



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Media release

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Reconciliation of Westport flood protection – Council to progress to preliminary design

Work to consider the engineering concept design and the technical review undertaken by Tonkin+Taylor has been completed finding that the Concept Design proposed in the Business Case was sound. While there will be further refinement required in subsequent project phases before achieving final design status, Council is now able to proceed to the next stage - preliminary design.

West Coast Regional Council Chair, Peter Haddock, said that this was a really significant milestone for the Council and it could now get on with this work.

“This is great news for the Westport Flood Protection Project. Reconciliation of the Tonkin+Taylor Report smooths the way to draw down funding from Government to progress with the various design phases and construction.”

The more significant outcomes of the conclusions reached by the reviewers were:

- The Concept Design was sound for the development of a Business Case but will need further refinement in subsequent project phases before achieving final design status.
- Agreement has been reached that all 18 technical matters tabled in the Tonkin+Taylor review were either resolvable through the provision of additional of additional information or can be addressed in subsequent project phases (mostly at Preliminary Design).
- None of the technical matters raised by Tonkin+Taylor should result in the withholding of funds and/or slow progression to the next phases.
- Government had made the decision not to protect Carters Beach as it was thought that this protection would have significant effects on flood levels at the bridge. This has been found to be incorrect and protection of this area will be revisited.
- Some refinement of other elements of the flood risk management strategies is required to ensure they are consistent with the PARA approach, and to ensure they cover all elements of the flood management approach.

Council appointed Graeme Campbell and Peter Blackwood, members of the NZ Rivers Managers Group, in July 2023 to undertake the reconciliation of matters raised in July 2023.

“While we didn’t doubt the work that had been completed as part of the Business Case, having this reassurance from Graeme and Peter provides more certainty that Council is on the right track with what has been proposed,” said Chair Haddock.

“As we have previously reported, consultation with the community on the final design will be undertaken through the preliminary and detailed design phases.”

ENDS

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