

Committee Members

Chair: Cr Chris Coll
Cr Allan Birchfield
Cr Andy Campbell
Cr Ashley Cassin

Cr Peter Ewen
Cr Mark McIntyre
Cr Colin Smith

Iwi Representatives

Representative Te Rūnanga o
Ngāti Waewae
Representative Te Rūnanga o
Makaawhio



WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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West Coast Regional Council

AGENDA

Environmental Management Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday 13 November 2025

Time: 10am

Venue: West Coast Regional Council Chambers, 388 Main South Road, Greymouth

This meeting will also be live streamed via West Coast Regional Council's YouTube Channel: @westcoastregionalcouncil5171

Order of business

1. **Welcome (*Haere mai*)**
2. **Apologies (*Ngā Pa Pouri*)**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations (*He Huīnga tuku kōrero*)**
5. **Actions List1**
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6. **Chairs Report (verbal update)**
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8. **General Business**

There are no Public Excluded items in this agenda.

D. Lew

Chief Executive

Purpose of Local Government

The reports contained in this agenda address the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to decision making. Unless otherwise stated, the recommended option promotes the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Health and Safety Emergency Procedure

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6 Actions List**Author** Meryl Wilde, Governance Support Officer**Public Excluded** No**Report Purpose**

This report is a summary of items that require actions.

The responsible managers have updated the list and will address their respective action items.

Note that these actions have been carried over from the previous Committee, which was discharged following the triennial election as per clause 30(7), schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002. These actions are ongoing and remain relevant and are therefore presented to be carried forward under this Committee.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolves to:

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

Attachments

Attachment 1: Actions List Public – Updated

ACTIONS LIST – Public

Item No.	Reference	Date of Meeting	Item	Officer	Update
1.	ACT0004	10 Sep 25	To determine the timelines for the review and update of the Flood Protection Bylaw	Group Manager – Regulatory and Policy	Ongoing.
2.	ACT0008	9 Apr 25	To investigate the delegation and/or deeds with WDC regarding the mining operations and noise issues/consents and update the Councillors.	Group Manager – Regulatory and Policy	Ongoing.
3.	ACT0046	6 May 25	Arrange a workshop with interested parties and the consents/compliance team to collaborate on an agreed set of conditions for processing of alluvial gold mine consents.	Group Manager – Regulatory and Policy	Ongoing.

REPORTS

7.1	Quarter One Biosecurity Report
Author	Emily Rutherford-Jones, Biosecurity Officer; Taylor Blyth, Biosecurity Officer
Authoriser	Shanti Morgan, Group Manager Environmental Science
Public	
Excluded	No

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council’s Environmental Management Committee with a Quarter One update on progress against the 2025/2026 Biosecurity Annual Operating Plan.

Report Summary

The West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) has developed an Annual Operating Plan to implement the objectives outlined in its Regional Pest Management Plan 2018–2028. This report aims to keep the Environmental Management Committee informed on the progress of project delivery, as well as any emerging risks or issues.

The 2025/2026 Biosecurity Annual Work Program includes 10 objectives, 10 of which are On Track (Green).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

- 1. *Receive the report.*
- 2. *Notes the progress on the annual Biosecurity operational plan.*

Issues and Discussion

Background

The WCRC is responsible for leading pest management across the region under the Biosecurity Act. The Council’s Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) is designed to reduce the impacts of pests on the region’s economy, communities, culture, and environment.

Through the RPMP, the Council works to coordinate pest control efforts, encourage public support for pest management, manage the plan’s implementation, and support communication and cooperation between everyone involved in pest management across the region.

Current situation

To improve biosecurity leadership within the region, the biosecurity team has been working to deliver ten objectives with 37 deliverables with 50 Key Performance Indicators under the biosecurity annual operating plan. Commentary has been provided for each KPI with a Red, Amber, Green status to indicate how each objective is tracking against the plan.

Objective One: *To detect incursions of introduced aquatic weeds within the West Coast Lakes.*

Deliverable	KPI	Target	Status	Commentary
Annual lake surveillance	Number of lakes surveyed	Eight	On Track	Preparations for this year's lake surveys are complete, and the work is proceeding as planned.

Objective Two: *To detect incursions of introduced marine species within identified priority areas on the West Coast.*

Deliverable	KPI	Target	Status	Commentary
Annual Marine surveillance	Number of locations surveyed for marine pests	One	On Track	Marine surveillance is scheduled for Jacksons Bay in Q3.

Objective Three: *To carry out regular surveillance of terrestrial pest plants in high-risk areas and along key pathways.*

Deliverable	KPI	Target	Status	Commentary
Investigation of RPMP exclusion species incursions	Percentage of exclusion species incursions investigated	100%	On Track	One report was received for exclusion species Chilean Needle Grass in Reefton. Staff investigated the report and collected samples for identification. It's suspected to be a misidentification, though confirmation will be made once the flowering season progresses. Chilean needle grass impacts New Zealand through economic losses, livestock health issues, and environmental damage. Estimated to cost the country over 1 billion in losses if left unchecked. Currently found in Canterbury and Marlborough, and posing a risk to the West Coast.

				 Chilean needle grass (<i>Nassella neesiana</i>)
Pest plant surveillance at identified risk areas	Number of surveillance visits conducted in residential parts of Pest Plant Management Areas.	30	On Track	Pest plant surveillance visits were undertaken across 27 of the 30 management units.
	Number of surveillance visits conducted in industrial parts of Pest Plant Management Areas.	10		Scheduled for Q3.
	Number of surveillance visits conducted in wetlands.	6		Scheduled for Q2-3.
	Percentage of known illegal green waste dumpsites visited.	100%		34 of the 85 sites have been visited.

Pest plant surveillance along risk pathways	Number of surveillance inspections along the complete West Coast rail corridor.	2	On Track	Scheduled for Q2-4.
	Number of surveillance inspections along the highway system	2		First inspection along the highway system was completed this quarter.
	Number of surveillance inspections along priority waterways	6		Scheduled for Q2-3.

Objective Four. *To promote best practice pest management and increase awareness, engagement, and proactive control among landowners, occupiers, and the public through education and advocacy.*

Deliverable	KPI	Target	Status	Commentary
Provide biosecurity advice and education at key regional events	Number of events attended	2	On Track	Scheduled for Q2-3.
Deliver biosecurity media releases	Number of <i>Weed of the Month</i> articles published to the newspaper or online	10	On Track	Newspaper articles were published for Chocolate vine, Woolly Nightshade, Parrots feather and Chilean Needle grass. Weekly Biosecurity related posts have been made on Facebook.
Biosecurity awareness roadshow	Number of community meetings held.	4	Complete	The Regional Council's biosecurity program was presented at all six of the State of the Environment community workshops.
Provide face-to-face biosecurity information via the Weedbusters initiative	Number of residential suburbs visited	4	On Track	Scheduled for Q2-3.

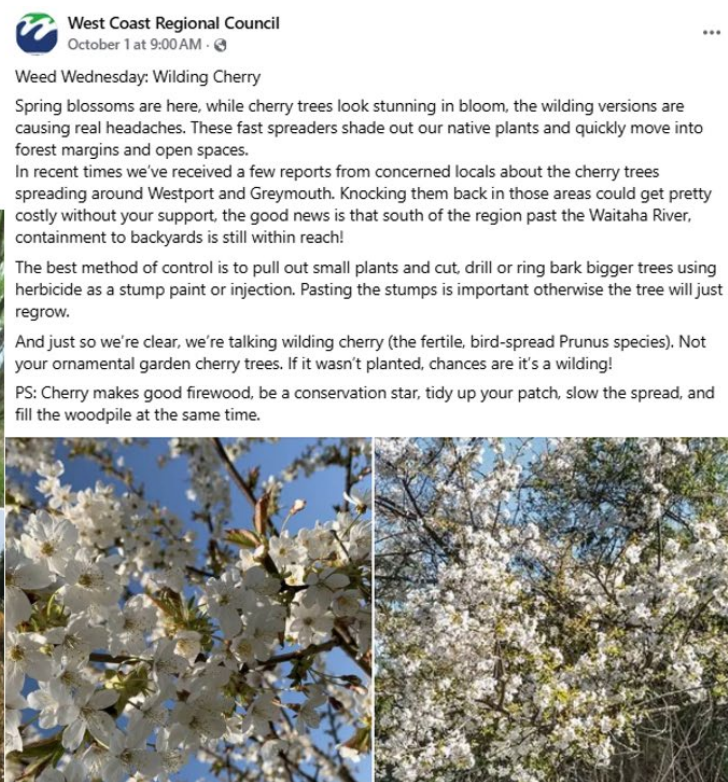


Figure – two of the several biosecurity related Facebook posts that we published during this quarter.

Objective Five: To prevent the spread of freshwater weeds and pests by influencing the behaviour of high-risk users.

Deliverable	KPI	Target	Status	Commentary
Raise awareness of freshwater pests threatening our water bodies amongst landowners and visitors in our region.	Maintain and Place CCD signage at angler access points and boat ramps across the region.	75%	On Track	Co-funding secured from MPI.
	Number of Biosecurity NZ advocacy materials distributed to tourist operators.	10		VCS to carry out this work Q2-3.
	Number of face-to-face interactions with local water users at freshwater-related events and popular waterbodies.	100		

Understand recreational usage and compliance to CCD behaviour amongst people using watercraft in West Coast waterbodies.	Number of boat ramp observations during long weekends and public holidays.	5	On Track	
	Number of face-to-face interactions with local water users.	100		

Objective Six: *To prevent the establishment of listed exclusion pests within the West Coast, thereby avoiding adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment, human health, and recreational values.*

To eradicate all listed eradication pests from the West Coast over the duration of the Plan, thereby eliminating associated adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment, human health, and recreational values.

Deliverable	KPI	Target	Status	Commentary
Management of exclusion & eradication pest plant sites	Percentage of sites managed	100%	On Track	24 inspections were completed for eradication species Woolly Nightshade. Woolly nightshade reduces land productivity due to its allelopathic properties and is problem for livestock and people, as the plant is toxic to livestock and its leaves cause skin, eye, and respiratory irritation in humans  Woolly Nightshade (<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>)
Exclusion & eradication pest plant compliance action	Percentage of identified pest plant sites where RPMP rules are enforced when service delivery is not feasible.	100%	On Track	All eradication species found during property inspections this quarter were controlled.

Objective Seven: *To contain listed pest species within their current known distributions and reduce their extent through surveillance, targeted control, and compliance where necessary.*

Deliverable	KPI	Target	Status	Commentary
Respond to Progressive containment pest plant reports	Percentage of progressive containment pest plant reported in 2025/2026 mapped	100%	On Track	5 progressive containment reports have been received and mapped in GIS.
Inform DOC of progressive containment spread on PCL	Percentage of new sites (2025/2026) on PCL flagged to DOC	100%	On Track	Data exported and sent to DOC.
Survey and control Yellow Bristle Grass sites outside of the Buller Gorge	Percentage of historic Yellow Bristle Grass sites monitored and controlled	100%	On Track	Scheduled for Q2.
Control purple pampas in Maruia, Coast Road, Brunner-Haupiri, Grey Valley, Reefton, Inangahua, and South Westland	Percentage of known sites on private land where control or compliance action is undertaken	75%	On Track	Scheduled for Q3-4.
Control wild ginger in Karamaea, Little Wanganui, Inangahua, Ross, Haast	Percentage of known sites on private land where control or compliance action is undertaken	75%	On Track	Scheduled for Q3-4.
Undertake surveillance and control of yellow flag iris in priority catchments (Ōkārito Lagoon, Ōkūru Lagoon, Otumahana Estuary, Lake Mapourika, Ōkari Lagoon, Birchfield Wetland) and across the wider region.	Number of priority catchments surveyed for yellow flag iris Percentage of new sites (2025/2026) on private land in priority catchments where control or compliance action is initiated Percentage of known sites on private land, outside of priority catchments, where control or compliance action is undertaken	6 50% 20%	On Track	Scheduled for Q2.
Progressively contain Blue Morning glory	Percentage of known sites on private land where	50%	On Track	Scheduled for Q3-4.

across the West Coast	control or compliance action is undertaken			
Progressively contain white pampas across the West Coast	Percentage of known sites on private land where control or compliance action is undertaken	50%	On Track	Scheduled for Q4.
Progressively contain chocolate vine across the West Coast	Percentage of known wilding sites on private land controlled Control or compliance initiated at known ornamental sites on private land	90% 50%	On Track	Scheduled for Q2
Progressively contain Parrots Feather across the West Coast	Number of control operations in Kongahu Percentage of known sites where control is undertaken at least once	3 100%	On Track	Scheduled for Q2-4 Follow up on previous years control has been completed at both the Kaniere and Ruatapu road parrots feather sites. Both these sites are down to maintenance control consisting of hand pulling.



Hokitika Parrots feather site Before and after control operations.

Objective Eight: *To improve knowledge of the distribution and extent of key progressive containment species within the Coast Road and Karamea Priority Management Areas (PMAs) to support future management decisions.*

Deliverable	KPI	Target	Status	Commentary
Respond to Specific Progressive containment pest plant reports in PMAs	Percentage of new (2025/26) progressive containment pest plant reports mapped	100%	On Track	One report received and mapped.
Survey Coast Road for specific containment pest plants	Number of surveillance visits throughout the PMA Number of properties visited through Weedbuster programme	2 20	On Track	Scheduled for Q2-3.
Survey Karamea for Specific Containment pests	Number of surveillance visits throughout the PMA Number of properties visited through Weedbuster programme	2 20	On Track	Scheduled for Q2-3.

Objective Nine: *To reduce the impact of widespread pest plants on the West Coast through the establishment, monitoring, and promotion of effective biological control agents.*

Deliverable	KPI	Target	Status	Commentary
Release and transfer biocontrol agents.	Number of new biocontrol agents released and/or transferred within the region	1	On Track	The Sawfly biocontrol agent for Old Man's Beard OMB is planned for release this coming autumn (Q3-4). The introduction of OMB sawfly should reduce the impacts of Old Man's Beard throughout the West Coast.
Monitor the establishment of agents.	Number of biocontrol release sites monitored	3	On Track	Scheduled for Q2.

Objective Ten: To support landowners and the wider community through direct pest control services that address priority species and high-risk areas.

Deliverable	KPI	Target	Status	Commentary
Undertake control of RPMP species at identified sites where landowner permission is granted	Percentage of identified sites controlled	100%	On Track	At pest plants were detected at 37 site inspections, and pest plants were removed at 21 of these sites. At sites where plants were not controlled during the visit, the landowner has been instructed to control RPMP species present.
Progressively contain knotweed across the West Coast	Percentage of known sites on private land controlled outside of containment areas	50%		Scheduled for Q2-3. Asiatic knotweed has significant economic impacts due to its ability to damage infrastructure and its high control costs. It can crack concrete, tarmac, and foundations, and disrupt flood prevention structures and drainage systems. Management is expensive, as its extensive root system is difficult to eradicate completely, making ongoing control necessary and costly. Knotweed is current spreading on the West Coast and economic impacts will continue to increase if containment is not achieved. Economic impacts in its current distribution will also rise as the plant continues to spread in Ross, Hokitika, Greymouth & Reefton.  Asiatic knotweed (<i>Fallopia japonica</i>)
Eradicate climbing spindleberry from the West Coast	Percentage of control undertaken at all known sites	100%		Scheduled for Q2-3.

Contain wild cherry (<i>Prunus serrulata</i>) to its current extent	Number of Management Units where surveillance and control is undertaken.	12		Surveillance for wilding cherry trees was conducted during flowering early October throughout all 12 management units south of the Waitaha River.
Eradicate Egeria from the West Coast	Number of sites surveyed and controlled	2		Both known sites of aquatic pest plant Egeria were visited this last quarter. Significant maintenance of the weed matting that was laid last financial year was required at one of the sites due to the method contractors used to install. Hand weeding of a few shoots of Egeria re-growth was required and conducted around the edge of the matting at both sites.
Progressively contain Darwin's Barberry across the West Coast	Percentage of known sites where monitoring is complete	100%		Scheduled for Q4.
Eradicate yellow loosestrife from the South Island	Number of control operations at the single known site	4		Scheduled for Q2-3.
Control crack willow at high-value freshwater and estuarine habitat	Number of catchments where control is undertaken	7		Scheduled for Q2

Other work of interest:

The Biosecurity team received one wallaby sighting report – follow up found the report was mistakenly sent to the West Coast Region and had actually occurred in the Canterbury Region.

Considerations

Implications/Risks

The 2025–26 Biosecurity Operating Plan is progressing well overall, with all deliverables currently on track. However, there are minor emerging risks which staff are working to mitigate to ensure the plan remains on track.

Emerging Pest Incursions: Recent detections of new pest plant species, including *Egeria* in South Westland and climbing asparagus, highlight increasing biosecurity pressure across both aquatic and terrestrial environments. While current resources are sufficient to respond, continued surveillance may reveal further incursions, potentially exceeding existing capacity. The team is monitoring this closely and will bring forward resourcing options if required.

Climbing asparagus smothers native vegetation and prevents seedling establishment. Reduces native plant abundance and species richness and facilitates weed invasion. Can also increase erosion through canopy loss.



Climbing asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*)

Expanding Scope and Strategic Direction: Community concern, particularly from farmers, about pest animals such as feral goats, Canada geese, and feral deer is growing. While the current Operational Plan addresses pest plants only, there is a clear strategic need to consider animal pest management within future planning.

Development of a regional **Biosecurity Strategy** would enable an integrated approach across plant and animal pests, improving prioritisation, resourcing, and coordination with partners. Options for progressing this work will be developed for Council consideration.

Resourcing and Capacity: The increasing number of identified pest sites and expanding biocontrol programmes continue to place demand on staff and operational budgets. Current KPIs remain on track; however, sustained delivery at this level, combined with

potential new pest incursions, will test existing capacity. Staff are reviewing workload distribution and identifying resourcing scenarios for Council's consideration later in the year.

Interagency and Community Dependencies: Collaboration with external partners (DOC, landowners, NZTA, KiwiRail) remains essential for coordinated pest management. No alignment issues have been reported this quarter. Quarterly stakeholder meetings continue to support regional coordination and information sharing.

Environmental Conditions: Unpredictable weather, particularly high rainfall events, can restrict site access and affect pest control effectiveness. These factors are being monitored and managed within operational planning.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Mana whenua views

Mana whenua have been supportive of biosecurity work to date. Staff take feedback from Ngāti Waewae and Kāti Māhaki representatives at quarterly EMC meetings.

Views of affected parties

Views of parties affected by biosecurity work are obtained through site visits and meetings. The recent Kongahu rating district meeting demonstrated strong support for Parrots feather control work in the Kongahu flood protection scheme. Quarterly meetings with DOC show great collaboration and support for the operational plan. Feedback on social media also demonstrates community support for an active biosecurity work program by the Regional Council on the West Coast.

Financial implications

This program is on track to deliver within annual plan budgets.

Legal implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

7.2 Catchment Coordination Program Quarterly Report**Author** Sam Gibson, Team Lead Catchment Coordinator**Authoriser** Shanti Morgan, Group Manager Environmental Science**Public Excluded** No**Report Purpose**

To update the Council on progress made to date by the Catchment Coordination Team and highlight upcoming opportunities and areas for continued development.

Report Summary

The Catchment Coordination Team within the Environmental Science Department has made strong progress, establishing two new catchment groups, supporting three existing ones, and delivering 13 events that have engaged over 430 people across the region.

This quarter's work has strengthened community-led environmental action and improved collaboration between Council, landowners, and partner organisations. Upcoming projects continue to build on this momentum, with a focus on practical environmental improvements and long-term catchment resilience.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

- 1. Receive the report.*
- 2. Notes the progress and growing regional impact of the Catchment Coordination Programme.*

Issues and Discussion**Background**

The Catchment Coordination Programme, currently funded by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), supports rural communities to:

- Take proactive action to improve environmental outcomes within their catchments.
- Strengthen community resilience through local responses to environmental challenges.
- Empower local participation in environmental decision-making.
- Improve access to funding and resources for community-led projects.

Since its establishment in 2023, the programme has expanded from one staff member to four, enabling a step change in engagement and delivery across the West Coast.

Current situation

- The catchment coordination team have delivered **six catchment events** over the past quarter from Kawatiri to Whataroa with over 190 people in attendance. This includes a tree planting day, a catchment meeting with the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) consents team, a Great Spotted Kiwi survey and three rural women's resilience roadshow events.



Alesha Tomasi speaking at one of three Rural Women's Resilience events in Whataroa. Over 130 rural women attended in total. These events were made possible by sponsors.

- The landscape on-farm **Great Spotted Kiwi survey** across Cape Foulwind, confirmed the presence of an additional population of Great Spotted Kiwi (Rorua). 13 sites across both public and private land had listening surveys carried out. This survey was in relation to the biodiversity goals of the Kawatiri Catchment Group. Thanks to the ecology students & tutors from Toi Ohomai for collecting the survey data and to local landowners for allowing access their properties.

Ecology Students from Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology (Bay of Plenty) who supported the Kawatiri Catchment Group with the large landscape on-farm Kiwi survey.



- The planting program in Kawatiri saw **4,000 trees** planted across five locations in Cape Foulwind. The planting was carried out at four sites on private land and one site on public land. Thanks to the University of Canterbury Student Volunteer Army for their help in planting the trees. Generous funders of the plants & supplies included, Clean Streams Nursery in Karamea, Kawatiri Nature Environment & Communities Trust, Conservation Volunteers, Red Barn, MBC and Bathurst Resources.



Part of the Canterbury University Student Volunteer Army planting trees with a landowner to manage wet areas in Cape Foulwind and contribute to the Kawatiri corridors project.



- The **ungulate impacts survey** to quantify the impact deer, goats, pigs, and other animal pests was completed in partnership with the South Westland Pastoral Association and later the wider West Coast Community. This survey identified that half of respondents are losing 30% or more of their winter grazing to feral deer and 66% of respondents said they had observed a noticeable increase of wild deer on their farm in the past 3 years.
- The team also **Supported three pre-existing catchment groups**; Karamea, South Westland Pastoral and Arahura Catchment Care Group. And **engaged** several **sponsors** who have delivered \$37,360 of funding and additional \$6,000+ of goods to support catchment group projects.

Upcoming work

- **November:** An expert in in-stream structures and **constructed wetlands** will visit the region to hold two **workshops** for farmers on managing water flow and mitigating both flood and drought risk.
- The team will also facilitate a **Kawatiri Catchment Group meeting** where the results of the Kiwi survey and planting day will be presented. Working groups will be established to advance key priorities, including predator control and the corridors project. We will also continue planting efforts at farm sites in Kawatiri with plants we have remaining.
- **December:** A whitebait expert will be hosted to provide farmers with a **workshop on whitebait lifecycles & spawning habitat enhancement** on their properties.
- **January 2026:** Plans are in place to bring the regions catchment groups together to discuss **forming a catchment collective**. This is being encouraged by central government and MPI and is the preferred funding mechanism to support farmers moving forward.

Costs and benefits

The Catchment Coordination Programme is currently funded through external support from the Ministry for the Environment. As such, there are minimal operational costs to Council at this stage beyond internal collaboration and support. The programme represents a low-cost, high-value model for early-stage engagement with landowners and community groups, building the foundations for long-term environmental outcomes.

The benefits of the programme are already being realised and include:

- Increased community capacity and leadership in freshwater and biodiversity management through the formation and support of catchment groups.
- Enhanced trust and collaboration between Council, rural communities, and other stakeholders, laying the groundwork for future regulatory readiness.
- Early mobilisation of external resources, including funding, in-kind support, and partnerships, with strong potential to grow this through co-investment.
- Cross-sector integration, with the team acting as a practical bridge between science, policy, consents, and on-farm realities.
- Improved responsiveness to community needs, including non-environmental drivers like rural wellbeing, which are key to sustained engagement.

Over time, with appropriate resourcing, the programme could unlock significantly greater returns by supporting landowners to deliver fencing, planting, pest and weed control, and water quality improvements at scale and in partnership.

Considerations

Implications/risks

Looking ahead, several manageable risks have been identified for the Catchment Coordination Programme. These largely relate to funding continuity, maintaining community momentum, and managing growing expectations as the programme's profile and success increase.

- The first relates to **the short-term nature of current funding**. The programme is presently supported through external Ministry for the Environment (MfE) funding, with no long-term Council budget yet confirmed. This presents some uncertainty around the continuity of roles and delivery beyond the current funding cycle. To mitigate this, staff are proactively developing a business case for future consideration through the Annual Plan process and are exploring co-funding opportunities with industry partners, MPI, DOC, and other external agencies to diversify the funding base.
- A second risk is **the potential loss of community momentum** if access to implementation funding is limited. The strength of the programme lies in the trust and enthusiasm it has built among catchment groups. Without clear pathways for ongoing support or small-scale investment, some groups may struggle to maintain engagement. To address this, the team is assisting groups to apply for national and philanthropic grants.
- Another consideration is **the opportunity to leverage external co-investment**. Many national and private funders require evidence of local investment before contributing. Without this, there is a risk that the region could miss opportunities to attract significant external funding. To mitigate this, staff are developing proposals for modest co-investment mechanisms that demonstrate regional commitment and unlock greater external returns.
- The expanding scope of the programme also creates **increased operational demand across Council**. As the team works closely with landowners on issues relating to consents, compliance, and freshwater management, effective internal coordination becomes increasingly important. This risk is being managed through the establishment of stronger links between the Science, Consents, and Planning teams, and through the development of a shared work programme to ensure consistent messaging and efficient support for landowners.
- Finally, **community expectation management** is an ongoing consideration. As awareness of the programme grows, there is potential for expectations regarding Council funding or direct delivery to increase. This is being mitigated through clear communication about Council's facilitative role, transparent reporting on programme scope, and proactive engagement with partners to ensure consistent messaging and shared accountability.

Overall, these risks are considered **low to moderate** in nature and are being actively managed through forward planning, transparent communication, and collaborative partnerships.

Significance and Engagement Policy assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this Policy.

Mana whenua views

Staff have engaged with iwi through Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu's environmental team, Pōtini Ngāi Tahu Environmental, during the initial development of the Catchment Coordination Programme. Draft materials were shared, and feedback was sought, with responses generally supportive of the kaupapa and its potential to empower local communities. Opportunities to work in partnership on catchment initiatives and to incorporate mātauranga Māori into future workstreams are being actively explored. The catchment team is actively working with and supporting whanau Maori in their project work.

Views of affected parties

Interactions with farmers, industry partners, and catchment group members has been positive. There is strong support for the Catchment Coordination Programme and increasing interest in practical tools and resources to help deliver environmental outcomes. Feedback from affected parties highlights a desire for clearer pathways to implementation funding, consent support, and a collaborative, non-regulatory approach to improving water quality and biodiversity. The programme's role in building trust between Council and the rural sector has been recognised as a valuable contribution to long-term outcomes.

Financial implications

There are no immediate financial implications for Council, as the Catchment Coordination Team is currently funded by the Ministry for the Environment.

However, future investment will need to be considered through the Annual Plan process. Early planning will allow Council to evaluate the level of support it wishes to provide and explore opportunities to co-fund with industry partners or external agencies.

Current budget

The current programme is externally funded through Ministry for the Environment support. This funding covers staff costs, training and overheads.

Legal implications

Not applicable

7.3 Quarterly Natural Hazards Update

Author Chris Cameron, Principal Natural Hazards Analyst,
Sharon Hornblow, Senior Natural Hazards Analyst

Authoriser Shanti Morgan, Group Manager – Environmental
Science

Public Excluded No

Report Purpose

To summarise natural hazard information and inform the Environmental Management Committee of recent developments relevant to the Natural Hazards discipline at the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC). The report takes a holistic approach, consistent with the **PARA (Protect, Avoid, Retreat, Accommodate)** framework, recognising that effective natural hazard management requires integrated consideration across planning, risk assessment, operations, and community engagement.

Report Summary

The Natural Hazards Team has been strengthened through the addition of a 'Principal' role, with Dr Chris Cameron commencing on 9 October 2025.

This additional resourcing was a decision of the previous Council, made through the Long-Term Plan (LTP), to ensure the Council increased its capacity for the investigation, acquisition, reporting, and dissemination of natural hazard information. This investment aims to ensure West Coast communities are better informed of natural hazard risks and supported to make resilient planning and development decisions.

The team's focus continues to be on improving how natural hazard information is collected, analysed, and shared across the region, working collaboratively with Territorial Authorities (TAs), CDEM, and the wider community to ensure information informs land-use planning, infrastructure management, and community awareness.

Development of an open spatial data portal is underway to provide transparent access to hazard information. This portal will directly integrate with the hazard map overlays within the Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP), allowing users to view the latest natural hazard layers in context with regional planning information.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

- 1. Receive the report.*
- 2. Note the Government release of a National Adaptation Framework and its potential implications to Council.*

Issues and Discussion**Natural Hazards Team**

The Council's decision in the last LTP to increase resourcing for natural hazard management recognises the growing demand for robust, timely hazard data and the need for improved public accessibility.

The team's work programme now spans the full PARA framework—covering hazard identification and prevention, technical assessment, operational response, and long-term adaptation planning.

Website updates and improved natural hazards information management

Significant progress has been made to update hazard information on the Council website, with clearer categorisation (earthquake, flooding, coastal, etc.) and plain-language summaries are being developed.

Additionally, a new natural hazards web portal will provide direct access to map layers, ensuring consistency between public information, internal systems, and the TTPP hazard overlays used in planning and consenting. This initiative reduces duplication, enhances transparency, and supports informed decision-making by the public and partner agencies.

Technical Reports and Integrated Hazard Management

WCRC regularly receives and reviews new technical reports from consultants and Crown Research Institutes. These reports are assessed within the PARA framework to ensure recommendations are addressed not only through engineering works but also through planning policy, emergency management readiness, and community adaptation measures.

Examples currently under review include:

- West Coast regional landslide hazard model
- Orowaiti Estuary coastal hazard assessment
- Taramakau and Hokitika flood modelling
- National flood and coastal LiDAR datasets

The Natural Hazards team are collaborating across Council to ensure recommendations are considered holistically, balancing operational, planning, and community adaptation responses.

National Adaptation Framework

On 16 October, the Government released a new **National Adaptation Framework**, setting out four key pillars:

1. Improving risk and response information sharing
2. Clarifying roles and responsibilities
3. Investing in risk reduction
4. Developing fair, transparent approaches to cost-sharing

A number of issues exist with the framework's implementation and detail; however, these will be addressed collectively through the Te Uru Kahikā Climate Change Special Interest Group (SIG).

WCRC staff will continue to monitor the development of the framework and related legislation (such as the forthcoming Climate Adaptation Act) to ensure Council's natural hazard management and adaptation activities remain aligned with national direction.

Considerations

Implications/risks

There are a number of strategic, operational, and reputational risks associated with the ongoing expansion of natural hazard information and responsibilities for the Regional Council, these include:

Capacity and workload pressure

Increasing volumes of hazard data and heightened expectations from central government and territorial authorities may continue to place pressure on the Natural Hazards team. The risk is that delays in technical review and information release could affect timely decision-making for planning and consenting. To manage this risk the WCRC have are working to develop an annual work programme aligned to regional priorities & TA needs. This is being supported by the establishment of the new Principal role, use of external expertise when required, and improvements in efficiency through the natural hazard's web portal.

Delay in making critical hazard information available

If new hazard information is slow to be assessed and published, communities and TAs may unknowingly continue development in areas of elevated risk, increasing potential impacts during a natural hazard event. Clear internal quality assurance

and sign-off processes have been developed to manage this risk. Additionally, regular maintenance of public-facing hazard information channels is being given attention to ensure its accessibility is improved.

Uncertainty and increased future obligations from the National Adaptation Framework

The newly released framework signals new requirements on Councils but lacks clear implementation detail and associated funding. This creates risk around unplanned workload, resourcing, and community expectations for adaptation support. Early alignment of natural hazard information programmes with anticipated adaptation requirements, ongoing monitoring of legislative development (e.g., Climate Adaptation Act), and proactive engagement with funding pathways such as the Regional Infrastructure Fund will be continued by Council staff until more clarity is provided by central government.

Public and stakeholder engagement challenges

As more hazard information becomes publicly accessible, some communities may feel anxious or challenged by reclassified risk areas, potentially leading to increased queries, complaints, or political pressure. The natural hazards team are working on developing plain-language summaries of reports, planned engagement alongside new information releases, strong collaboration with CDEM and TAs to ensure consistent messaging, and public education on hazard and climate risk.

Significance and Engagement Policy assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this Policy.

Mana whenua views

Staff are not aware of any issues within this report which would impact mana whenua.

Views of affected parties

Staff are not aware of any views of affected parties which impact on matters discussed in this report.

7.4 Consents Quarterly Report

Author	Leah Buchanan Consents & Compliance Business Support Officer; Steven May, Consents Manager
Authoriser	Matt Smith Group Manager – Regulatory & Policy
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the Environmental Management Committee regarding the activities in the Consents team for the months of July, August and September 2025 and to provide an update on current matters.

Report Summary

Consents quarterly report to advise the Council of recent consenting actions made under regional plans and the Resource Management Act 1991, in accordance with Council procedures and delegations. In particular:

- Consent Processing statistics
- Other activities of the team, such as site visits

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. Receive the report.

Issues and Discussion

Consent Processing Quarterly Statistics (July–September 2025)

Consent Processing quarterly statistics highlight the number of Resource Consent applications received by the Consents team for this quarter. It illustrates the number of applications processed and granted (authorising the applicant to legally commence their activity) or returned to the applicant. The applications returned to the applicant are due to it not including all the information prescribed by regulations.

Applications lodged (also Includes Permitted activities and certificate of compliance)		78
Applications returned incomplete	s88	7
Applications withdrawn		3
Decisions granted	Total	41
	Non-Notified	39*
	Limited Notified	2
	Notified	0
Variations granted	s127	5
Certificate of Compliance	s139	2

Extension of lapse date	s125(1)(b)	0
Permitted activities		19

*The total number of non-notified consents includes new consents, variations, certificates of compliance and extension of lapse.

Of note is that all 28 Resource consents processed have been within the statutory time frame permitted.

Consent Processed by activity.

An application for a resource consent may have more than one activity related to it, the above table quantitatively records the total number of Resource consents issued for this quarterly report.

The table below represents the activities under the RMA that the staff had to assess and be satisfied that plans, policy and legislation were complied with.

Activity	RMA section	Number processed
Restrictions on use of land	Section 9	11
Restrictions on use of coastal marine area	Section 12	1
Restriction on certain uses of beds of lakes and rivers	Section 13	19
Restrictions relating to water	Section 14	13
Discharge of contaminants into environment	Section 15	19

Consents requiring a processing timeframe extension

37A(4) – Time extension agreed to by applicant (no more than double time)	3
37A(5) Time extension agreed to by applicant (more than double time)	15
37(1)A – Time extension approved by Group Manager due to special circumstances	3

Site Visits

03/07/2025	RC-2023-0124 Kagel Farms, Karamea	Site visit to check on discharge.
03/07/2025	RC-2025-0080 Riverlands Farm Little Wanganui Limited, Little Wanganui	Site visit in relation to Dairy effluent discharge application.
04/07/2025	RC-2025-0035 Russell Anderson, Karamea	To ascertain monitoring points for renewal of application.
04/07/2025	RC-2025-0073 Corrinne Ryan, Ngakawau	To check on mitigation features on a retrospective Seawall application.

15/07/2025	RC-2023-0127 Titan Resources Deep Creek, Bell Hill	To undertake a site visit with hydrology and compliance staff associated with an alluvial goldmining water take.
18/07/2025	RC-2025-0093 Issac Land Holdings Ltd, Dobson	Site visit by processing officer.
22/07/2025	RC-2025-0099 Kayen Farm Limited, Harihari	Site visit in relation to dairy effluent discharge application.
29/07/2025	PA-2025-9032 David North, Gows Greek	Site visit by processing officer.
09/08/2025	RC-2025-0122 Paparoa Farms Limited Reefton, Buller District	Site visit in relation to Dairy effluent discharge application.
09/08/2025	RC-2025-0125 Raupo Farms Limited, Totara Flat	Site visit in relation to Dairy effluent discharge application.
15/08/2025	Oceana Gold Globe mine	To review progression of closure of site and discuss the final consents that may need to be applied for and surrendered, undertaken with Buller District representative.
26/08/2025	RC-2025-0118 Kelly Dairy Farm Limited, Whataroa	Site visit in relation to dairy effluent discharge application.
26/08/2025	RC-2025-0113 Farwest Farming Limited, Harihari	Site visit in relation to dairy effluent discharge application.
26/08/2025	RC-2025-0078 Humphries Farming Limited, Herepo	Site visit in relation to dairy effluent discharge application.
26/08/2025	RC-2025-0108 Bonar Farms Limited Adamson Creek, Wanganui River	Site visit in relation to dairy effluent discharge application.
26/08/2025	RC-2025-0086 Rasoki Farms Ltd, Ellis Creek	Site visit in relation to dairy effluent discharge application.
23/09/2025	RC-2025-0126 Mark Simpkin, 15 Kamahi Street	Onsite sewage wastewater discharge Site visit by processing officer.
23/09/2025	RC-2025-0127 Stefan Sarten, Kamahi Street	Onsite sewage wastewater discharge Site visit by processing officer.
27/09/2025	RC-2025-0095 Jason Kelly,	To view the site of the culvert to be installed with engineers.

	Waimea Creek near Westport	
30/09/2025	RC-2025-0067 Buller District Council, Mokihinui campground	To investigate potential affected parties for the proposed upgrade.

Non-notified Resource Consents Granted

Thirty two non-notified resource consent applications were granted between 01 July to 30 September 2025.

RC-2022-0034 Phoenix Minerals Limited Kumara, Westland District	To undertake alluvial gold mining in the Westland District within Mineral Permit (MP) 60546, at Kumara. To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara. To take surface water from mining pits and groundwater via seepage associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara. To discharge contaminants to land where it may water associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara.
RC-2025-0049 NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Otira Gorge, Westland District	To discharge rock and associated natural debris to the Otira River as part of ongoing maintenance activities associated with the Otira Gorge Rock Shelter.
RC-2025-0063 Rotastock Farms Limited Kumara, Westland District	To undertake alluvial gold mining in the Westland District within Mineral Permit (MP) 60546, at Kumara. To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara. To take surface water from mining pits and groundwater via seepage associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara. To discharge contaminants to land where it may water associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara.
RC-2024-0023 W Begg and Son Limited Totara Flat- Duffers Creek, Grey District	To disturb and excavate the bed of the Duffers Creek for the purpose of gravel extraction and flood protection works. To disturb the riparian margin of Duffers Creek associated with riparian margin disturbance and flood protection works including rock placement and riparian planting.

	To divert water within the bed of Duffers Creek for the purpose of flood protection works. To discharge contaminants namely sediments to water associated with gravel extraction.
RC-2025-0076 Annett Welsch-Todt and Klaus Adolf Todt 20 Clifftop Lane, Cape Foulwind, Buller District	To discharge treated onsite sewage wastewater to land in circumstances which may result in contaminants entering water from a domestic dwelling
RC-2025-0065 Cashmere Bay Dairy Limited Crooked River, Grey District	To disturb and excavate the dry bed of the Crooked River for the purpose of removing gravel.
RC-2025-0073 Corrinne Ryan Ngakawau, Buller District	To undertake earthworks outside of the Coastal Marine Area and 50 metres within the landward side associated with the deposition of gravel and the installation and maintenance of a bund for the purpose of the reclamation of a section at 11 Main Road, Ngakawau.
RC-2022-0051 Caerwyn Edward Parkinson Inangahua River and Waitahu River, Buller District	To take and use surface water from the Inangahua River and the Waitahu River for the purpose of irrigation.
RC-2025-0080 Riverlands Farm Little Wanganui Little Wanganui, Buller District	To discharge pond treated dairy effluent to land where it may enter the Little Wanganui River.
RC-2025-0094 Elect Mining Limited Hau Hau Road Kaniere Westland District	To undertake earthworks associated with advanced exploration activities within Exploration Permit 61083 at Hau Hau Road, Kaniere. To undertake earthworks associated with advanced exploration activities within Exploration Permit 61083 at Hau Hau Road, Kaniere.
RC-2025-0085 Rosco Contractors Limited Taramakau River Westland District	To disturb and excavate the dry bed of the Taramakau River at a site adjacent to the McArthur Road processing pad for the purpose of removing gravel.
RC-2025-0098 Carl Jones Blue Spur, Hokitika Westland District	To discharge treated onsite sewage wastewater to land in circumstances which may result in contaminants entering water from a domestic dwelling at Big Paddock Road, Hokitika.
RC-2025-0096 NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Maruia River	To disturb and excavate the bed of the Maruia River and occupy space with rock protection works.

Buller District	To permanently divert water from a structure, Maruia River. To incidentally discharge sediment to water associated with the maintenance of a structure, Maruia River.
RC-2025-0083 Amalgamated Mining Ltd Cockney Terrace, Notown Grey District	To undertake earthworks and vegetation clearance, including on slopes greater than 25 degrees, associated with alluvial gold mining, Cockney Terrace, Notown. To disturb the bed of Joyce Creek to create a diversion channel and divert the creek, Cockney Terrace, Notown. To take and use surface water from Ongionui Creek to top up mine ponds associated with alluvial gold mining, Cockney Terrace, Notown. To take and use groundwater via seepage into the mine settling pond system associated with alluvial gold mining, Cockney Terrace, Notown. To permanently divert water in Joyce Creek to a new channel, Cockney Terrace, Notown. To discharge water containing sediment to groundwater via seepage in the mining settling pond system associated with alluvial gold mining, Cockney Terrace, Notown.
RC-2025-0105 Okuru Pastoral Limited Turnbull River, Westland District	To disturb and excavate the dry bed of the Turnbull River at a site adjacent to 219 Turnbull Road for the purpose of removing gravel.
RC-2025-0091 Delany Holdings Ltd Ngahere, Grey District	To discharge dairy effluent to land and water (drain and/or ditch) where it may enter an unnamed tributary of Red Jacks Creek, near DS453, Ngahere.
RC-2025-0099 Kayen Farm Ltd Harihari, Westland District	To discharge dairy effluent to land at Harihari in circumstances where it may enter groundwater via seepage (DS109).
RC-2025-0068 Westland Schist Ltd Wanganui River Westland District	To excavate and disturb the dry bed of the Wanganui River for the purpose of gravel removal to reinstate an adjacent access road to a mining permit. To excavate and disturb the bed of the Wanganui River for the purpose of rock armouring an access road and erecting rock groins. To permanently divert water in Wanganui River associated with river protection works.

RC-2023-0024 Pearson Contracting Ltd Buller River, Mokihinui River & North Beach Westport Buller District	To excavate and disturb the dry bed of the Buller River (Organs Island) for the purpose of extracting gravel. To excavate and disturb the dry bed of the Buller River (Lower Buller Gorge) for the purpose of extracting gravel. To excavate and disturb the dry bed of the Mokihinui River for the purpose of extracting gravel. To excavate and disturb the foreshore of the Coastal Marine Area to remove sand and shingle, North Beach, Westport.
RC-2022-0044 New Zealand Transport Agency Waitaha River Westland District	To excavate and disturb the riparian margins of the Waitaha River while undertaking river protection works and track works. To excavate and disturb the bed of the Waitaha River to undertake river protection works. To divert water from a rock spur, Waitaha River. To temporarily discharge sediment to water associated with protection works, Waitaha River.
RC-2025-0088 Te Runanga o Ngāti Waewae Arahura Marae Hokitika, Westland District	To discharge treated sewage effluent to land in circumstances which may result in contaminants entering water from the Arahura Marae.
RC-2025-0107 Sam & Michael White Maori Creek Road, Marsden Grey District	To discharge treated onsite sewage wastewater to land in circumstances which may result in contaminants entering water from a domestic dwelling at Lot 4 DP 599523, 87 Maori Creek Road.
RC-2024-0125 M & M Aggregates Limited Hokitika airport Westland District	To undertake alluvial gold mining in the Westland District within the consented area, under MP 60851, at Hokitika. To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining within the consented area, under MP 60851, at Hokitika. To take and use surface water from Hou Hou Creek associated with alluvial gold mining within the consented area, under MP 60851, at Hokitika. To discharge contaminants namely sediment laden water to land that may enter water associated with alluvial gold mining within the consented area, under MP 60851, at Hokitika.
RC-2023-0127 Titan Resources Ltd Deep Creek, Bell Hill, Grey District	To take and use surface water from Deep Creek for the purpose of alluvial gold mining within Mineral Permit (MP) 51535.

RC-2025-0101 Westroads Limited Old Christchurch Road Hokitika, Westland District	To extract gravel from a gravel reserve and adjacent land near Kawhaka creek on the Old Christchurch Road, Arahura Valley.
RC-2025-0109 G Hunt Trustee Company Limited, Arnold Valley, Moana Grey District	To discharge treated onsite sewage wastewater to land where it may enter water at 2014A Arnold Valley Road, Moana.
RC-2025-0123 MBD Contracting Limited Confluence of Dry Creek (Little Man River) and Whataroa River, Whataroa Highway, east side (true right bank) of Whataroa River, Westland District	To disturb and excavate the dry bed of the Whataroa River and the Dry Creek (Little Man River) at a site adjacent to the confluence between the two, opposite 1773B Whataroa Highway, Whataroa, for the purpose of removing gravel. To incidentally discharge sediment to the Whataroa River and the Dry Creek (Little Man River) at the confluence between the two, as a result of incidental crossing of water channels when transporting gravel from extraction area to stockpile.
RC-2025-0070 Liddell Construction Ltd Various Locations throughout the West Coast Region	To discharge contaminants to air for the purpose of mobile dry abrasive blasting activities of vehicles and machinery at various locations within the West Coast Region.
RC-2025-0121 Leslie Smart Lake Brunner, Grey District	To disturb and excavate the dry bed at 2135 Lake Brunner Rd, DP 2674, Lot3 LT 505473 Part WS 5C/797 for the purpose of removing gravel.
RC-2025-0125 Raupo Farms Ltd Totara Flat, Grey District	To discharge dairy effluent to land and water (a tributary of Grey River) near DS480, Totara Flat.
RC-2025-0069 Buller District Council Near the intersection of Hughs Place/The Esplanade, Westport	To disturb the riparian margin and bed of the Buller River associated with the upgrade of a stormwater pipe and the construction of an associated rock protection wall. To discharge contaminants to water during temporary works associated with the construction of a rock protection wall.
RC-2025-0064 KiwiRail Holdings Limited Bridge 133 Stillwater Ngakawau Railway Line, Waimangaroa River	Earthworks and vegetation clearance within the riparian margins of the Waimangaroa River associated with construction of a new rail bridge, installation of rock protection structures, partial deconstruction of a weir and channel realignment works. Erection, use and maintenance of a new rail bridge across the Waimangaroa River, removal of the old rail bridge and bed disturbance associated with these structures.

	Disturbance, excavation and alteration of the Waimangaroa riverbed associated with rock protection structures, partial deconstruction of a weir and channel realignment works. Temporary diversions of the Waimangaroa River to facilitate construction activities.
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Limited Notified Resource Consent Granted

Two Limited Notified resource consent application granted between 01 July to 30 September 2025.

RC-2024-0058 Agri Partners Limited Stafford, Waimea Creek Westland District	To undertake alluvial gold mining in the Westland District. To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining. To take and use surface water and groundwater via seepage associated with alluvial gold mining. To discharge contaminants to land where it may enter water, namely Waimea Creek and its tributaries associated with alluvial gold mining.
RC-2023-0133 Westland Minerals Sands Limited Mananui Westland District Council	To undertake earthworks associated with mineral sands mining and, Mananui. To undertake earthworks and land disturbance within 100m of a natural inland wetland associated with mineral sands mining, Mananui. To take and use groundwater from a dredge pond associated with mineral sands mining, Mananui. To take and use groundwater from a well associated with mineral sands mining, Mananui. To discharge water (dewatering water) containing contaminants to land where it may enter water via settling ponds associated with mineral sand mining, Mananui. To discharge water (processing tailings water) containing contaminants to land where it may enter water via a dredge pond associated with mineral sand mining, Mananui To discharge water (processing and mine water) containing contaminants to land where it may enter water via an infiltration trench associated with mineral sand mining, Mananui

Changes to Consent Conditions

Five applications to change consent conditions were granted in the period 01 July to 30 September 2025

WDC-RC150012-V2 Faith Technologies Ltd, Butlers, Westland District	Variation to increase mining operating hours.
RC07242-V1 Parkinson Farming Company Reefton Limited Inangahua River, Buller District	Variation to increase water take for the purpose of irrigation.
RC-2021-0041-V3 MBD Contracting Limited, Big Grey River, Ikamatua, Buller District	Variation to increase gravel take.
RC-2021-0037-V3 Birchfields Ross Mining Limited, Ross, Westland District	Variation to allow for additional earthworks.
RC05200-V4 Department of Conservation – Franz Josef Glacier, Waiho River	To extend rock extraction area.

Consents processed and granted on behalf of Westland District Council

Six consents granted for the period 1 July to 30 September 2025

RC-2022-0034 Phoenix Minerals Limited Kumara, Westland District	To undertake alluvial gold mining in the Westland District within Mineral Permit (MP) 60546, at Kumara. To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara. To take surface water from mining pits and groundwater via seepage associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara. To discharge contaminants to land where it may water associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara.
RC-2025-0063 Rotastock Farms Limited Kumara, Westland District	To undertake alluvial gold mining in the Westland District within Mineral Permit (MP) 60546, at Kumara. To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara. To take surface water from mining pits and groundwater via seepage associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara. To discharge contaminants to land where it may water associated with alluvial gold mining within MP 60546, at Kumara.
RC-2025-0094 Elect Mining Limited Hau Hau Road, Kaniere, Westland District	To undertake earthworks associated with advanced exploration activities within Exploration Permit 61083 at Hau Hau Road, Kaniere. To undertake earthworks associated with advanced exploration activities within Exploration Permit 61083 at Hau Hau Road, Kaniere.

	To discharge sediment-laden water to land from a mine settling pond system in circumstances where it may enter water, Ruatapu.
RC-2024-0125 M & M Aggregates Limited Hokitika airport Westland District	To undertake alluvial gold mining in the Westland District within the consented area, under MP 60851, at Hokitika. To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining within the consented area, under MP 60851, at Hokitika. To take and use surface water from Hou Hou Creek associated with alluvial gold mining within the consented area, under MP 60851, at Hokitika. To discharge contaminants namely sediment laden water to land that may enter water associated with alluvial gold mining within the consented area, under MP 60851, at Hokitika.
WDC-RC150012-V2 Faith Technologies Ltd, Butlers, Westland District	Variation to increase mining operating hours.
RC-2021-0037-V3 Birchfields Ross Mining Limited, Ross, Westland District	Variation to allow for additional earthworks.

Hearings and Potential hearings

RC-2024-0058 – Alluvial gold mining activities, Stafford, Waimea Creek, Westland District –limited notified Hearing, 11 April 2025. The hearing was paused by the commissioner who requested further information regarding noise from the applicant. That information has now been supplied and the commissioner has issued a minute supplying dates for written responses from the submitters, an addendum to the s42A report by the reporting officer and a written right of reply from the applicant. The last evidence to be supplied by 29 August 2025. The commissioner will then determine if the hearing can be closed.

RC-2023-0133 – Mineral sand mining, Mananui, Westland District –Publicly notified Hearing 3 June 2025. The decision to grant the consents has since been released on 18 July 2025.

There are currently two limited notified hearings being planned, TRPL Limited and G Mills. We will provide further updates on these in the next report.

Consents Data Integrity Review Project

We have started a project to review all consents currently on hold (backlog). Some consents have been left on hold for long periods. We see this as an

opportunity to reengage with applicants and check if their circumstances have changed.

To date we have sent out 65 letters and emails about these consent applications. It has resulted in 24 applications being withdrawn. This is just the start and we will report on progress over time.

Total applications not yet granted	232
Total Withdrawn	24
Withdrawn at applicant's request	6
Withdrawn variations to the consent due to original consent being expired	5
Withdrawn as original consent has been surrendered	7
Withdrawn as removed from Companies office	5
Company in liquidation	1

Considerations

Implications/Risks

There are no implications/risks associated with this report.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Tangata whenua views

In line with the implementation of Paetae Kotahitanga ki Te Tai Poutini Partnership Protocol in the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Resource Management Act Iwi Participation Arrangement, we link with Poutini Ngāi Tahu about relevant consents and how we process them.

They are provided with the weekly consent applications received report. This provides opportunity to alert Council of any resource consent applications received in the weekly table that are of particular interest to them.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal implications

All consents are prepared in accordance with the Resource Management Act (or other legislation) and appropriate staff reports compiled to show the reasoning towards granting the consent. Legal implications for all consents are a risk of judicial review by any party.

7.5 Compliance Monitoring Quarterly Report

Author Chanelle van Rooyen, Senior Compliance Officer; Ant Phillips, Manager Compliance

Authoriser Matt Smith, Group Manager, Regulatory & Policy

Public

Excluded No

Report Purpose

For the Environmental Management Committee to be kept informed of activities in the Compliance and Monitoring section, and to provide an update on current matters.

Report Summary

Compliance and monitoring quarterly report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

- 1. Receive the 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025 report of the Compliance Group.*

Issues and Discussion**Background****Site Visits**

A total of 94 site visits were undertaken during the reporting period, which consisted of:

<i>Activity</i>	Number of Visits
Resource consent monitoring	34
Mining compliance & bond release	10
Complaints	28
Territorial Authorities monitoring	7
Dairy farm	5
Other	10

This report covers the period of 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025.

- A total of 28 complaints and incidents were recorded.

There were 10 confirmed non-compliances that occurred during the reporting period, with 5 cases currently under investigation or subject to ongoing enquiries.

Activity, INC/ Complaint and Location	Description	Action/Outcome
Forestry Complaint Ruatapu-Ross	Notification of dirty water in Rocky Creek, along the Wilderness Cycleway	Compliance staff responded and located the source of discharge from the forestry operation. The matter was addressed by the landowner and operator. Enquiries are ongoing with recommendation to be made.
Forestry Complaint Ruatapu-Ross	Notification of slash and debris in Rocky Creek	Compliance Officers responded. Some slash material was noted in the waterway, however, staff also noted one of the tributaries of Rocky Creek was flowing with dirty water and undertook a site inspection of a nearby forestry operation to determine the source of the discharge. The matter is currently under investigation.
Landfill Staff observation Ruatapu-Ross	Staff observed breach in consent condition	During a routine Compliance monitoring visit, staff noted a breach in consent conditions. Enforcement action has been taken to address the breaches and the Consent Holder has already taken steps to address the issues identified. Enquiries are ongoing.
Coal Mining Complaint Blackball	Notification that dirty brown discharge is coming from mine site	Compliance Officers responded and undertook an inspection of one section of the mining operation where a non-compliant discharge was identified. Enforcement action has been taken to address the matter. Enquiries are ongoing.
Domestic Complaint Westport	Notification from property owner that a Neighbour put a culvert in creek, diverting waterway	Compliance staff visited the property and found that the culverts would have required a resource consent to be installed. A retrospective resource consent application has been submitted and the application process is in progress. Enquiries are ongoing.
Trade/ Industrial Complaint Ruatapu-Ross	Notification of discoloration at Ogilvie Creek, all the way to head of Lake Mahinapua	Compliance Officers responded and located the source of the discharge, which was non-compliant. The matter was immediately addressed by the operator who also engaged a qualified person to assist with the installation of a system to prevent future discharges to the creek. No enforcement action taken on this occasion and matter closed.

Domestic Complaint Taylorville	Notification of burning rubbish with black smoke	Compliance Officer responded. A fire was burning at the time of inspection, and the officer noted that the fire contained general household waste. The Officer instructed the person to put the fire out, which they did. An educational approach was taken and the matter has been closed.
Private Complaint Waiatoto	Notification of unconsented structure built within the CMA (Coastal Marine Area)	Compliance staff made enquiries and determined that an unconsented structure was built within the CMA (Coastal Marine Area). Enforcement Action has been taken to remove the structure. The structure has now been removed and the matter has been closed.
Gold Mining Complaint Hokitika	Notification of diesel, oil or fuel discharging into roadside drain	Compliance Officers visited site. Noted that oil residue was washing from a workshop area into a drain, during wet weather – samples were taken. Educational approach taken – Miner took remedial actions to address the issue. Matter closed.
Farming Complaint Hari Hari	Notification that neighbour has lowered a bund, causing flooding on neighbouring property	Compliance staff visited the site with a WCRC engineer. Found that the lowered bund caused flooding of neighbouring property and took educational approach – the bund has now been raised and the matter has been resolved.

Other Complaints/Incidents

Note: These are the complaints/incidents assessed during the reporting period whereby the activity was found to be compliant, or non-compliance is not yet established at the time of reporting.

Activity INC/Comp and Location	Description	Action/Outcome
Quarry Complaint Westport	Notification of potential discharge into Christmas Creek	Compliance Monitoring site visit is pending.
Unknown Complaint Reefton	Notification of potential unauthorised water	This matter is currently under investigation.

	take from the Inangahua River	
Quarry Complaint Jackson-Bay Haast	Notification of potential unauthorised works occurring on Public Conservation Land.	A Compliance site inspection is pending.
Domestic Complaint Barrytown	Notification of potential unauthorised creek diversion	A Compliance site visit is pending.
Domestic Complaint Barrytown	Notification that neighbouring property's stormwater may cause flooding and damage to neighbouring property	A Compliance site visit is pending.
Unknown Complaint Waimea Creek, Awatuna	Notification of dirty water in Waimea Creek	Compliance staff responded and noted that the headwaters of the Waimea was turbid following a rain event. However, an unnamed creek was located and noted to be more turbid than the Waimea creek. Given the time of day and darkness setting in, the matter was left to be followed up and is currently under investigation.
Domestic Complaint Runanga	Notification of wastewater discharge in neighbouring drain	A site inspection is pending.
Unknown Complaint Ruatapu, Hokitika	Notification of excessive sand removal from beach	Compliance Officer inspected the area. No breaches were identified. No further action taken – matter closed.
Domestic Complaint Taipo Valley	Notification of potential sewage discharge	Compliance site inspection is pending.
Transport Incident Buller Gorge	Self-notification of lime spill on State Highway	Enquiries made and established that only a small amount of lime had spilled and was cleaned up immediately. No further action taken – matter closed.

Private Complaint Cape Foulwind	Notification of potential sewage discharge from septic system	Compliance Officer carried out a site inspection and took water samples which returned results consistent with septic discharge. The matter is currently under investigation to locate the source.
Unknown Complaint Mahinapua	Notification of Dirty creek at Hoppers Bridge, West Coast Wilderness Trail	Compliance staff inspected the area and were unable to determine the source of the discharge. Enquiries are ongoing.
Private Complaint Kakapotahi	Notification that a neighbour has blocked off a drain	Compliance staff did a site visit and are making further enquiries.
Farming Complaint Whataroa	Notification regarding neighbouring stock roaming onto property and crossing the river	Compliance Officer spoke to the complainant who was concerned that the stock were 'wild' and did not have enough feed on their own property, hence wondering over and posing a safety risk to people. This is not a Council matter and the complainant was referred to MPI.
Farming Complaint Westport	Notification that a farmer has altered the beach foreshaw with mountains of beach gravel and blocked off public access to the beach	This seawall in question is covered by a resource consent. Compliance Officers carried out a site visit to ensure compliance with the consent and found no non-compliance. No further action taken – matter closed.
Gold Mining Complaint Awatuna	Notification of discharge into waterway	Compliance staff responded and located the source of the discharge. Water samples were taken and analysed. The laboratory results were very marginal and not a clear breach of consent conditions. An educational approach has been taken on this occasion.
Unknown Complaint Kaniere	Notification of discharge in Shenandoah Creek	Compliance Officers responded. The creek was discoloured; however, the source of the discharge could not be identified at the time. Enquiries are ongoing.
Mining Complaint Kaniere	Notification of dirty water coming from Kaniere tailings, discharging into creek	Notification received after the event. Compliance staff checked the creek when they were next in the area and no discharge was visible at the time. No further action.
Farming	Notification regarding	Compliance Officer responded to complainant. This disposal was consented,

Complaint Karamea	unconsented disposal of demolition waste	and the site had been inspected several times with no non-compliance found. This matter has now been closed off – no further action taken.
Construction Complaint Greymouth	Notification of construction waste being burned	Compliance staff responded. There was no fire or materials burning at the time of the inspection, however, building materials were “staged” to be burned. An educational approach was taken on this occasion.
Landfill Complaint Coal Creek	Notification of potential discharge into a waterway	Compliance staff responded and collected water samples. Enquiries are ongoing.

Activity INC/Comp and Location	Description	Action/Outcome
Trade/ Industrial Complaint Paroa	Notification from resident that sawmill dust is crossing boundary	Compliance Officers visited site and noted fine wood dust at neighbouring properties. Consent holder is currently working on identifying the source of the discharge and taking steps to deal with the matter. Enquiries are ongoing.
Gold Mining Complaint Waimea	Notification of noise from mining operation after bund had been removed	Compliance Officer responded. Noise levels considered low at the time of inspection. No further action taken.
Gold Mining Incident Waimea	Staff observation – discoloration of Waimea Creek	While out in the field, Compliance Officer noted discoloration of Waimea creek. The Officer investigated and located the source of the discharge and took water samples. Lab analysis showed that the discharge was within consented limits. No further action taken.
Territorial Authority Other Greymouth	Self-notification of equipment failure	Consent holder self-notified a failure of Bio Trickle Filter system. Compliance staff attended; however, the mechanical fault was fixed by the time the Officer arrived on site and no incident occurred. Matter closed.
Territorial Authority	Self-notification of small discharge leak	Consent holder self-notified that a pressure line had developed a small leak that had discharged to a paddock and roadside. The

Incident Westport		pipe was promptly repaired and appropriate cleanup performed. No further action and matter closed.
Industrial/Trade Complaint Westport	Complaint regarding Industrial dust blown from a Rock Crushing plant.	A Compliance monitoring visit is pending.
Gold Mining Incident Snowy River	Self-reported spill incident	Consent Holder reported incident where forklift punctured and IBC (Intermediate Bulk Container), causing a 600L spill of liquid substance. The spill was contained and all discharges to water ceased as a precaution. The spill was cleaned up and disposed of appropriately. No further actions taken – matter closed.
Gold Mining Complaint Waimea	Notification received that a miner is commencing earthwork at non consented area	A Compliance monitoring visit is pending.
Whitebait Complaint Ohine-matea River	Notification of two potentially unconsented whitebait stands	Enquiries made and determined that the two stands on this river are consented. No further action taken.
Hobby mining Complaint Kaniere	Notification of discharge from mining operation, leaking into neighbouring property	Compliance staff visited site and located a small hobby fossicking operation on domestic property. A garden hose connected to a damaged tap, was left on a riffle board, causing ponding and water discharge onto neighbouring property. The hose was tied shut and the property owner was getting the tap fixed. Educational approach taken. Matter closed.
Domestic Complaint Stillwater	Notification that septic tank was overflowing and discharging onto neighbouring property	Compliance Officer responded and visited site. It was determined that the septic system was working correctly and not overflowing. No further action taken – matter closed.

Update on Previously Reported Ongoing Complaints/Incident

Activity INC/Comp and Location	Description	Action/Outcome
Farming Complaint and Staff observation Moana	Notification – concern about unconsented gravel extraction – Crooked River	Site visited by Compliance staff. Gravel extraction under Permitted Activity rules for adjacent farm, however, no prior notification given, making the extraction non-compliant. While on site, staff also noted a creek diversion being put in – these matters are currently still under investigation.
Gold mining Staff observation Dunganville	Unconsented disturbance of waterway	During a routine Compliance monitoring inspection, staff noted that a waterway had been disturbed, without a consent. The matter is currently under investigation.
Coal Mining Complaint Ford River, Blackball	Notification of dirty water in creek	Compliance staff attended site and found dirty water being discharged from mine site. Council is currently working with the miner in addressing the concerns and putting mitigations in place to manage discharges from site. This matter is ongoing.
Gold mining Complaint Humphreys Gully	Notification of dirty water in Kennedy creek	Compliance staff visited site and identified sediment laden water being discharged to the creek. This matter is still under investigation.
Commercial/Tra de Complaint Punakaiki	Notification of sewage smell emitting from premises	Compliance staff carried out an inspection in the area and identified the source of the sewage smell. This matter is currently under investigation.
Creek Diversion N/A Dobson	An applicant for a creek diversion was found to have completed the diversion without a resource consent being granted.	A resource consent application has been submitted. The application is currently on hold, still awaiting affected party sign off. This matter is ongoing.
Gold mining Complaint Dobson	Notification received about dirty discharge into unnamed creek	Compliance staff attended the site and located the source of the discharge. Samples were taken and the matter is currently under investigation.

Gold mining Staff observation Arahura Valley	Compliance monitoring site visit	During a routine compliance monitoring site visit, staff identified a creek that had been disturbed, with no consent to do so. This matter is still under investigation.
Quarry Complaint Coal Creek	Notification of potential unconsented earthworks	Compliance Officers visited the site and identified that the earthworks meet the conditions of a permitted activity rule, however, it was noted that a waterway had been disturbed, without a resource consent. This matter is currently under investigation.
Gold mining Complaint Arnold Valley	Notification of mining activity causing sediment build up in creek and possible disturbance of waterway	Compliance staff undertook a site visit and identified several potential breaches. Enforcement action has been taken, and the matter is currently under investigation.
Gravel extraction Complaint Organs Island	Notification of machine being repaired on riverbed and fluid from machine discharging into Buller River	Compliance staff investigated and identified the machine in question. Recommendation to be made.
Territorial Authority Incident Greymouth	Self-notification from consent holder that a sewage overflow had occurred	Compliance Staff attended site and met with Consent Holder. Water samples were taken and enquiries are ongoing as a breach had been identified. The investigation has now been completed and WCRC has formally written to the Consent Holder. The Consent Holder is working closely with the WCRC in addressing the matters that led to this overflow incident to ensure there is no reoccurrence.
Other Complaint Kaiata	Notification of sump waste being discharge to an unconsented site	Compliance staff have undertaken a site visit and established that unconsented material had been deposited on site. This matter is currently still under investigation.
Gold Mining Complaint Waimea	Notification of dirty water discharge into Waimea Creek	Compliance staff responded and located the source of the discharge, being a burst bund from a mining operation sediment pond. Samples have been taken, and enquiries are ongoing and recommendation to be made.

Mining Work Programmes and Bonds

The Council received 9 mining work programmes during the reporting period.

Date	Mining Authorisation	Holder	Location	Processed Y/N
08/07/2025	RC-2018-0079	P and R Mining Limited	Blackwater	In progress
18/07/2025	RC03175	BT Mining Limited	Cypress-Westport	Yes
29/07/2025	RC-2015-0109	Dempster Limited	Callaghans	Yes
07/08/2025	RC-2021-0037	BRM Limited	Ross	Yes
07/08/2025	RC-2025-0063	Rotastock Farms Limited	Waiho Flat	Yes
21/08/2025	RC-2025-0083	Amalgamated Mining Limited	Notown	In progress
22/08/2025	RC12228	Robert Graham	Taipo Valley	Yes
26/08/2025	RC-2019-0056	Titan Resources Limited	Bell Hill	Yes
23/09/2025	CML37161	Bathurst Resources Limited	Denniston	In progress

Where shown "In Progress" above, means that either further information has been requested for the Mining Work Programmes or site visits are pending.

The following bonds were received:

Date	Mining Authorisation	Holder	Location	Amount
21/07/2025	RC-2025-0016	Westland Mining Limited	Stafford	\$20,000
30/07/2025	RC-2022-0139	Fitzherbert Investments Limited	Adairs Road	\$35,000 (Balance of what was owing).
05/08/2025	RC-2014-0204	Faith Technologies	Butlers	\$27,000
11/08/2025	RC-2020-0083	Westland Mining	Goldsborough	\$20,000
22/08/2025	RC-2025-0083	Amalgamated Mining Limited	Notown	\$25,000
29/09/2025	RC-2025-0063	Rotastock Farms Limited	Waiho Flat	\$15,281

The following bond is recommended for release:

Mining Authorisation	Holder	Location	Amount	Reason For Release
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Note – An application has been submitted by a historic mining operation for a release of their bond, however, a recent site inspection revealed concerns of erosion and potential burial of waste and building materials. Enquiries are currently underway.

Another application for bond release by an alluvial gold miner has also been received. However, during a site rehabilitation inspection, Compliance staff have noted a large amount of waste being left behind by the miner, who has now been instructed to remove all waste from the site. Erosion concerns have also been identified and raised with the miner to remedy.

Considerations**Implications/Risks**

There are no implications/risks associated with this report.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Tangata whenua views

Compliance monitoring and enforcement activities are carried out in line with the implementation of Paetae Kotahitanga ki Te Tai Poutini Partnership Protocol in the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Resource Management Act Iwi Participation Arrangement.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal implications

All compliance activities are carried out in accordance with the Resource Management Act.

Staff recommendation reports are compiled for any enforcement and reviewed by Management.

Enforcement actions are subject to appeal provisions. No appeal/s against enforcement actions have been instigated during this reporting period.

7.6 Planning and TTPP Report**Author** Max Dickens, Manager Policy**Authoriser** Matt Smith, Group Manager, Regulatory and Policy**Public****Excluded** No**Report Purpose**

This report provides an update on the Policy and Planning work programme, upcoming RMA reforms, and other matters.

Report Summary

This report provides an update on the Policy and Planning team's current workflows. The key areas of focus are:

- RMA reforms
- Other matters such as the Total Mobility update, the recent Dams Policy consultation, and the TTPP.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*

Issues and Discussion**Planning**RMA Reform and Plan Stop*New resource management Bills*

The Government is currently drafting two new Bills, the Planning Bill and the Natural Environments Bill, to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). A key change in the new Bills will be a requirement for one combined resource management plan per region, which will consist of:

- a regional spatial planning chapter identifying existing and future infrastructure, future urban areas, and growth and development opportunities; and
- a natural environments chapter with environmental limits for land, air, freshwater, coastal and marine water, and other natural resources; and
- one land use chapter for each District in the Region, for the West Coast this will be the TTPP.

The two new Bills are anticipated to be released at the end of November/December.

Te Tai o Poutini Plan decisions on Council submission

Council lodged a submission on the proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP) on 11 November 2022, and a further submission on other submitters' submission points

on 11 July 2023. Most of the submission points related to land use activities that the Council is involved in: hydrology monitoring equipment/structures, Rating District natural hazard protection structures, and aerial predator control operations that Vector Services Control are involved in. Staff are going through the TTPP Decisions Reports to see whether the Council's submission points were accepted, accepted in part or rejected. There may be a need to bring an urgent paper to the council to authorise appeal of the TTPP and when would we do this Given the schedule leading up to Christmas.

Dangerous Dams Policy Consultation

WCRC is updating the policy on dangerous dams so that it aligns with the new dam safety requirements created by central government. Those new requirements include the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022 (Regulations) which came into effect in May 2024.

This policy (Attachment 2) sets out what WCRC will do in relation to a dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone dam in the West Coast region. It covers our regulatory and legislative responsibilities in relation to these dams under the Building Act 2004.

The policy has four key sections:

- What principles will apply.
- How Council will perform its legislative functions in relation to dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone dams.
- Council priorities when performing these functions.
- How the policy will apply to heritage dams.

The Committee approved the proposed Policy for public consultation, and the submission period ran from 8 July to 12 August 2025. Two submissions were received, with one submitter wishing to be heard in person.

This hearing will be held at the December Council meeting, with the Policy returning for approval in the first meeting of the new year.

Regional Pest Management Plan

Staff have commenced a review of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP), a statutory plan, prepared under the biosecurity Act 1993 that sets out rules, priorities, and goals for managing animal and plant pests within a specific region. The goal is to minimize harm to the economy, biodiversity, human health, and cultural identity of the region. The WCRCs current RPMP expires in 2028. However, an early review has been triggered due to a noted ineffectiveness related to the absence of pest animals which are becoming a problem across the west coast. The Department of

Conservation currently manage wild animals in priority areas on public conservation land. However, feedback from private landowners, particularly farmers, has highlighted a potential need for Council to include animal pests in the Plan, given the significant damage caused by species such as deer, feral goats, pigs and Canada geese. Meanwhile, the review will also be an opportunity to implement changes to pest plant programs which better reflect the current issues posed and values held by west coast communities.

An initial discussion document is being developed collaboratively by the Planning and Biosecurity teams to seek public feedback on potential changes to pest management programs across the region. Furthermore, Regional Council staff are working with all South Island councils to explore cross boundary workstreams through aligned RPMP programs. Funding options to support these changes will be prepared and presented for public consultation in 2026.

Transport

Total Mobility

Recent review and update

Total Mobility has recently undergone a complete overhaul with a system upgrade which removes the need for the paper vouchers and replaced it with a card-based system.

Previously, only general practitioners (GPs) could approve new TM users. Council staff have now worked with Poutini Waiora and the Primary Health Organisation (PHO) to expand assessor eligibility to include their staff. Both organisations met with Council staff to review the TM eligibility criteria, and the changes have since been implemented.

This expansion of the assessor pool has improved access to the scheme for a wider range of people with disabilities. Relevant processes and contracts with transport operators have been updated to reflect the new arrangements and ensure alignment with programme requirements. Updated information has also been provided to all assessors to ensure clarity around eligibility – for example, there are no age or income restrictions.

TTPP

The decisions version of Te Tai o Poutini Plan was publicly notified on 10 October 2025. An appeals period is now open for submitters to appeal any parts of the Decisions that they submitted on. The appeals period closes on 24 November, This is followed by an opportunity for other parties who submitted on a TTPP provision that has been appealed to lodge an interest in joining in the Court

proceedings for those appeals. The period for lodging an interest closes on 15 December 2025.

Environment Court-run mediation on topics appealed is expected to begin around March/April 2026.

Considerations

Implications/Risks

There are no implications or risks arising from items in this report beyond what is referenced.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

There are no issues within this report which trigger the Significance and Engagement policy.

Tangata Whenua views

Staff engage our Poutini Ngāi Tahu partners on the matters above as needed as part of our Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement.

Views of affected parties

No parties will be affected by the subject matter of this report.

Financial implications

There are no current financial implications arising from items in this report.

Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from items in this report.

Attachments

Attachment 1: MFE PowerPoint presentation of the upcoming RMA changes

Attachment 2: NZPI RMA Presentation

Attachment 3: Draft Dangerous Dams Policy

Replacing the RMA

An overview of proposed legislation to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

Please note that many aspects of this pack are still under active consideration

A phased approach to RMA replacement

Phase 1

Completed: Spatial Planning Act and Natural & Built Environment Act repealed in December 2023.

Phase 2

Completed: Fast-track Approvals Act passed into law in December 2024.

Completed: The Resource Management (Freshwater & Other Matters) Amendment Act passed into law in October 2024.

Completed: The Resource Management (Consenting and other System Changes) Bill passed into law in August 2025.

Underway: A package of National Direction changes to support housing, renewable energy, infrastructure, primary sector and natural hazards.

Phase 3

December 2023: The Government committed to replacing the RMA with laws 'based on enjoyment of property rights, while ensuring good environmental outcomes'.

March 2024: The Government announced it would replace the RMA with a Planning Act and a Natural Environment Act.

Now: The Parliamentary Counsel Office has started drafting the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill.

Why is the Government replacing the RMA?

Poor outcomes



Persistent shortages of land and high cost of development: 8 x annual average income required to purchase a home

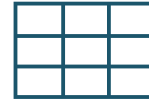


Declining natural environment and resources: Most catchments require a 30% reduction or more in at least one of the big four contaminants.

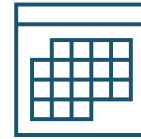


Process is slow, litigious and costly: \$32.9 billion is the estimated administration and compliance cost over 30 years in today's dollars. It takes 5-8 years to complete a district plan

Poor Regulatory quality



Inconsistencies between locations: 1100+ different planning zones across 67 councils



Not data driven: No legislative framework for environmental limits or system performance. Leading to inconsistent and case-by-case decision making.



Overly focused on avoiding effects leading to risk aversion: Around 30,000 resource consents issued each year (approximately 2.5% of these are notified consents)

What is the Government trying to achieve?



Make it easier to get things done by:

- unlocking development capacity for housing and business growth
- enabling delivery of high-quality infrastructure for the future, including doubling renewable energy
- enabling primary sector growth and development (including aquaculture, forestry, pastoral, horticulture, and mining).

While also:

- safeguarding the environment and human health
- adapting to the effects of climate change and reducing the risks from natural hazards
- improving regulatory quality in the resource management system
- upholding Treaty of Waitangi settlements and other related arrangements.

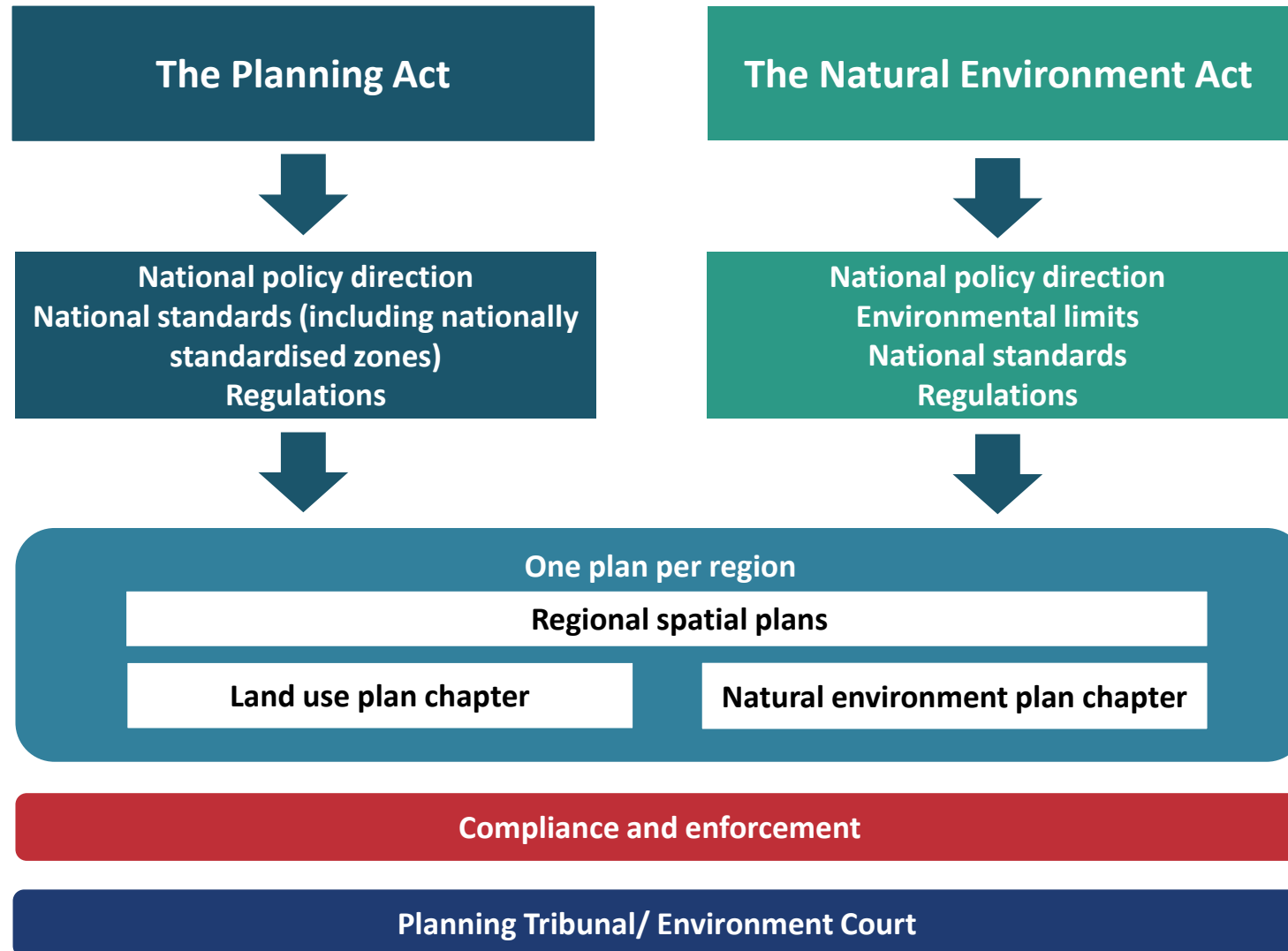
Key system changes

Features of the proposed system agreed to by Cabinet include:

- simplified national direction and cohesive national policy direction under each Act
- standardised planning provisions and performance standards, including nationally standardised zones
- a prescribed framework for environmental limits
- clearer definitions of adverse effects that can be considered and higher thresholds for when they must be managed
- a single combined plan per region with spatial, natural environment plans and land use plan chapters
- fewer activity categories and a higher threshold for determining affected persons
- a national compliance and enforcement regulator with a regional presence
- a Planning Tribunal for dispute resolution processes.

Cabinet also agreed that upholding Treaty settlements and related agreements is a principle of reforming the RMA.

Architecture of proposed RMA system



Expected outcomes

These shifts will help ensure the system enables faster growth within limits. We expect to see:



Enhanced property rights to enable greater use and enjoyment of land. Relief available when rights breached.



More efficient planning processes and more consistency between regions



Reduced regulatory overreach to increase capacity for housing and infrastructure



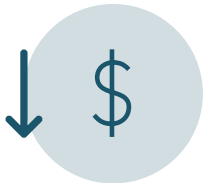
Fewer consents for land use, with Planning Act changes delivering the majority of the reduction



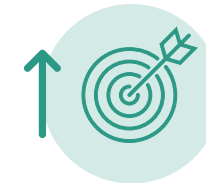
Less degradation and overuse of natural resources



Enhanced certainty for users earlier in the process, increasing investment attractiveness



Lower costs for users



Streamlined consent processes with less opportunity for litigation and standardised conditions

Legislative timeline

Sep 2024: Expert Advisory Group (EAG) set up to develop blueprint for replacing RMA.

Oct 2024: Cabinet set principles for the new RMA system.

Dec 2024: EAG delivered its draft blueprint report for replacing the RMA.

Jan 2025: EAG delivered its final blueprint for replacing the RMA.

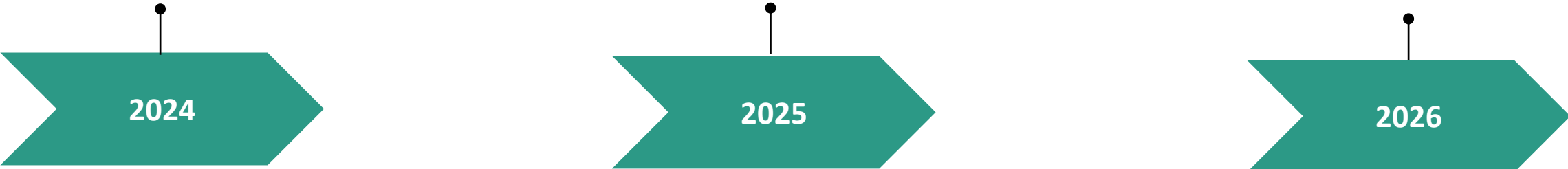
24 March: Cabinet agreed key features of the new RM system.

Late 2025: The Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill are introduced.

2026: Select Committee process.*

2026: Bills expected to become law.*

NB: This is at Parliament's discretion.



2024

2025

2026

Implementing the new system

Implementation of the new system will be challenging and is critical to a successful outcome.



Transition: We are working on a transition plan that will identify when National Direction will be in place to inform consenting, as well as spatial plan making.



System funding: Greater use will be made of the 'user pays' principle to recover the costs of running the system.



Digital enablement: New digital tools will be developed to increase accessibility and efficiency: standardised data, e-consents, and e-plans.



Behaviour change: Achieving the system benefits relies on both successful implementation by central and local government, and on new ways of working for participants in the system. The Planning Tribunal plays a key role in this change.

Questions and discussion

You can email any questions or feedback about the proposed system to rmevents@mfe.govt.nz



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Blueprint for RM Reform: the rundown

8 April 2025

Emily Grace, NZPI Principal Policy Advisor

Liz Moncrieff, NZPI Lead Advocacy Officer





Session overview

Expert Advisory Group report (EAG report)

Minority report

Cabinet recommendations

Phase 2 National direction implications

Questions



Background to the Blueprint report

Est by Government to consider/stress test the 10 principles for reform

Panel: Janette Campbell (Chair), Christine Jones, Paul Melville, Rukumoana Schaafhausen, Kevin Counsell, Gillian Crowcroft, Mark Chrisp

> 3 months, met weekly x1 day workshops, supported by MfE officials

Strong practitioner group, which shows in their report

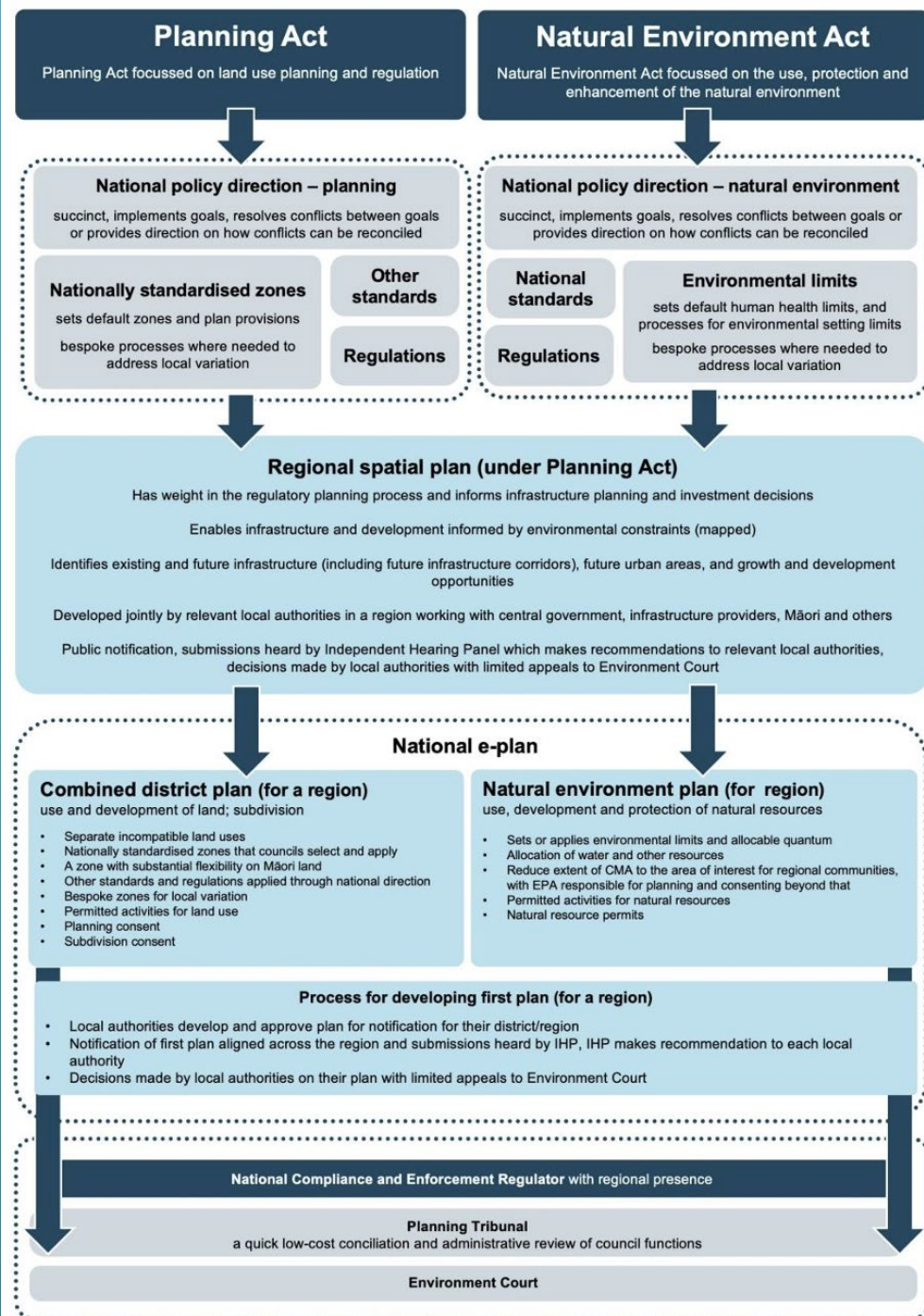
Proposals largely followed cabinet direction

Minority report produced by one member



Background to the Blueprint report – 10 Principles

1. Narrow the scope of the effects it controls.
2. Establish two Acts with clear and distinct purposes – one to manage environmental effects arising from activities and another to enable urban development and infrastructure.
3. Strengthen and clarify the role of environmental limits and how they are to be developed.
4. Provide for greater use of national standards to reduce the need for resource consents and to simplify council plans, so that standard-complying activity cannot be subjected to a consent requirement.
5. Shift the system focus from consenting before works are undertaken to strengthened compliance monitoring and enforcement.
6. Use spatial planning and a simplified designation process to lower the cost of future infrastructure.
7. Achieve efficiencies by requiring one regulatory plan per region jointly prepared by regional and district councils.
8. Provide for rapid, low-cost resolution of disputes between neighbours and between property owners and councils, with a Planning Tribunal (or equivalent) providing an accountability mechanism.
9. Uphold Treaty of Waitangi settlements and the Crown's obligations.
10. Provide faster, cheaper and less litigious processes within shorter, less complex and more accessible legislation.





Two new Acts

Planning Act

Use, development and enjoyment
of land

National goals

Decision-making principles

Natural Environment Act

Use, protection and enhancement
of the natural environment

National goals

Decision-making principles

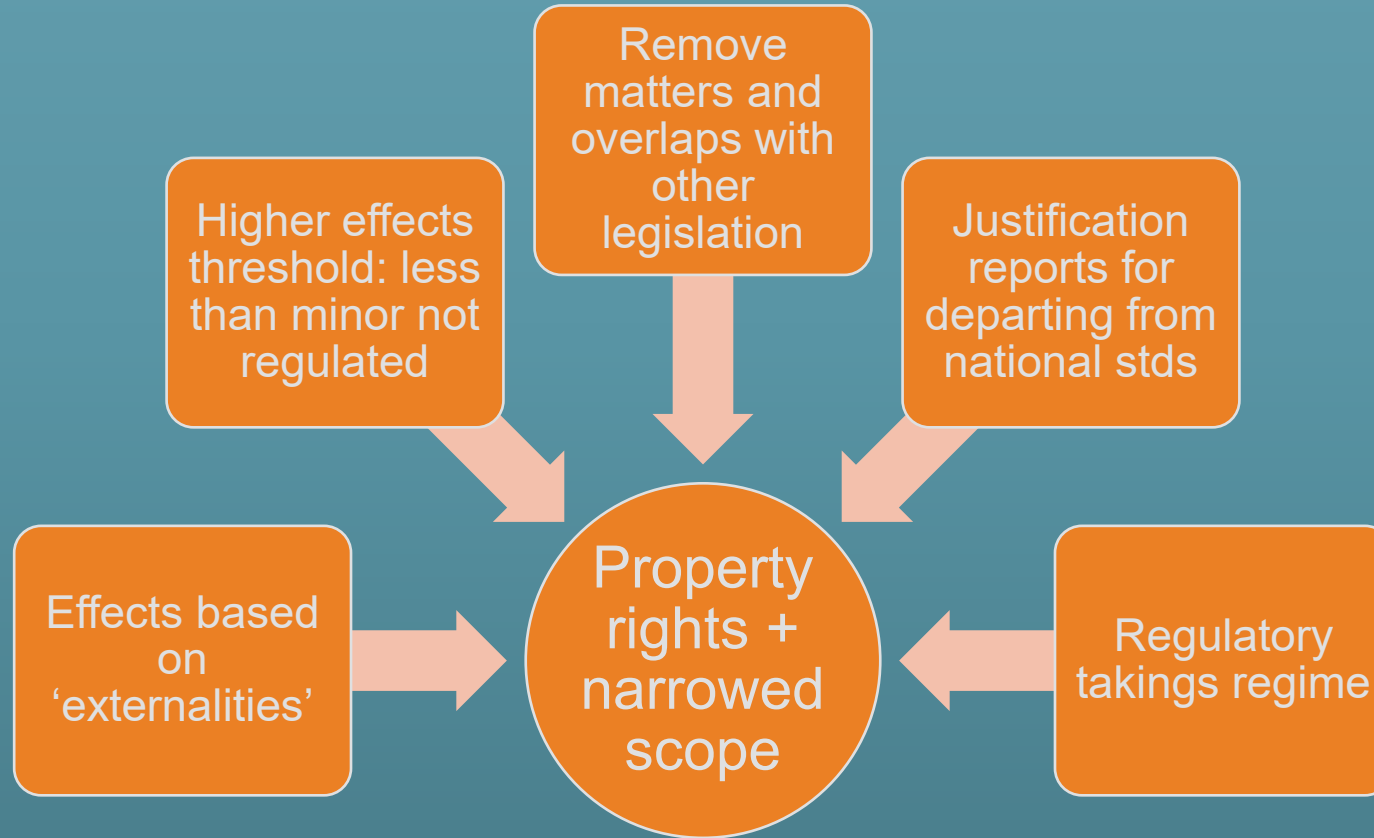
Cabinet Decision: Agree with EAG

Minority report:

- EAG goals too broad
- Goals need to be specific to preserve tight scope of legislation
- Decision-making principles not needed



Property rights and a narrowed scope



Cabinet Decision: Agree with EAG, but more work on heritage



Te Tiriti and Māori rights and interests

Status
quo,
plus:

Principles to assist with application of s8

Participation in monitoring and oversight

Zones provide for Māori land ownership arrangements

Statutory acknowledgements in spatial and regulatory plans

Iwi management plans to inform spatial plans and consents

Councils keep publicly available records of iwi/hapū groups

Cabinet Decision: No general Treaty clause, report back on alternatives e.g. descriptive clause



National direction and greater standardisation

One mandatory national policy direction (NPD) per Act.

Greater use of national standards, including standardised plan chapter content and zones (ie, zone provision content, not just a zone framework)

Deviating from zone content is allowed (to enable local flexibility) but will need to be 'justified' and have a 'stickier' process attached to it

The form and structure of spatial and regulatory plans will be highly standardised, enabling them to be collated and accessed as one national e-plan for New Zealand.

Cabinet Decision: Agree with EAG



Environmental limits and allocation

Limits for protecting human health and life-supporting capacity of the natural environment, with caps

Air, water (fresh & coastal), soil, ecosystems.

EPA sets national limits and helps with regional limits

Place-based protections: SNAs and ONFLs

Work to be done on Māori rights and interests in freshwater and geothermal water

First-in-first-served, then switch to an alternative method

Cabinet Decision: Agree, but EPA role to be considered later



Spatial planning

Spatial plans are in

- Weight in the regulatory planning process
- RPSs are out
- National spatial plan recommended

Scope

- Includes CMA
- Map constraints
- Infrastructure, existing and future
- Future urban areas
- Growth + development opportunities

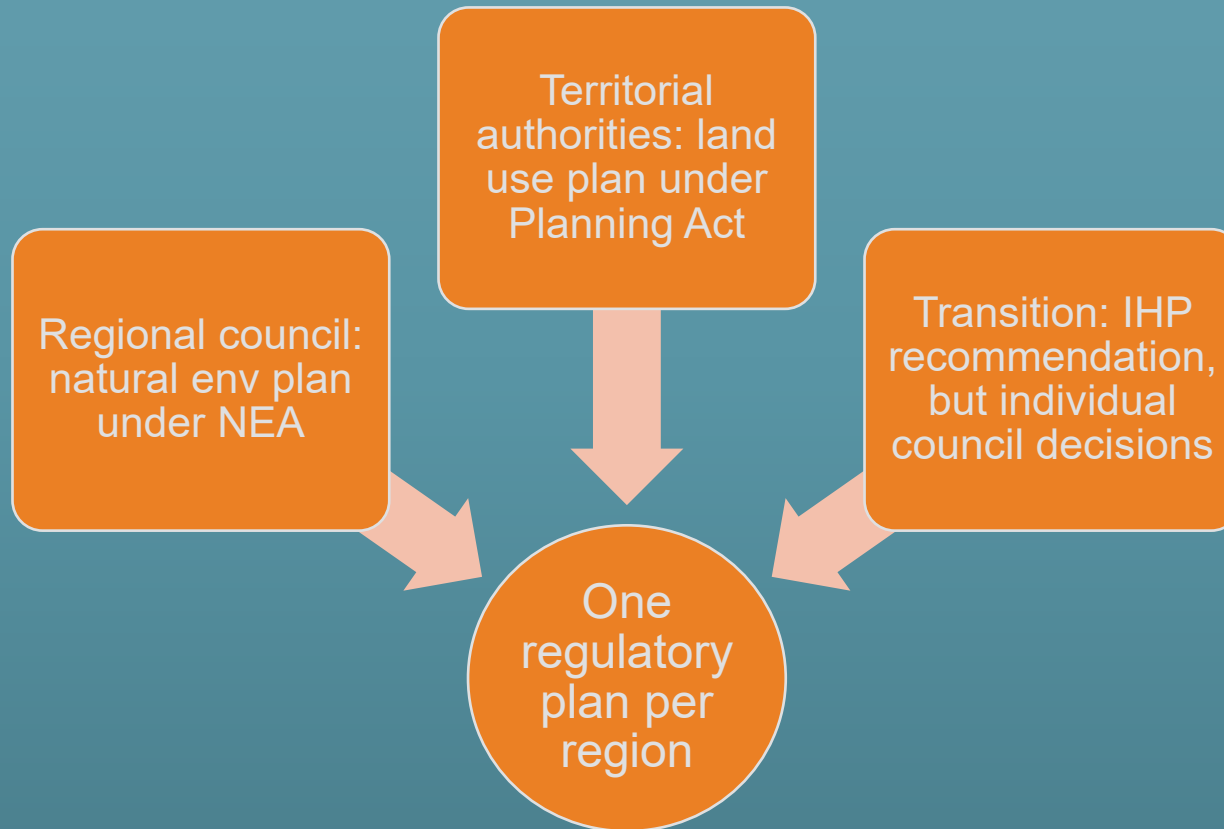
Who

- For regions to work out
- Existing governance or new LGA committees
- Supported by secretariat

Cabinet Decision: Agree with EAG, but national spatial plan not mentioned



Regional and district planning



Minority report:

- Narrower role of IHPs
- Councils primary decision-maker
- Appeals on points of law
- Councils own plans



Consents, permits and designations

Labels

- Consents = land use approvals
- Permits = environmental approvals

Activity categories

- Permitted
- Restricted discretionary
- Discretionary
- Prohibited

Affected parties

- Material effects = more than minor
- On a person or the environment

Designations

- Largely the status quo
- With Phase 2 amendments

Cabinet Decision: Agree with EAG



Compliance and enforcement

A new national compliance and enforcement regulator with a regional presence

Cabinet Decision: Agree to progress the idea, but on a longer timeframe



Planning Tribunal

New
Planning
Tribunal:

Quick, low cost

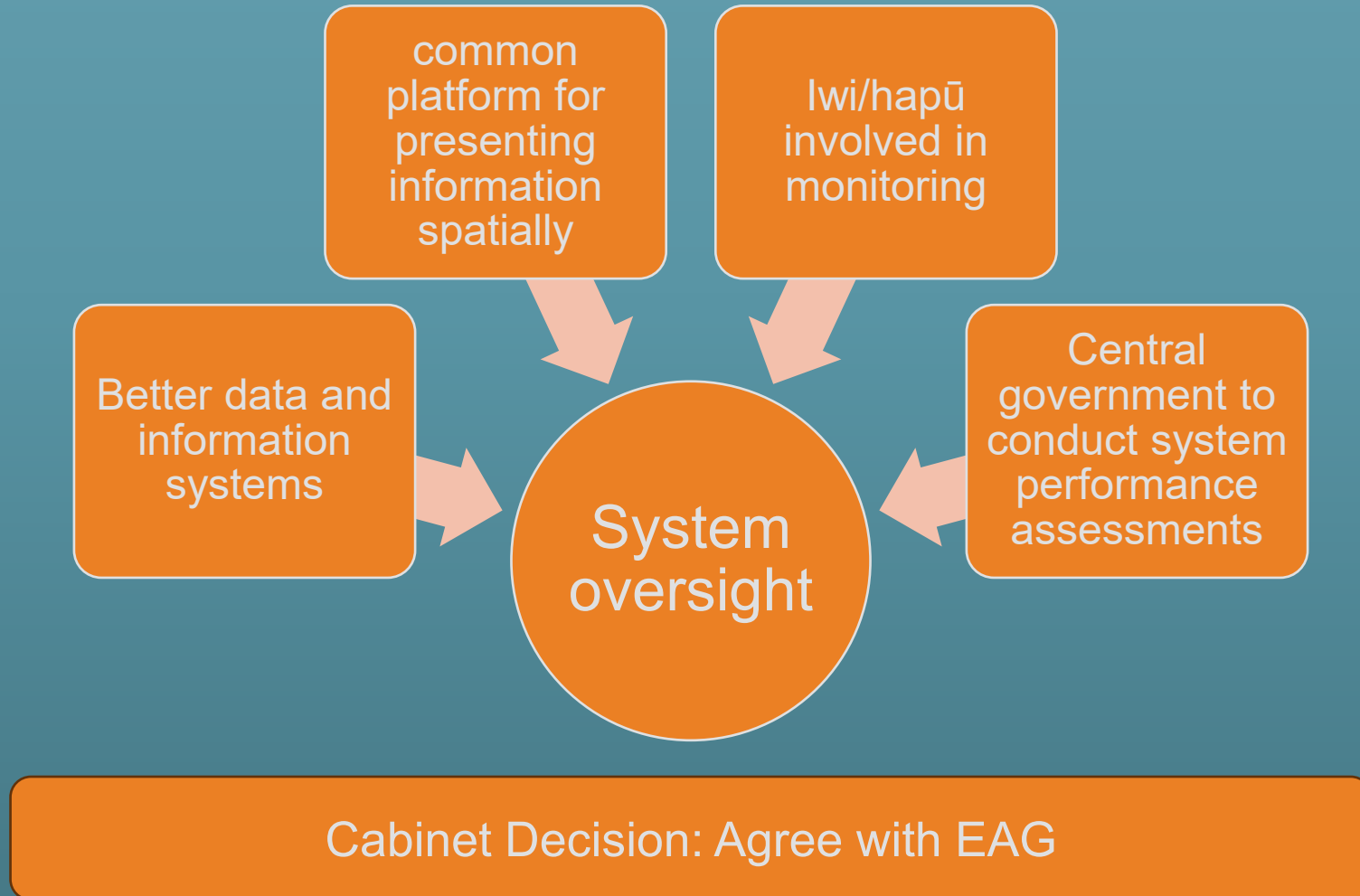
Administrative review of council functions
(e.g. notification, further info)

Determination of the meaning of conditions

Cabinet Decision: Agree, significant policy work required, progress in time for commencement of legislation



Monitoring and system oversight





Transition and implementation

Deeming National direction, spatial plans, regional plans, district plans

Commence
ASAP Effects threshold, activity categories, notification

 Compliance and enforcement

 Process improvements

Sequential preparation of new instruments

Cabinet Decision: Rapid transition, implementation from mid-2027



Implications for Phase 2 National Direction

Freshwater

NES changes: marine
aquaculture, telco,
electricity transmission,
granny flats,
papakāinga, forestry

NPS changes:
infrastructure, REG,
electricity transmission,
NZCPS

Quarrying and mining
changes in NPS FM, IB,
HPL

Remove LCU3 from
NPS HPL

Direction on managing
risk from natural
hazards

Consultation on urban
development and
housing policy for
incorporation in the new
system.



Next steps

NZPI
membership
engagement on
proposals

Continuing
engagement
between NZPI
and MfE

Consultation on
national direction
changes middle
of 2025

Bills introduced
to the House by
the end of 2025

rmreform@planning.org.nz



WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

S161 Building Act 2004

**Policy on dangerous dams,
earthquake-prone dams and
flood-prone dams 2025**

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1. Introduction

This document sets out the policy on dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams adopted by West Coast Regional Council (“the Council”) in accordance with sections 161 and section 162 of the Building Act 2004 (“the Act”).

This policy is a key component of the wider regulatory framework for protecting people, property, and the environment from the potential impacts of dam failure. It provides for the identification and management of dams of concern in the West Coast Region, and the measures the Council will take (with the dam owner) to reduce or remove danger.

The policy states the approach and priorities the Council will take in performing its functions in relation to dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams in the West Coast region, and how the policy will apply to heritage dams, in accordance with section 161(2) of the Act.

This policy applies to dams defined in section 7 of the Act. This policy also applies to dangerous dams, earthquake prone dams, and flood-prone dams within the region, as defined in sections 153, 153A and 153AA of the Act.

The dam safety provisions in subpart 7 of part 2 of the Act, apply to:

1. Classifiable dams (defined in regulation 5 of the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022 (“the Regulations”) to be 4 or more metres high and storing 20,000 cubic metres volume of water or other fluid)
2. Referable dams as defined in the Regulations¹
3. All dams but only for the purposes of section 133B² (height measurement of dams) and sections 157 and section 158 (measures by a regional authority to avoid immediate danger).

2. Application of this policy

This policy applies to dams everywhere in the West Coast region, irrespective of the age and intended life of the dam. Where required by the Act, parts of this policy apply specifically to classifiable dams, which also include “large dams” as defined in section 7 of the Act.

The terms ‘dangerous dam’, ‘earthquake-prone dam’ and ‘flood-prone dam’ have the same meaning as provided in section 153, section 153A and section 153AA of the Act³.

¹ Acknowledged by Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) as not yet defined in Regulations (as of February 2025).

² When measuring the height of the dam under this section, the crest of the dam includes any freeboard – refer to section 133B of the Act for the definition.

³ This includes buildings in areas designated under subpart 6B as set out in section 153AA of the Act.

This policy must be read alongside the Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022 (“the Regulations”) which define terms used in the Act in relation to “dangerous dams”, “earthquake-prone dams” and “flood-prone dams”⁴.

The Regulations and the Act can be accessed at www.legislation.govt.nz⁵.

Under section 153AA of the Act, if a dangerous dam is located in an area that has been affected by an emergency (designated under Subpart 6B of the Act – Special provisions for buildings affected by emergency), this policy and other provisions of the Act continue to apply to the dam after the designation but only in relation to:

- a) an action taken in relation to the dam under section 154(1)(a) or (b) before the designation comes into force;
- b) a notice given in relation to the same under section 154(1)(c), or work carried out in accordance with the notice or under section 156 of the Act before the designation comes into force; or
- c) an action taken in relation to the dam under a warrant issued under section 157 of the Act.

This policy commences three weeks after the Council resolution is made to adopt the policy.

This policy will be reviewed every five years or earlier as required. The policy remains in effect even though it is due for review or being reviewed.

3. Principles

The Council will apply the following principles to the exercise of its dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams and flood-prone dams functions under the Act.

1. Dam owners have the primary responsibility for identifying, monitoring and reporting on dangerous, earthquake-prone and flood-prone dams and for reducing or removing the risk of harm to people, property and the environment in a timely and effective manner.
2. An engineer engaged (by the owner) to provide a certificate for the purposes of sections 135(1)(b), 142(1)(b), or 150(2)(f) will notify Council and the owner of the dam, in writing and within 5 working days, if they believe that the dam is dangerous.
3. The state of all dangerous, earthquake-prone and flood-prone dams (as defined in the Act and the Regulations) must be known by dam owners (noting that other dam safety provisions in the Act apply to all dams) and this information, if known to the Council, will be made readily available by the Council, to all persons potentially affected by the safety risks of a dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone dams.

⁴ Section 19 of the Regulations defines moderate earthquake, moderate flood, earthquake threshold event and flood threshold event.

⁵ The Regulations: legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0133/latest/whole, and the Act: legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2004/0072/latest/whole

4. Council's approach to performing these functions

4.1. Information on dam status

The Council will keep a register of dams as required by section 151 of the Act recording the dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone status of each classifiable dam on the register. The Council will develop a monitoring procedure to ensure information held in the register is up to date. This information will be provided to the Chief Executive and the relevant territorial authority to update property files and any relevant land information memorandum.

Should the Council receive information about a dangerous, earthquake-prone and flood-prone dam in its regional boundary, the Council will notify the relevant territorial authority and West Coast Emergency Management (West Coast Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group). West Coast Emergency Management will be requested to notify potentially affected lifeline utility providers.

4.2. Working with dam owners

Legislation requires owners of all classifiable dams to notify the Council of their dam classification and whether the dam is dangerous, and any changes, in a timely manner, to comply with the Act and the Regulations. The Act requires dam owners to notify the Council immediately if they have reasonable grounds for believing their dam is dangerous. This applies to dams that are either a high potential impact dam or a medium potential impact dam and are likely to fail in the ordinary course of events, or a in "moderate earthquake" or "moderate flood" (as defined in the Regulations).

The Act also requires an engineer (engaged by the owner) to provide documentation for the purposes of sections 135(1)(b), 142(1)(b), or 150(2)(f), to notify Council and the owner of the dam in writing and within 5 working days if they believe the dam is dangerous.

Owners of identified dangerous dams, earthquake-prone dams or flood-prone dams will develop an action plan (with timeframes) with the goals of increasing the safety of the dam and eliminating or reducing risks of the dam to people, property and the environment. It is not realistic to specify a timeframe in this policy for achieving this goal because timeframes will be dictated by the circumstances of each case. When setting a timeframe for action, the Council will consider the state of the dam, whether it is a dangerous dam, and the likelihood and consequences of dam failure.

4.3. Directing and taking action

The Council may intervene:

- For dangerous, earthquake-prone and flood-prone dams:
 - If the owner of any dam is not acting in accordance with an agreed action plan; or
 - Where there is no agreed action plan; or
 - Where it considers that the agreed action plan requires review or amendment; or
 - Where ownership is not known or is disputed.
- For all dams, where there is or likely to be a risk of immediate danger.

Before exercising any of its powers under sections 154 to section 159 of the Act the Council will, unless the circumstances dictate otherwise (such as where there is immediate danger to the safety of persons, property, or the environment), seek to discuss options for action with the owner of the dam, with a view to obtaining from the owner a mutually acceptable formal proposal for reducing or removing the danger. Acceptable actions by the owner may include but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- Operational changes such as reducing the volume of impounded fluid or completely emptying the reservoir;
- Reconfiguring an existing spillway, or creating a new or supplementary spillway, so as to limit the maximum impounded volume and/or to safely route flood flows;
- Increased surveillance and monitoring;
- Development of emergency preparedness and response plans;
- Review of the dam safety assurance programme;
- Engaging a dam specialist to investigate and make recommendations on how risks to people, property or the environment may be mitigated, with any report provided to the Council at the earliest opportunity;
- Implementing measures to enable controlled, rapid emptying of the impounded fluid;
- Measures downstream of the dam to mitigate the impact of dam failure;
- Physical works including reconstruction or partial demolition of the dam;
- Decommissioning and/or removal of the dam.

The whole or part of any agreement between the Council and the dam owner may be formalised in a Notice to Fix issued under section 164 of the Act. If agreement cannot be reached between the Council and the dam owner, the Council may exercise any of its statutory powers in sections 154 to section 159 and section 164 of the Act.

If no action is taken by the owner to address the danger, or action is not being taken by the owner in a timely manner, the Council may exercise any of its statutory powers in sections 154 to section 159 and section 164 of the Act.

The Council will notify potentially affected communities downstream of a dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone dam. The Council will do this by publishing information about any dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone dam in the West Coast region. The Council will liaise with West Coast Emergency Management on any actions taken in response to a dangerous, earthquake-prone, or flood-prone dam.

The Council may at any time require the dam owner to review a dam safety assurance programme if the dam is an earthquake-prone or flood-prone dam.

In a situation where a dam is dangerous, the Council may:

- Erect a hoarding or fence to prevent people from approaching the dam nearer than is safe.
- Attach a notice on or near the dam (or affected downstream areas) that warns people not to approach.
- Give written notice to the owner requiring work to be carried out on the dam, within the time stated in the notice for the purposes of removing or reducing the danger.

Where the Council takes action in response to a dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone dam, the Council will notify Poutini Ngai-Tahu where there is potential for the dam to affect any area of interest to the rūnanga.

If action is taken in response to a dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone dam, the Council will notify the relevant local territorial authority in which the dam is located.

In a situation where the Chief Executive of the Council considers that, because of the state of the dam, immediate danger to the safety of persons, property, or the environment is likely then the Chief Executive of the Council may:

- Cause any action to be taken that is necessary to remove that danger.
- Recover the costs of taking any action from the dam owner.

5. Council's priorities in performing these functions

The dangerous dam provisions of the Act will be used by the Council as a mechanism to remedy an unsatisfactory situation that has developed in the West Coast region, rather than as a means of responding to "emergencies" that arise in the future. The Council's approach to dangerous dams is therefore tailored towards achieving a reduction in pre-existing risk whilst still being able to deal with risks that emerge in the future.

In performing these functions, dams will be prioritised by Council as follows, in which Priority 1 is the highest priority and Priority 4 is the lowest priority:

1. Responding to any dam posing a risk of immediate danger, regardless of the potential impact classification of the dam, or the status of any dam safety assurance programme for the dam.
2. Reducing risks posed by dangerous dams, with high potential impact classification dangerous dams considered the highest priority. Those without a dam safety assurance programme will be prioritised over those with an approved dam safety assurance programme.
3. Reducing risks posed by earthquake-prone or flood-prone dams with high potential impact classification. Those without a dam safety assurance programme will be prioritised over those with an approved dam safety assurance programme.
4. Reducing risks posed by earthquake-prone or flood-prone dams with medium potential impact classification. Those without a dam safety assurance programme will be prioritised over those with an approved dam safety assurance programme.

When reducing the risks posed by a dangerous dam, earthquake-prone dam or flood-prone dam, the Council will give precedence to the requirement to remove or reduce the danger to public safety, and having addressed this, will then have regard to the potential for damage or loss to property and the environment including heritage matters.

6. Application to heritage dams

Heritage dams as defined in section 7 of the Act means a dam that is included on:

- a) the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero maintained under section 65 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014; or
- b) the National Historic Landmarks/Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu list maintained under section 81 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

Section 4(2)(l) of the Act recognises “the need to facilitate the preservation of buildings of significant cultural, historical, or heritage value”.⁶

The Council recognises the need to retain heritage values of the dam itself, but also the need to reduce or remove any risk posed by a heritage dam which has been classified as dangerous, flood-prone or earthquake-prone. When considering heritage dams under this policy, the Council will take into account the need to facilitate preservation of parts of the dams with significant heritage value.

When dealing with heritage dams, which are deemed dangerous, earthquake-prone, or flood-prone, or when taking action in response to any dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone dam that is located near a site which is entered on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero (including historic places, historic areas, wāhi tapu or wāhi tūpuna areas), or is otherwise identified by iwi as a place of cultural significance, the Council will seek advice from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga before any actions are undertaken by the Council under sections 153 to section 160 of the Act.

The Council may also engage suitably qualified professionals with engineering expertise and heritage expertise to advise and recommend actions. When considering any recommendations, the Council will have regard to the priorities set out in clause 5 of this policy. Copies of all notices served for all heritage dams which are deemed dangerous, earthquake-prone or flood-prone will be provided to Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.

The Council will record the heritage listing of all dangerous, earthquake-prone and flood-prone dams it is made aware of in its register of dams and supply this information to the relevant territorial authority for inclusion on property files and any relevant land information memorandum.

⁶ Under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA), the permission of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga must be sought prior to the modification or destruction of any archaeological site, whether or not the site is recorded. An archaeological site is described in the HNZPTA as a place associated with pre-1900 human activity, which may provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. Works to pre-1900 structures, such as dams, or earthworks near pre-1900 structures may require an archaeological authority to be obtained prior to works commencing. Please contact Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga for further information.