



THE WEST COAST  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Pre- Election Report



July 2022  
WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL  
H. Mabin – Chief Executive

## Introduction

This is the West Coast Regional Council's Pre-Election Report for the October 2022 local authority elections. The purpose of this report is to inform the regional community and to promote public discussion about any financial issues facing the Council.

The preparation and timing of a pre-election report is a mandatory requirement for all councils in New Zealand under the Local Government Act 2022. This report brings together information previously published in other Council documents – including its 2021 – 2031 Long-term Plan, annual plans and annual reports. As such, the information reflects the policy and service delivery decisions of the current Council. As is required by law, the Pre-Election Report is prepared by the Council's Chief Executive and not the current elected Council members.

This Pre-Election Report provides historic information for the past three financial years (2020 to 2021), an overview of the the financial year ended 30 June 2022 and the Council's planned performance and financial position for the next three years (2023 to 2025). It also provides information on the works programme and major projects the Council expects to deliver over the next three years.

In July Council achieved a major milestone with the notification of the Proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan, the Combined District Plan for the West Coast. Council was charged with undertaking the development of the Plan by an Order Council in 2019 and has successfully facilitated the joint drafting of this plan with input and oversight by representatives of the four Councils, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Wewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio.

The Council has taken on a significant work programme in the delivery of the Infrastructure Resilience Group projects, the Westport Flood Protection Scheme and proposed investigations into flood control measures for the Wanganui River. These projects are to be delivered by a designated Project Delivery Team alongside our business as usual work with our Rating Districts and other work programmes.

Council's planned and estimated financial performance for the year ending June 2023 is skewed through the inclusion of Government grants for infrastructure capital expenditure. The expected grants are recorded as income on the Revenue & Expenditure Statement, however, the corresponding spend is recorded on Council's Statement of Financial Position. This portrays Council as making significant surpluses each year when in fact this amount is spent on new assets.

In 2021, in response to the Buller July flood event, Council liquated its Catastrophe Fund investment portfolio and borrowed an additional \$1.7M from the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA). The sole purpose of these actions was to fund \$2.6M on urgent maintenance work on Organs Island and the bank area, known as O'Connor Home, for the Buller River. The majority of planned infrastructure projects are based on co-funding by Council through additional long-term borrowing, therefore, Councils debt with LGFA is expected to be \$28M by June 2026.

There is a wealth of information on these projects available, including the plans and reports mentioned above, on the Council's website [www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz)

## Financial strategy

The content in this section is derived from the Council's Financial Strategy within the Long-term Plan 2021-2031. The Financial Strategy is Council's high-level document guiding financial management. It provides a guide to Council to operate its finances in a prudent and sustainable manner and maintain a strong and resilient balance sheet.

Among other things, the Strategy sets out a number of overarching financial principles for Council to consider when reviewing various financial decisions and it provides a sensitivity analysis for Council to be aware of the potential impact from various unplanned events and provides guidance and the levers at Council's disposal to react to those events.

A core principle of the Strategy is that Council must aim for a balanced budget.

Levels of service and operating programmes are established in the policies, plans and strategies that the Council has prepared and adopted pursuant to key legislation. These planning documents include the Regional Policy Statement, regional plans for the coast, air, land and water, biosecurity plan for plants, land and passenger transport plans, civil defence emergency managements plans and the assets management plans for flood and erosion control assets.

Departmental expenditure budgets are set to deliver these levels of service and operating programmes.

The Council is not anticipating any significant changes for the population of the West Coast or changes in the use of land within the region that would materially impact upon the policies, plans and strategies outlined above, nor the capital and operating costs forecast in the 2021 – 2031 Long-term Plan. However, changes to Central Government policy may impact Council through the Local Government Reform, ongoing Resource Management Act reforms and the outcomes of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

Within the Financial Strategy are parameters around rates levels and debt levels. The Council is in compliance with these parameters and there are no indicators that suggest the Council will breach these parameters at any stage over the life of the 2021 – 2031 Long-term Plan.

## Rates

With increasing expectations being placed on Council from both Central Government and the Community it has been necessary for Council to increase its funding in order to improve its financial sustainability. General rates were increased by 30% in the first year of the 2021-2031 Long-term Plan and it was proposed a further 10%, plus Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) of 2.3%, be included in years 2 and 3.

Council made the decision not to include the LGCI of 2.3% for year 2 and limited the rates increase to 10%. Council is not planning to increase general rates by more than 5% (above LGCI) per annum from 2025 to 2031. Council's general rates (increase) affordability set limit is 7.5% per annum inclusive of LGCI.

The Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) was increased to \$128.38 (incl. GST) in 2021/22. The UAGC is a fixed charge per ratable unit. The Long-term Plan is not seeking to increase the UAGC by more than 3% (above LGCI) per annum from 2023 to 2031.

The Emergency Management rate is a targeted rate payable by all ratepayers. The rate of \$11.01 (incl. GST) per \$100,000 Capital Value in 2021/22 is not intended to increase in the Long-term Plan above LGCI per annum from 2023 to 2031.

The rate set for Te Tai o Poutini Plan (the combined district plan for the West Coast) is not intended to change again from the \$7.54 (incl. GST) per \$100,000 Capital Value.

The rating district targeted rate increase will vary across the rating districts depending upon the flood protection work programmes in place, underway or proposed.

## Debt

Given the significant ongoing programme of capital works until the end of 2025, Council is required to borrow \$5.2M from LGFA under the co-funding arrangements of the Provincial Growth Fund projects Council was awarded in 2020. In addition to this, Council is party to a proposal to central government for the co-investment of approximately \$46M for the Westport township. Of this, there is a \$26M proposed spend on a flood protection scheme that may require Council to borrow up to \$10.2M.

## Qualification

Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this report. While the Pre-Election Report has not itself been audited, much of the information it contains has been audited by AuditNZ. In particular, the first two years' (2020 and 2021) retrospective financial data have been audited as they have been taken directly from the relevant annual report. The next three years' (2023 to 2025) prospective financial data from the 2021 – 2031 Long-term Plan has likewise been audited in conjunction with service performance targets.

The retrospective financial information from the most recent financial year (2021/22) has not been audited, as the timeframes within which councils are required to prepare this report are insufficient to complete an audit process. Some information may have changed since it was audited in the 2021 – 2031 Long-term Plan. All figures for the 2022 financial year are based upon the latest financial information as at June 2022. The Council is in the process of preparing its independently audited draft 2022 Annual Report. The final figures published in the Annual Report 2022 may be different from the figures presented in the Pre-Election report.

## Summary

Council has a significant workload planned for the coming years and is also facing a sustained increased in Central Government legislation, and reform. A summary of the work programme ahead of us, including major projects, is included in the following report. These activities will place financial pressure on Council requiring sound governance into the future.



Heather Mabin  
**Chief Executive**  
July 2022

Operational achievements – Annual Report 2021

# 69.6

FTE as at 30 June 2021

Undertaken works across

# 15

rating districts

# 2

submissions on key Govt policy

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### Environmental Compliance

# 131

Incidents and complaints recorded

generated

# 108

site visits

resulting in

# 28

non-compliances

**1** Enforcement order

**10** Formal warnings

**15** Abatement notices

**17** Infringement notices

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# 0

Exceedances of the National Environmental Standard for Air Quality in Reefton

# 36

properties cleared of Invasive plants

between 1 February 2021 and 30 June 2021

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# 1

major oil spill responded to

# 36

properties cleared of Invasive plants

between 1 February 2021 and 30 June 2021

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### Inspections

# 229

mine inspections (coal and alluvial gold)

# 100%

of the 69 mining work programmes received were processed within the 20-day timeframe

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# 290

dairy inspections

# 99.5%

of resource consents processed including variations, within RMA timeframes

### Hydrology

# 35

sites maintained for flood warning and hydrology monitoring

### Flood Warning

# 28

alarms issued on rivers which rose above alarm threshold levels

### Water quality

# 704

samples were taken at 84 sites for water quality

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### Engineering

# 69km

of flood and erosion infrastructure maintained

### Water quality trends

● Improving or maintained ● Deteriorating

Ammonia-N: 93% (7% Deteriorating)	Nitrate-N: 82% (18% Deteriorating)	Total nitrogen: 80% (20% Deteriorating)
Dissolved reactive phosphorus: 86% (14% Deteriorating)	Total phosphorus: 93% (7% Deteriorating)	E. Coll: 91% (9% Deteriorating)
Clarity: 73% (27% Deteriorating)	Turbidity: 93% (7% Deteriorating)	Conductivity: 96% (4% Deteriorating)

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### 24/7

pollution response, flood warning service and CDEM response capability maintained

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### Quarry sales

# 4,670t

of rock from Camelback Quarry

# 1,254t

of rubble from Camelback Quarry

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# 24,049t

of rubble from Okuru Quarry

### Monitored swim sites

# 78%\*

met guidelines in Summer 2021

\*recent rainfall events affect sampling outcomes

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### Total Mobility

We co-funded

# 20,037

trips made by 679 clients

## Financial statements 2020 to 2022

This section provides an overview of the financial performance and position of the Council for the previous three years. This information has been drawn from Council's audited Annual Reports for 2020 and 2021 and the latest forecast figures for 2021/2022. If you are interested in more information, the Annual Reports explain in greater detail what the Council delivered compared to what it planned to do. The 2020 and 2021 Annual Reports are located on the Council's website [www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz). The Council is due to adopt the audited 2022 Annual Report by 31 December 2022. It will be available on the website after this time.

## Funding Impact Statement

This table presents the actual Whole of Council Funding Impact Statement for the years ended 30 June 2020, 2021 and 2022. The Whole of Council Funding Impact Statement shows how the Council's activities will be funded. It shows where the funding comes from (including income derived from rates), the amount each source is expected to produce, and how those funds will be applied.

## Statement of financial position

This table presents the actual Statements of Financial Position for the years ended 30 June 2020, 2021 and 2022. The Statement of Financial Position is also known as the balance sheet. It shows what the Council owns (assets) and what it owes (liabilities) at the end of the financial year. The total sum of assets and liabilities is referred to as 'net assets' (public equity) – this is the net worth of the Council – providing a 'snapshot' of the Council's financial condition at that particular point in time.

## Funding Impact Statement

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated Actual
<b>Sources of Operating Funding</b>			
General rates	3,932,278	4,008,487	5,034,478
Targeted rates	2,196,810	2,155,413	3,173,010
Subsidies and grants (operating)	531,790	209,141	188,625
Fees and charges	9,050,311	6,412,789	7,874,021
Income from investments	717,747	1,502,671	-775,992
Fines, infringement fees and other receipts	-	58,150	-
<b>Total Operating Funding</b>	<b>16,428,936</b>	<b>14,346,651</b>	<b>15,494,141</b>
<b>Applications of Operating Funding</b>			
Payments to staff and suppliers	16,142,622	14,599,323	14,813,265
Finance costs	176,840	198,233	195,770
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-
<b>Total Applications of Operating Funding</b>	<b>16,319,462</b>	<b>14,797,556</b>	<b>15,009,034</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) of Operating Funding</b>	<b>109,474</b>	<b>(450,905)</b>	<b>485,107</b>
<b>Sources of Capital Funding</b>			
Subsidies and grants (capital)	1,345,807	1,056,613	1,320,938
Development and financial contributions	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	1,327,626	289,393	-
Increase / (decrease) in debt	980,000	(721,733)	1,580,000
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	-	-	69,792
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-
<b>Total Sources of Capital Funding</b>	<b>3,653,433</b>	<b>624,274</b>	<b>2,970,730</b>
<b>Applications of Capital Funding</b>			
Capital expenditure:			
- to meet additional demand	-	-	-
- to improve the level of service	321,237	760,305	3,266,643
- to replace existing assets	3,225,442	665,007	321,932
Increase / (decrease) in investments	(528,971)	(411,163)	(713,678)
Increase / (decrease) in reserves	745,198	(840,781)	580,939
<b>Total Applications of Capital Funding</b>	<b>3,762,907</b>	<b>173,368</b>	<b>3,455,837</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) of Capital Funding</b>	<b>(109,474)</b>	<b>450,905</b>	<b>(485,107)</b>
<b>Funding Balance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## Statement of financial position

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated Actual
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Financial Assets	4,905,642	4,946,036	7,376,890
Non-Financial Assets	350,802	956,154	666,049
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Financial Assets	10,692,710	13,166,330	12,420,904
Non-Financial Assets	94,574,112	110,853,840	110,578,143
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>110,523,266</b>	<b>129,922,360</b>	<b>131,041,986</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities (excl. Public Debt)	4,397,821	8,002,630	9,419,151
Public Debt	2,890,000	3,568,267	5,148,267
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Non-Current Liabilities (excl. Public Debt)	442,802	360,351	360,351
Public Debt	6,600,000	5,200,000	5,200,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>14,330,623</b>	<b>17,131,248</b>	<b>20,127,769</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>96,192,643</b>	<b>112,791,111</b>	<b>110,914,216</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>110,523,266</b>	<b>129,922,360</b>	<b>131,041,986</b>



## Financial strategy quantified limits

The following table presents the actual performance for 2020 and 2021 and forecast performance for 2022, against rates, rates increases, debt and returns on investments as established in the Financial Strategy in the 2018 – 2028 Long-term Plan. Note – different parameters were used between the two Long-term Plans.

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Estimated
<b>Rates</b>			
General rates will not exceed 35% of total income	Achieved: 21%	Achieved: 13%	-
General rates (incl. UAGC) will not exceed 50% of total income	-	-	Achieved: 30%
Targeted rates will not exceed 25% of total income	Achieved: 11%	Achieved 7%	-
Targeted rates will not exceed the 2018/19 baseline + 100% over the 10 year term of the LTP	Achieved: 58%	Achieved: 57%	-
<b>Rate increases</b>			
General rates increases will not exceed estimated BERL LGCI adjustments	Not Achieved: 114%	Not Achieved: 113%	
General rate (incl. UAGC) increases will not exceed 7.5% per annum	-	-	Not Achieved: 26%
<b>Borrowing</b>			
Debt will not exceed 175% of total revenue	Achieved: 50%	Achieved: 28%	Achieved: 63%
Borrowing costs will not exceed 10% of total revenue	Achieved: 1%	Achieved: 1%	Achieved: 1%
Actual net debt will be equal to or less than planned net debt	Not Achieved: -35%	Not Achieved: -190%	-
<b>Return on Investments</b>			
Diversified “balanced” portfolio	Target – 6.5% Actual - 5.0%	Target – 6.5% Actual – 15.1%	Target – 5.0% Actual -5.4%
Catastrophe “conservative portfolio”	Target – 6.0% Actual – N/A*	Target – 6.0% Actual – 2.8%	Target – 4.5% Actual – N/A^
Commercial property	Target – 6.0% Actual – 5.6%	Target – 6.0% Actual – 5.5%	Target – 5.7% Actual – 5.5%

- Indicates a change in the parameters that were measured between the 2018 – 2028 and 2021 – 2031 Long-term Plans

\*The Catastrophe portfolio was not active at June 2020 (reinstated effective December 2020)

^The Catastrophe Portfolio was liquidated in late 2021/22

## Looking ahead

This section provides an overview of the financial performance and position of Council for the next three financial years.

Every three years the Council prepares a 10-year plan which outlines the work programme and financial implications for that 10-year period. The Council is then also required to prepare an annual plan, which updates the priorities and budgets for a particular year. The information in this section is drawn from the 2021 – 2031 Long-term Plan and is therefore nearly a year old (noting that it was not adopted until 5 October 2021). It does not take into account any changes made to the work programme and budget in Annual Plan 2023. This information will next be refreshed (and reforecast) in its entirety when Council prepares its Annual Plan 2024 and the 2024 – 2034 Long-term Plan.

The following information is presented for compliance with section 99A of the Local Government Act 2022. It was prepared pursuant to the Local Government (Financial Reporting) Regulations 2011. In accordance with the regulations, the information is incomplete (in particular, the information presented does not include depreciation and internal transactions such as overheads) and it is not prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting practice. It should not be relied upon for any other purpose than compliance with section 99A of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government (Financial Reporting) Regulations 2011.

### Whole of Council Funding Impact Statement

This table presents the forecast Whole of Council Funding Impact Statements for the years ended 30 June 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026. The Funding Impact Statement shows how the Council's activities will be funded. It shows where the funding comes from (including income from rates), the amount each source is expected to produce, and how those funds will be applied.

### Forecast statement of financial position

This table presents the forecast Statement of Financial Position for the years ended 30 June 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026. It shows what Council owns (assets) and what it owes (liabilities) at the end of the financial year.

## Whole of Council Funding Impact Statement

	2023 Annual Plan	2024 Long-term Plan	2025 Long-term Plan	2026 Long-term Plan
<b>Sources of Operating Funding</b>				
General rates	5,689,273	6,452,671	6,814,867	7,243,796
Targeted rates	3,316,553	3,326,472	3,509,171	3,662,308
Subsidies and grants (operating)	870,678	1,083,283	107,975	110,502
Fees and charges	8,372,574	6,865,467	7,016,141	7,180,377
Income from investments	668,004	713,946	714,173	714,351
Fines, infringement fees and other receipts	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating Funding</b>	<b>18,917,082</b>	<b>18,441,839</b>	<b>18,162,327</b>	<b>18,911,334</b>
<b>Applications of Operating Funding</b>				
Payments to staff and suppliers	19,239,168	16,708,806	16,091,892	16,232,975
Finance costs	623,824	505,912	568,797	588,746
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Applications of Operating Funding</b>	<b>19,862,992</b>	<b>17,214,718</b>	<b>16,660,689</b>	<b>16,821,721</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) of Operating Funding</b>	<b>(945,910)</b>	<b>1,227,121</b>	<b>1,501,638</b>	<b>2,089,613</b>
<b>Sources of Capital Funding</b>				
Subsidies and grants (capital)	12,949,716	104,500	106,800	109,300
Development and financial contributions	-	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	-	21,500	-	-
Increase / (decrease) in debt	5,931,409	4,185,356	2,823,018	904,896
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	-	29,318	52,945	58,500
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Sources of Capital Funding</b>	<b>18,881,125</b>	<b>4,340,674</b>	<b>2,982,763</b>	<b>1,072,696</b>
<b>Applications of Capital Funding</b>				
Capital expenditure:				
- to meet additional demand	-	-	-	-
- to improve the level of service	14,891,538	5,473,150	2,592,720	2,593,720
- to replace existing assets	819,240	636,161	665,363	826,311
Increase / (decrease) in investments	-	(512,231)	743,000	(251,411)
Increase / (decrease) in reserves	2,224,437	(29,285)	483,318	(6,311)
<b>Total Applications of Capital Funding</b>	<b>17,935,215</b>	<b>5,567,795</b>	<b>4,484,401</b>	<b>3,162,309</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) of Capital Funding</b>	<b>945,910</b>	<b>(1,227,121)</b>	<b>(1,501,638)</b>	<b>(2,089,613)</b>
<b>Funding Balance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## Forecast statement of financial position

	2023 Annual Plan	2024 Long-term Plan	2025 Long-term Plan	2026 Long-term Plan
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Financial Assets	7,335,749	3,355,795	3,879,688	3,917,504
Non-Financial Assets	651,055	300,000	300,000	300,000
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
Financial Assets	13,021,507	13,314,771	14,019,721	13,727,712
Non-Financial Assets	124,848,353	151,412,521	157,288,782	163,494,875
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>145,856,664</b>	<b>168,383,087</b>	<b>175,488,191</b>	<b>181,440,091</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Current Liabilities (excl. Public Debt)	5,017,087	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
Public Debt	5,205,277	9,037,652	9,204,872	8,643,330
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>				
Non-Current Liabilities (excl. Public Debt)	360,351	443,000	443,000	443,000
Public Debt	10,793,012	15,454,653	18,110,451	19,576,889
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>21,375,727</b>	<b>27,735,305</b>	<b>30,558,323</b>	<b>31,463,219</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>124,480,937</b>	<b>140,647,782</b>	<b>144,929,868</b>	<b>149,976,872</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>145,856,664</b>	<b>168,383,087</b>	<b>175,488,191</b>	<b>181,440,091</b>

## Works programme

Council's work programme remains focused on its core activities, all of which are important for the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the region. More specifically, over the next three years the Council's work programme and major projects are to:

### Regional leadership

- Maintain effective and open community representation as an important part of the democratic process.
- Support the involvement of Poutini Ngāi Tahu to the decision-making process of Council, policy development, review of resource consents and engagement on significant matters for the region.
- Undertake a review of the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Agreement with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.
- Progress the implementation of Te Tai o Poutini Plan, the combined district plan for the West Coast, which was notified in July 2022.

### Resource management

- Prepare and implement responses to national direction. The Government's National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and National Environment Standards for Freshwater are a large portion of the plan preparation and compliance response work. There is work on freshwater quality standards, recording water take data, mapping wetlands and working with freshwater groups on implementation.
- Respond to national direction, national consultation and potential resource management reform where these may affect the West Coast, to ensure the unique issues and interests of our communities are represented.
- Continued monitoring of the state of our environment to detect trends in environmental quality and emerging issues. This is undertaken by applying recognised and reputable methods of data collection, analysis and reporting.
- Process between 200 and 250 applications for resource consents annually; administer all current resource consents, undertake yearly compliance monitoring of all significant consented discharges and bi-annual inspections of all dairy farms operating under the permitted activity rules. Council will also respond to all pollution incidents and, where necessary, undertake successful enforcement action.
- Provide a response capability to marine oil spills and terrestrial hazardous substance spills.

### Regional transport

- Promote a safe, resilient and connected multi-modal transport network which enables the West Coast to thrive, support opportunities for community transport and assist the special transport needs of the transport disadvantaged through the Total Mobility subsidy assistance programme.

### Hydrology and flood warning services

- Provide an accurate and timely network to monitor rainfall and river flows. This supports robust flood risk assessments for the combined Natural Hazard Response Team. The Team provides warnings and advice to civil defence, police and local communities to enable them to activate response plans and undertake appropriate action.

- Expand and develop the capability of the water monitoring equipment in the region to build data confidence and work with other science agencies to provide information to communities.

### Community resilience

- Enhance the safety and wellbeing of the public and the protection of property of residents and businesses through an integrated emergency management system that includes hazard awareness, reducing risk, maintaining readiness and providing response and recovery capacity and capability across the region.

### River, drainage and coastal protection work

- Manage and maintain the flood, drainage and coastal protection schemes to accepted or agreed design standards to minimize and prevent damage by floods, erosion or coastal processes to enhance the safety and well-being of our communities and protect property.
- Six specific major infrastructure projects were identified in either the Long-term Plan 2021 – 2031 and in the Annual Plan 2023. These are:
  - Completion of the Franz Josef IRG Project Stages 1 and 2, from 2022 onwards
  - Completion of the Hokitika IRG Project, from 2022 onwards
  - Completion of the Greymouth IRG Project, from 2022 onwards
  - Plan and complete Wanganui River Project, planned for 2023 but delayed to 2024 financial year in the Annual Plan 2023;
  - Investigate the flood protection for the Wanganui River, including the merit of gravel extraction;
  - Completion of the Westport Flood Protection Scheme, commencing 2023.
- Council has committed to a significant maintenance spend of \$2.6M at Organs Island and a scour on the Buller River bank in 2023.
- Administering the quarries of the region to provide rock to assist with the protection of property and minimising and preventing damage from floods, erosion and coastal inundation.

### Vector Control Services

- Maintain Council's business unit to continue the delivery of pest control programmes providing environmental benefits as well as a financial return to Council.

## Exercise your democratic right

Council elections take place in October 2022. It is important for you to familiarise yourself with the candidates and issues, and vote accordingly. The people who are elected make important decisions that impact on all our daily lives and our region's environment and economy. So have your say!

If you have not already received a voter information pack, go to [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz) and get yourself enrolled. If you have received your information pack, be sure to check your details are up to date, and attend to any updates that might be needed.

If you think you might like to stand as a candidate, be quick – nominations close at noon on Friday 15 August. Download a Candidate Handbook and nomination form at [www.wcrc.govt.nz/council/elections](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz/council/elections)

