, so eradication should be feasible.

New rules are also proposed for Gunnera (Chilean Rhubarb), and Wild Ginger, but only within three progressive control areas. Up until now rules have applied only to Crown land in these areas and not to private land owners, but that may change very soon.



Gunnera tinctoria, also known as just Gunnera (or Chilean Rhubarb) can grow very large - with rose-like thorns.

New rules for Gunnera and Wild Ginger are proposed to apply to all land occupiers in the Coast Road, Karamea-Little Wanganui and Cape Foulwind Progressive Control Areas. Japanese Honeysuckle, Banana Passionfruit and Chocolate Vine are also proposed to be added to the Coast Road Progressive Control Area, but with rules only to be applied to Crown land, at this stage.



Wild Ginger. The common name for both Kahili and Yellow Ginger.

Bushy asparagus, Tree privet and Smilax are thought to have been eradicated already from the region, but new rules are proposed to be included, just in case they appear again in which case a rapid response is desirable.

Spartina and Coltsfoot are already controlled by existing rules in the Strategy, and were eradicated during the past 4 years, but the Strategy will continue to class them as pest plants in case they pop up again.

Council staff can assist in identifying any of the pest plants listed above. Photographs of most are available on the Council's web site under www.wcrc.govt.nz/environmentalmanagement/PestPlants.

Alternatively, feel free to call our Information officer on our freephone, 0508 800 118.



Parrot's Feather is an aquatic pest plant which is proposed for Total Control under the revised strategy. If you see this plant in any creeks or drains please contact the Council right away.

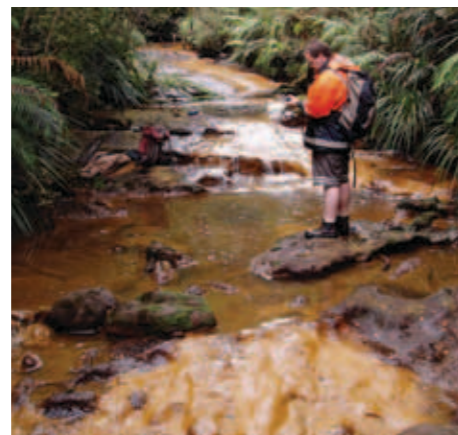
Guidelines for Minimising Environmental effects of Mining

A new decision-making framework with accompanying guidelines has been developed to address acid mine drainage which can be caused by mining of certain rock types.

The framework is written for a wide audience – regulators, mining companies, landholders, and the community – with a focus on assisting with regulatory processes such as: assessment of environmental effects (AEE) for resource consents and setting resource consent conditions, guiding decisions on access arrangements, as well as for internal decision-making for mining companies.

The framework is available, along with four associated "fact sheets", on both the WCRC and CRL Energy websites. See either www.wcrc.govt.nz or www.crl.co.nz. Copies of the fact sheets are also available from the Councils Information Officer.

It is the culmination of several year's of research led by Landcare Research, CRL Energy Limited, and the Universities of



Monitoring the effects of acid mine drainage in Cannel Creek near Rapahoe. There are about twenty similarly affected streams on the West Coast, mostly in the Buller District.

Canterbury and Otago, with assistance from the West Coast and Southland Regional Councils, the Department of Conservation, Solid Energy, Oceana Gold, Pike River Coal, Francis Mining and others.

Other Council Planning News

Planning Staff have also been working on the merging of the Regional Land & Riverbed Management Plan, the Proposed Water Plan and the Regional Discharges to Land Plan.

Combining these three plans will make it easier for people to see which rules apply to the activities they intend doing. The only major change to existing policies or rules is an update of the Lake Brunner Special Management Area Chapter to address the declining water clarity in the lake. A number of more minor amendments are also included to update the plans. The merged Plan will be notified for public submissions shortly.

The review of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) is also underway. The RPS provides an overview of the resource management issues of the region. Council are aware that there are changes afoot with national policy statements at present so the RPS review may be conducted over a longer timeframe than first intended. There will also be a review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy soon, which is expected to be notified for submissions at the end of 2010.

West Coast Oil Spill Response Capability

New Zealand's oil spill response capability is maintained through partnerships between Maritime New Zealand, Regional Councils, the oil industry, and overseas agencies.

A response 'system' has been developed, based on contingency and strategic planning. The response system is comprised of three tiers. Each tier can be escalated to the next, depending on the scale of the event.

Those responsible for each tier are required to prepare contingency plans and a response capability appropriate to their respective levels of responsibility:

- Tier 1 – industry (ships and onshore/offshore oil transfer sites)
- Tier 2 – regional councils
- Tier 3 – Maritime New Zealand.

Maritime New Zealand maintains a response capability of sufficient size to counter an oil

spill of 3,500 tonnes, which is deemed to be a 'one in a hundred year' event. If the scale of an incident is beyond the nation's domestic capability, arrangements are in place to secure overseas assistance. This relationship is reciprocal - New Zealand will be expected to assist our neighbours if requested.

Oil spill preparedness is funded by an industry levy, the Oil Pollution Levy, which is paid by those sectors whose activities raise the risk of a marine oil spill. In the event of an oil spill, the polluter is liable for all costs associated with the response.

West Coast Regional Council staff are trained in oil spill response through courses and exercises held within the region and nationally. This ensures that a core group is available at any time to respond to an oil spill, both in the West Coast region and nationally.

The photos show Council staff during a recent training exercise in Blaketown Lagoon, using oil spill response equipment.

Below: Phil McKinnel & Robert Blankenstein practice using a 'skimmer' to recover oil from a containment area. Opposite: Paulette Birchfield deploys a 'boom'.



How well is your well?

There are over 500 wells on the West Coast. Well users draw on our clean West Coast groundwater resource. The quality of water drawn from your well can depend on how you manage your well head area. More often than not the source of well water pollution is close to the well - and most are easily avoidable.

The West Coast Regional Council has a new information brochure available that provides useful guidance to groundwater users on how they can better manage their wells to ensure that their water supply is safe and clean. The new brochure provides tips on well construction, maintenance, and managing surrounding land use.

For a copy of the new brochure please contact the Council's Information Officer, or check our website: www.wcrc.govt.nz/state_of_the_environment/groundwater/wells.htm

New Plastic recycling options for farmers

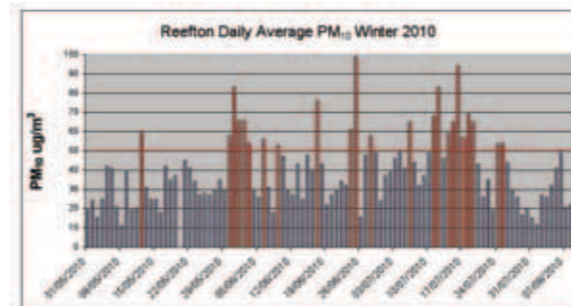
Used agricultural chemical containers, balage wrap and other plastic waste on-farm is now able to be dropped off for free at the Hokitika Recycling centre on Hau Hau road (open 9.30-5.30 every day). Alternatively, for a small fee 'Agrecovery' and 'Plasback', both provide an on-farm farm plastic waste collection service. For more details contact the Council's Information Officer, or check the following websites:

- www.agrecovery.co.nz
- www.plasback.co.nz

A Smoggy Winter in Reefton

Resource Science staff at the Regional Council have been monitoring air quality in Reefton for a number of years to measure compliance with the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality. Reefton's inland location with hilly surrounds often causes winter temperature inversions in the air shed, which can keep smoke from Reefton resident's domestic fires blanketing the town in smog all day. High smog levels can particularly affect those with respiratory ailments.

This winter there were 23 exceedences of the National Environmental Standard for PM10 in Reefton, the highest number of winter exceedences since 2007. The National Air Quality Standard currently requires that the average daily concentration should not exceed 50 micrograms per cubic metre more than once each year. The highest 24 hour average of PM10 during the period May to August was 99 micrograms/m3.



The Minister for the Environment is currently reviewing the National Air Quality Standard. Council will advise Reefton residents of the outcome of the Minister's review once it becomes available.

The table below compares the results of the air quality monitoring at Reefton over the past five years. For further information regarding monitoring of air quality at Reefton contact Stefan Beaumont, Resource Scientist.

Reefton Winter Air Quality	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of exceedences per year	15	24	17	16	23
Highest 24hr average (PM ₁₀)	86	129	78	91	99



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Mail to: PO Box 66, Greymouth 7840
Phone: 03 768 0466
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