

WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER
2025 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 9.59AM**

PRESENT: M. McIntyre (Chair)
A. Birchfield
A. Campbell
A. Cassin
C. Coll
C. Smith
P. Ewen

IN ATTENDANCE: D. Lew (Chief Executive – via Zoom)
S. Morgan (Group Manager Environmental Science)
J. Field (Group Manager Office of the CE)
M. Beagle (Group Manager Catchment Management)
C. Weeks (Group Manager Corporate Services)
T. Hopkins (Capital Programme Manager)
P. Blackwood (Chief Engineer – via Zoom)
T. Wyndham-Smith (Principal Communications and
Engagement Advisor)
C. Mills (Project Accountant – via Zoom)
W. Spencer (Area Engineer)
M. Wilde (Governance Support Officer)
S. Hoare (Inovo Programme Manager – via Zoom)

1. Welcome (*Haere mai*)

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

2. Apologies (*Ngā Pa Pouri*)

Apologies were received from F Tumahai.

Moved (McIntyre/ Cassin) *apologies from F. Tumahai were accepted.*

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest

The Chair called for declarations of interest. There were none.

4. Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations (*He Huinga tuku korero*)

There were no public forums or deputations.

5. Actions list

The actions list was reviewed, and the following updates were noted:

- Item 1 (ACT0007) – Ongoing.
- Item 2 (ACT0039) – Ongoing. Staff to provide a list of orphan assets to Councillors each meeting to keep them updated on progress.
- Item 3 (ACT0039) – Ongoing.
- Item 4 (ACT0039) – Complete; can be removed from the list.
- Item 5 (ACT0039) – Complete; can be removed from the list.
- Item 6 (ACT0039) – Complete; can be removed from the list.
- Item 7 (ACT0039) – Complete; can be removed from the list.
- Item 8 (ACT0039) – Ongoing. A draft vesting agreement has been prepared and is undergoing legal review before a paper is presented to the Committee.
- Item 9 (ACT0039) – Ongoing.
- Item 10 (ACT0039) – Ongoing.
- Item 11 (ACT0039) – Ongoing.
- Item 12 (ACT0039) – Complete; can be removed from the list.
- Item 13 (ACT0039) – Complete; can be removed from the list.
- Item 14 (ACT0039) – Complete; can be removed from the list.
- Item 15 (ACT0039) – Complete; can be removed from the list.
- Item 16 (ACT0039) – Complete; can be removed from the list.

Moved (Smith / Ewen) *that the Committee:*

1. *Note the actions outstanding from the previous triennium that are ongoing and remain relevant.*
2. *Receive the actions list and the information noted.*

Carried

6. Chairs report (verbal update)

Chair McIntyre noted this was the first Operations Committee meeting of the new triennium and commented on the large amount of work that is outstanding across the

region. He emphasised the importance of building strong relationships to achieve resilience across the West Coast.

Moved (Campbell / Coll) *that the Chair's Report be received.*

Carried

7. Reports

7.1 Monthly Catchment Management Status Report

T. Hopkins presented the report noting some key areas for discussion.

Franz Josef – Waiho Avulsion

- In-house LiDAR survey technology is now available and has been used to survey the Waiho river.
- Analysis by Land River Sea compared with earlier LiDAR data shows the avulsion is progressing faster than modelled and that the Havill's Wall stopbank is at risk of undercutting significantly sooner than predicted, threatening the towns wastewater ponds.
- Westland District Council (WDC) has been informed and a draft report has been prepared outlining options from "do nothing" to a full extension of Havill's Wall. This report will be used for discussions with WDC, community, and funding agencies.
- The new time frame for undercutting of Havill's Wall has been revised from 5 years (from July 2024) to potentially between 2-4 years.

The Committee expressed concern about pressure from Kānoa regarding unspent funds if Havill's wall extension doesn't proceed. D. Lew clarified that Regional Infrastructure Fund money cannot be used for relocating three waters assets, such as the wastewater ponds.

The Committee debated whether extending Havill's Wall was worthwhile given the cost and temporary nature of protection and noted that the Franz Josef community voted against extending the stopbank at the Rating District Joint Committee meeting in July 2025.

It was noted that there is currently no plan for relocating the wastewater ponds nor is planning underway for future land use on the true left bank of the Waiho River and that this work needs to be expedited for the resilience of the Franz Josef community. D. Lew

noted WDC has taken the lead on this work, however he had not been made aware of any progress. S. Morgan suggested there may be capacity to offer resources and expertise from her hazards team to assist WDC with Master Planning.

Chair Smith offered to reach out to WDC Mayor H. Lash again to further discuss the matter.

[10.38am – Cr Smith left the room]

[10.40 – Cr Smith returned to the room]

Tranche 2 Funding

- Hokitika Stage 3, and Greymouth stages 2, 4 and 5 and replacement floodgates formal project reporting will start at the next meeting, providing the Kānoa contract has been finalised.

Tranche 3 Funding applications

- Over \$900 million in projects has been submitted throughout the country to the Minister for consideration for funding from a possible third tranche of the Regional Infrastructure Fund for flood resilience projects. \$43 million of this was for projects across the West Coast region.
- \$300million of these projects has been put forward to the Minister for Regional Development for his consideration, including \$37 million of West Coast projects, including:
 - Parts of the Westport Flood Protection Scheme.
 - Greymouth small catchments projects.
 - Hokitika Stage 2 works.

Catchment Management staff noted that they were unlikely to hear an outcome on these applications before the middle of 2026.

Moved (Ewen / Smith) *that the Committee:*

1. Receive the report.

[Cr Birchfield voted against this motion]

Carried

7.2 Hokitika Seawalls Consents – Update and Next Steps

T. Hopkins presented the reported noting:

- The current seawall between Stafford Street and Richards Drive was originally completed as temporary emergency works during 2019–2021 erosion events.
- Funding for a permanent extension was reprioritised to river works in 2022 with consent applications for both temporary and permanent works withdrawn due to resourcing issues.
- Current cost estimate for a permanent seawall is around \$11 million.
- Current focus is on the temporary seawall, with two options:
 - Remove it and reuse rock the rock elsewhere, potentially leaving the area exposed to further erosion.
 - Apply to WDC for a retrospective consent for 3–4 years while developing a longer-term strategy.

It was noted that the beach is currently in an accretion phase with the temporary seawall mostly buried, however during erosion events, the wall can steepen and rocks can fall out, creating public safety issues and exposing old scrap material in the sand dune.

There is a need for a broader conversation about land use management and planning, not just engineering solutions.

Moved (Ewen / Coll) *that the Committee:*

1. *Receive the report.*

Carried

8. Project Status Reports

8.1 Franz Josef Stage 1 Operations Committee Project Status Report October 2025

S. Hoare from Inovo presented the report, noting:

- Pricing from MBD for stormwater pipe and headwalls through embankment came in higher than anticipated at around \$100k.
- The project team is currently negotiating to reduce costs while waiting for drier weather before construction.
- As-built documentation is being prepared for handover to the operations team.
- WSP has been engaged as an independent engineer to inspect the banks after storm events as required by consent conditions.

The Committee queried the high costs of the culvert installation. It was explained that costs include measures to prevent erosion around the pipe, water stops, and headwalls.

Moved (Ewen / Cassin) *that the Committee:*

1. *Receive the report.*

Carried

8.2 Franz Josef Stage 2 Operations Committee Project Status Report October 2025

S. Hoare from Inovo presented the report, noting:

- The Rubbish Dump stopbank works have been completed, with as-built documentation being finalised.
- Design for Milton and Others stopbank strengthening is now complete and put out to tender for construction.
- Responses have been received from contractors and recommendations for contract award being prepared. The contract is likely to be under CE's threshold for approval.

Moved (Campbell / Cassin) *that the Committee:*

1. *Receive the report.*

[Cr Birchfield voted against this motion]

Carried

8.3 Hokitika River Walls Operations Committee Project Status Report October 2025

S. Hoare from Inovo presented the report, noting:

- Final inspection has now been conducted on Stage 1B works with handover documentation being prepared for operations team.
- Issues with grass strike on landward side of bank at the lower end of Stage 1B are being addressed with the contractor.
- Stage 3 (State Highway 6 bridge to Sunset Point) civil engineering design work has been tendered with Davis Ogilvie being awarded the contract.
- Work on riprap repair and uplift design is underway.
- Development of procurement packages for other design inputs is in progress.

Moved (Smith / Cassin) *that the Committee:*

1. *Receive the report.*

Carried

8.4 Greymouth Operations Committee Project Status Report October 2025

S. Hoare from Inovo presented the report, noting:

- The project is in a holding pattern while waiting for feedback on Westland Mineral Sands (WMS) section of Stage 1.
- Geotechnical reports and contamination testing is now complete.
- Recent feedback indicates WMS need to finalise lease details with Grey District Council (GDC).
- Meeting to be arranged with GDC and WMS to progress decision-making.

Moved (Birchfield / Coll) *that the Committee:*

1. *Receive the report.*

Carried

8.5 Westport Flood Protection Scheme Project Status Report October 2025

P. Blackwood presented the report, noting teams are currently working on multiple phases across the scheme:

- Upper Buller River work is ongoing with GHD consultants approximately 20% through final geotechnical and civil design. Progress is on track to submit resource consent application by December 2025.
- Lower Orowaiti (Eastons) geotechnical report completed, engineering and feasibility assessment to be commissioned.
- Upper Orowaiti (McKenna's) final design work is 80% complete, with consent requirements being assessed.
- Lower Orowaiti final design plans are nearly complete and Avery's resource consent has been applied for with Buller District Council, iwi sign-off has been received from Ngāti Waewae. Construction at Avery's scheduled to begin in early January 2026.

The Committee noted there are archaeological sites in the area, including a nationally significant Māori archaic reserve. A site visit has been scheduled with iwi and staff on 27 November 2025.

[11.19am – Cr Cassin left the room]

[11.22 – Cr Cassin Returned to the room]

Moved (Smith / Coll) *that the Committee:*

1. *Receive the report.*

Carried

10. General Business

Councillors raised concern about logs and slash caught on the rail and road bridges at Saltwater Creek in Paroa.

The committee requested an action to contact KiwiRail and NZTA to address this before the Christmas/New Year period.

11. Public Excluded Business

Moved (Birchfield / Smith) *that:*

1. *The public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – **items 11 to 12** (all inclusive).*

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
11.1 Action List – public excluded	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	S48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
	<i>s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage</i>	
12.1 Franz Josef Operations Committee Project Status Report October 2025 - Financial Public Excluded	<i>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</i>	<i>S48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</i>
12.2 Franz Josef Stage 2 Operations Committee Project Status Report October 2025 - Financial Public Excluded	<i>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</i>	<i>S48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</i>
12.3 Hokitika Operations Committee Project Status Report October 2025 - Financial Public Excluded	<i>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</i>	<i>S48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</i>
12.4 Greymouth Operations Committee Project Status	<i>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the</i>	<i>S48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information</i>

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
<i>Report October 2025 – Financial Public Excluded</i>	<i>person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</i>	<i>for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</i>
12.5 <i>Westport Flood Protection Scheme Project Status Report October 2025 – Financial Public Excluded</i>	<i>s7(2)(b)(ii) – the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</i>	<i>S48(1)(a)(i) – the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</i>

Carried

The meeting moved into a public excluded session at 11.31am

13. Operations Committee Resumes in Public Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11.57am.



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Chair

16 December 2025

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Date