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West Coast Regional Council

AGENDA

Franz Josef Rating District Joint Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 17 November 2026

Time: 6pm

Venue: St. John's Medical Centre Hall
97 Cron Street, Franz Josef

This meeting will also be live streamed via West Coast Regional Council's YouTube Channel: @westcoastregionalcouncil51

The membership of the committee is:

- Ashley Cassin (Chair of the Joint Committee) - Councillor, Westland Constituency
- Colin Smith – Chair, West Coast Regional Council
- Andy Campbell – Councillor West Coast Regional Council - Westland Constituency
- Helen Lash – Mayor, Westland District Counci
- Janella Munns – Councillor, Westland District Council
- Brian Manera – Councillor, Westland District Council
- Paul Madgwick –Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio
- James Caygill - New Zealand Transport Agency
- Owen Kilgour - Department of Conservation
- Dale Straight –South side community representative
- Graham Berry – South side community representative
- Jeremy Williams – South side community representative
- Kelley Molloy – South side community representative
- Ian Hartshorne – North side community representative
- Grant Gibb – North side community representative
- Logan Skinner – North side community representative
- Kim Smith – North side community representative

Order of business

1. Welcome *(Haere mai)*

2. Apologies *(Ngā Pa Pouri)*

3. Declarations of Interest

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

5. Late Items

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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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If you require assistance to exit, please see a staff member. Once you reach the bottom of the stairs make your way to the assembly point at the grassed area at the front of the building. Staff will guide you to an alternative route if necessary.

Late Items

The Chairperson will give notice of items requiring urgent attention not on the agenda as follows.

Matters Requiring Urgent Attention as Determined by Resolution of the Council:

A meeting may deal with an item of business that is not on the agenda where the meeting resolves to deal with that item and the Chairperson provides the following information during the public part of the meeting:

1. The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
2. The reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

Items not on the agenda may be brought before the meeting through a report from either the chief executive or the Chairperson. The item may be allowed onto the agenda by resolution of the Council.

Minor Matters relating to the General Business of the Council:

A meeting may discuss an item that is not on the agenda only if it is a minor matter relating to the general business of the meeting and Chairperson explains at the beginning of the public part of the meeting that the item will be discussed. The meeting may not make a resolution, decision or recommendation about the item, except to refer it to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

6	**Minutes of Franz Josef Rating District Joint Committee Meetings – 18 March 2026 & 15 June 2026**
Author	Rasela Barrow, Executive Assistant
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive the minutes of the Franz Josef Rating District Joint Committee meetings of 18 March 2026 & 15 June 2026.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolves to:

1. *Confirm that the minutes of the Franz Josef Rating District Joint Committee meeting held on 18 March 2026 are a true and correct record.*
2. *Confirm that the minutes of the Franz Josef Rating District Joint Committee Extraordinary meeting held on 15 June 2026 are a true and correct record.*

Attachments

Attachment 1: Franz Josef Rating District Joint Committee Meeting Minutes – 18 March 2026

Attachment 2: Franz Josef Rating District Joint Committee Extraordinary Meeting Minutes – 15 June 2026

FRANZ JOSEF JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE FRANZ JOSEF JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 18 MARCH 2026
AT THE FRANZ JOSEF ST JOHN'S MEETING ROOM
97 CRON STREET, FRANZ JOSEF, COMMENCING AT 6:00PM

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PRESENT:
A. Cassin (Councillor, West Coast Regional Council and Chair of Franz Josef Joint Committee)
C. Smith (Chair, West Coast Regional Council)
A. Campbell (Councillor, West Coast Regional Council)
H. Lash (Mayor, Westland District Council)
B. Manera (Councillor, Westland District Council)
J. Munns (Councillor, Westland District Council)
(South-side community representative)
D. Straight (South-side community representative)
G. Berry (South-side community representative)
J. Williams (South-side community representative)
G. Gibb (North-side community representative)
L. Skinner (North-side community representative - via Zoom)

IN ATTENDANCE:
D. Lew (Chief Executive, West Coast Regional Council)
P. Ewen (Councillor, West Coast Regional Council)
C. Weeks (Group Manager Corporate Services, West Coast Regional Council)
M. Beagle (GM Catchment Manager, West Coast Regional Council)
T. Hopkins (Capital Programme Manager, West Coast Regional Council)
W. Spencer (Area Engineer, West Coast Regional Council)
R. Barrow (Executive Assistant, West Coast Regional Council)
M. Wilde (Governance Support Officer, West Coast Regional Council)
T. Wyndham-Smith (Principal Communications and Engagements Advisor)

B. Phillips (Chief Executive, Westland District Council)
S.Hoare (IRG Programme Manager, Inovo – via Zoom)
W. Costello (Department of Conservation)
K. Luxon (on behalf of Kim Smith, North side community representative)

IN ATTENDANCE Stephen Sortees
Vihan Dalal (Local Democracy Reporter)

PUBLIC FORUM:
Craig Rankin
Paul Cumming
Chris Brooks
Dale Burrows
Janelle Shaw
Richard Molloy
Ryan Matchett
Lisa Stevenson
Barry Hughes
Gerard Oudemans
Gavin Molloy
Grant White
Sonia Pettigrew
Ange K*

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1. Welcome

A. Cassin opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received. It was noted that W. Costello would be representative on behalf of O. Kilgour, and K. Luxon on behalf of K. Smith. It was also noted that I. Hartshorne attempted to join the meeting by phone-call via L. Skinner AV connection however his ability to be fully present at the meeting was limited.

Moved (H. Lash/G. Berry) *apologies for Paul Madgewick (Te Rūnunga o Makaawhio), Kelley Molloy (South-side community representative), Kim Smith (North-side community representative) Ian Hartshorne (North-side community representative), Owen Kilgour (Department of Conservation), and James Caygill (New Zealand Transport Agency) were accepted.*

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations

There were no public speakers, petitions, or deputations.

5. Late Items

There were no late items for discussion.

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6. Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Minutes of Franz Josef Joint Committee Meeting – 12 February 2025 & 31 July 2025

The Chair invited corrections to the Minutes of the meetings held 12 February 2025 and 31 July 2025. There were none.

Moved (H. Lash/A. Cassin) *the Minutes of Franz Josef Joint Committee Meeting – 12 February 2025 are a true and accurate record.*

Carried

[L. Skinner abstained from the vote.]

Moved (G. Berry/D. Straight) *the Minutes of Franz Josef Joint Committee Meeting – 31 July 2025 are a true and accurate record.*

Carried

[L. Skinner abstained from the vote.]

7. Action List

The Actions List was reviewed, and updates on the action items were provided during the discussion, noting the following:

- ACT003 – Completed. There was a discussion regarding the completion of this action and associated costs not tabled in the Financial Report. It was addressed that some detail related to invoicing of costs was excluded in the publicly available financial report due to commercial sensitivity. These costs were confidentially discussed by the Franz Josef Working Group (elected community representatives) and WCRC staff under non-disclosure agreement. There was an expression that this action was inadequately completed.
- ACT009 – Ongoing. This action was reported as superseded by proposals in the capital project update for Stage 2, to be addressed in Agenda Item 9.1.
- ACT0011 – Ongoing. A financial report will be addressed in Agenda Item 9.4, noting properties excluded from rates invoicing.
- ACT0041 – Ongoing. It was reported that West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) and Westland District Council (WDC) Chief Executives and Chair/Mayor are in discussion with central government officials and Ministers to address the issue and concern regarding Franz Josef oxidation ponds.

Moved (H. Lash/A. Cassin) *that the Actions List is received and the information noted.*

Carried

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8. Chair's Report

The Chair delivered a verbal report, noting the meeting as the first Franz Josef Rating District Joint Committee meeting of the new triennium, as well as farewell to the previous WCRC members, Cr Cummings and Cr Haddock. The collaborative input of the Franz Josef Working Group was acknowledged with appreciation, and the Action List was commended for work by WDC and WCRC.

Moved (G. Berry/B. Manera) *that the Chair's Report is received.*

Carried

9.1 Franz Josef Stage 1 and Stage 2 Projects Update

T. Hopkins and S. Hoare addressed the report. There was a discussion on the physical and financial progress across both Stages of the projects, noting the following:

- The project is currently expected to be delivered below budget for approved works;
- Stage 1 practical completion is awaiting an additional stormwater culvert by MBD Contracting Ltd, to be completed in May 2026;
- Stage 2 practical completion of rubbish dump stop banks (both lined and unlined sections) is achieved, and The Milton and others' stopbank works has also commenced with MBD Contracting Ltd, whilst vegetation removal is delayed pending investigation of raising the Rata Knoll section;
- There remains a 60:40 government-to-local share after expenditure within the approved budget for Stage 2 works has occured, and the opportunity to access the 60:40 (Kānoa) funding would be lost if works are not approved for completion prior to 30 June 2026.

There was a discussion about the technical merits and financial implications of two new proposals, including a raise of Rata Knoll section, and an extension of Milton and others' stopbank, as well as risks and potential outcomes of the proposal, noting the following:

- The Rata Knoll section proposal was noted to be a 'scale-up' solution for flood protection based on current trends and reporting, acknowledging 'defect liability' of the existing structure and time constraint for the proposals' forecast completion.
- The 500-metre extension to Milton and others' stopbank stemmed from historic proposals, however the Committee were not fully supportive of the proposal

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given the uncertainty of the river's flow and effect, as well as consideration for community consultation being necessary given the significant cost.
- Whilst WCRC and WDC were supportive of the Committee's notion against the Milton and others' stopbank extension, it was acknowledged that threat of avulsion would still need to be further addressed and funding would need to be sought for short-term solution.

Prior to resolving the overall discussion by vote, the matter of membership and 'voting rights' was addressed by the Chair, and it was actioned that clarification of 'proxy arrangements' i.e. delegation to represent elected members at Committee meetings, and Terms of Reference, would be reported and provided to the Committee prior to future meetings.

Moved (D. Straight/G. Berry) *the report is received.*

Carried

Moved (G. Berry/D. Straight) *to endorse the proposal to proceed with a raise of the crest of the Rata Knoll section of the Milton & Others' Stopbank at an estimated cost of $157,303 (Local Share $62,921).*

[L. Skinner abstained from the vote. It is noted that I. Hartshorne 'voted against' however this vote was disregarded due to lack of visible and consistent presence throughout the meeting.]

Carried

Moved (D. Straight/G. Berry) *to reject the proposal to proceed with a 500m extension of the Milton & Others' Stopbank at an estimated cost of $2,402,000 (Local Share $970,000).*

Carried

9.2 Waiho Avulsion Update

T. Hopkins addressed the report, emphasising avulsion of Waiho River had been progressing faster than originally modelled and forecast. The following was also noted:

- Since the last committee meeting, two reports had been commissioned summarising avulsion progress since March 2025;
- The avulsion is widening and approaching Havill's Wall;

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- The avulsion is currently confined in its own channel and unlikely to redirect back into the mainstream in the medium term.
- Resurvey of the avulsion would enable comprehensive analysis over the coming weeks, providing current verification of ground observations and community reports on the avulsion's development.

Moved (A. Cassin/H. Lash) *that the report is received, and that analysis of complete vertical scope of Waiho river is to be completed and reported at a later date.*

Carried

9.3 Lake Pratt Enlargement

C. Cameron addressed the report, and having taken it as read, requested questions from the Committee. There were none.

Moved (A. Cassin/C. Smith) *that*:

1. *The report is received.*
2. *Note that Council will continue to monitor the development of Lake Pratt with input from hydrological and geomorphological experts.*
3. *Note that a communications plan is being developed to ensure that interested parties are kept informed of likely impacts from the growth of Lake Pratt.*
4. *Note that a similar update report was prepared for the Council's Operations Committee meeting held on 3 March 2025.*

Carried

9.4 Franz Josef District Financial Statement FY 2025

C. Weeks addressed the report, noting the following:

- Financial statements for Franz Josef and Lower Waiho are now consolidated, providing a high-degree of financial transparency previously difficult to identify by reporting on two separate rating districts;
- Consolidated reporting for Franz Josef and Lower Waiho would be the continued approach for future financial reporting;
- Repayments on the Consolidated Franz Josef loan would be made at the rate set by LGFA.

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The outstanding rates rebates for affected North-side property owners was also addressed, and an apology for the untimely-manner unto which it has taken to resolve the former Joint Committees' rebates issue, with the following noted:

- A refund for affected North-side property owners, excluding rock stockpile, was quantified at $414,000 as of 30 June 2021;
- The rock stockpile component involving 5,300 tonnes was equated to a value of $49.40 per tonne based on market-rates at the time;
- Affected North-side property owners will be contacted with confirmation of a refund via verification process of phone and email communications from WCRC staff, and a 'Tranche 1' payment run will be transactionally made to all verified affected North-side property owners as opposed to making individual 'one-off' payments.

Moved (A. Cassin/C. Smith) *that the report is received.*
2. the Consolidated Financial Accounts for Franz Josef and Lower Waiho – for year ended 30 June 2025, are accepted.

Carried

9.5 Franz Josef Rating District Annual Works Report FY2024-2025

W. Spencer addressed the report, emphasising investigation into the maintenance cot budget based on ongoing assessment of the stopbank conditions. The proposed maintenance rate strike of $235,200.00 excluding GST was discussed, noting the following:

- The proposed budget was strongly opposed by the Committee's community representatives, based on the significant increase to ratepayers and current climate for cost-of-living;
- Compliance inspections costs were an independent-contract cost that resulted from a previous Environmental Court settlement with Scenic Hotel Group and could not be removed from the budget;
- Insurance costs were necessary for maintaining eligibility for NEMA funding;
- The option to amend other tabled costs listed i.e. vegetation removal, was considered by the Committee, and it was requested that any works to be amended in the budget should be clearly articulated by the Committee to WCRC staff for the planning of future work programmes;
- The additional 'allowance' calculated at 1% of the capital cost of works to Waiho River stopbank, respective of the current standard of the asset, was

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unsupported on the premise that Waiho River stopbanks are newly built and should require very minimal maintenance;
- Innadequate maintenance funding resulting in depreciation of the stopbanks could void insurance coverage and trigger audit requirements for asset depreciation if it were determined that the stopbanks were not being maintained to their constructed service level.

Moved (H. Lash/D. Straight) *to receive the report.*

Carried

Moved (D. Straight/G. Gibb) *the rate strike for the 2026/27 financial year remains at $150,000 excluding GST.*

Carried

[A. Cassin, C. Smith, and A. Campbell abstained from the vote.]

Meeting closed at 7.57pm.

.....
Chair

.....
Date

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FRANZ JOSEF JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE FRANZ JOSEF JOINT COMMITTEE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2026 AT THE FRANZ JOSEF ST JOHN'S MEETING ROOM 97 CRON STREET, FRANZ JOSEF, COMMENCING AT 5:30PM

PRESENT:

Chair A. Cassin (West Coast Regional Council, Joint Committee Chair)
Cr A. Campbell (West Coast Regional Council)
Cr C. Smith (West Coast Regional Council Chair)
Mayor H. Lash (Westland District Council)
Cr B. Manera (Westland District Council)
Cr J. Munns (Westland District Council)
P. Madgwick (Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio) – via Zoom
O. Kilgour (Department of Conservation) – via Zoom
G. Berry (South-side community representative)
D. Straight (South-side community representative)
J. Williams (South side community representative)
G. Gibb (North-side community representative)
I. Hartshorne (North-side community representative) – via Zoom
L. Skinner (North-side community representative)
K. Smith (North-side community representative) – via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

D. Lew (West Coast Regional Council, Chief Executive) – via Zoom
B. Phillips (Westland District Council, Chief Executive)
T. Hopkins (West Coast Regional Council, Capital Program Manager)
W. Spencer (West Coast Regional Council, Area Engineer)
C. Weeks (West Coast Regional Council, Group Manager Corporate Services) – via Zoom
R. Barrow (West Coast Regional Council, Executive Assistant)
Scott Hoare (Inovo) – via Zoom
Ben Pasco (Tetra Tech Coffey) – via Zoom

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IN ATTENDANCE	Todd Mears
PUBLIC FORUM:	Sonia Pettigrew
	Pete Dennehy

1. Welcome

Chair Cassin opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from K. Molloy (South-side community representative)

Moved (Lash / Cassin) *apologies from* K. Molloy *were accepted.*

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Reports

4.1 Investment Fund Contribution to Franz Josef Flood Protection Scheme Upgrade

- The report was addressed by T. Hopkins, and the following was noted:
- A summary of Franz Josef Flood Protection Stage 2 Upgrade was given, including original scope of Havill's Wall extension having a budget of $2.8m; in July 2025, the Committee resolved not to proceed with the extension due to affordability concerns for the rating district.
- Based on updated information from Council's annual bed-level survey staff recommend against the extension and instead proposed prioritising underpinning the existing toe rock along the full length of Havill's Wall stopbank and constructing a groyne head on the end of the existing stopbank to provide limited protection to Westland District Council's bund below the treatment ponds and additional protection to the downriver end of Havill's Wall. This estimated project cost is $1.4 million, with $840,000 from Kānoa and $560,000 from the West Coast Regional Council's investment fund.
- Current toe rock depth of Havill's Wall is approximately 2 metres below bed-level; the riverbed is expected to degrade at least another 2 metres hence

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the proposal is to excavate a roughly 4-metre-deep trench and add 1.5 to 3 metres of additional toe rock.

- The Waiho River avulsion channel is expected to continue to down-cut, widen, and migrate upriver, with stabilisation and aggradation of the river expected to occur again within (anywhere between) 5 and 15 years.
- It was emphasised that the wastewater treatment plant must be relocated due to consenting requirements and the threat posed by the Waiho River, along with the growth of Franz Josef and number of visitors, and that the Future Franz' masterplan is still being developed; it was reiterated that a comprehensive masterplan is expected before further funding for Franz Josef would be considered by government officials.

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

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Endorse the proposal to add the $1 million offered by West Coast Regional Councillors from West Coast Regional Council's Investment Fund to the Franz Josef Stage 2 (Havill's Wall Upgrade) Project budget; noting that $560k of the $1m contribution will be allocated to provisional costs for the Havill's Wall Upgrade as reported, whilst allocation of $440k remaining funds will be decided for use at the discretion of Franz Josef Rating District Joint Committee, pending a later meeting date.*
3. *Note a paper will be provided back to the Regional Council with the outcome of this decision.*

Carried

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.47pm.

Chair .....

Date .....

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7	**Actions List**
Author	Chris Chinn, Principal Governance Advisor
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

This report is a summary of action items from previous meetings.

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

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolves to:

1. Receive the report and the information noted.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Actions List

Item No.	Reference	Date of Meeting	Item	Officer	Update
1.	ACT0011	12 February 2025	Review and address the issue of properties not being rated correctly for flood protection rates.	Group Manager – Corporate Services	A verbal update to be provided at the meeting.
2.	ACT0046	18 March 2026	Clarification on Joint Committee member 'delegates' or 'proxy membership', including voting rights, to be provided to the Joint Committee via email.	Group Manager - Catchment Management	Complete - The Franz Josef Joint Committee Terms of Reference (ToR) does not specify proxy arrangements for voting. The ToR fall under the WCRC Standing Orders, which follow the Local Government Act (Clause 24, Schedule 7). Under the LGA, decisions and questions must be determined by a vote of the majority of members that are present. Therefore a reasonable interpretation is that voting rights relate solely to the members who are physically or audio-visually present at the meeting, members cannot appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf.
3.	ACT0047	18 March 2026	Provide the Committee with an avulsion analysis report of complete vertical scope of Waiho River.	Group Manager - Catchment Management	An update will be provided at the meeting.

Item No.	Reference	Date of Meeting	Item	Officer	Update
4.	ACT0048	15 June 2026	Prepare a paper on the outcome of the Committee's decision for endorsement by WCRC councillors and decide on the use of the remaining $440,000 balance of the investment fund contribution.	Group Manager - Catchment Management / Group Manager Corporate Services	Complete – Refer agenda paper 9.3 of this meeting.

9.1	**IRG 'Shovel Ready' and RIF 'Flood Resilience' Projects Update**
Author	Tom Hopkins, Capital Programme Manager
Authorizer	Michael Beagle, Group Manager Catchment Management
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

The report provides an update on progress with the Infrastructure Reference Group Projects funded Franz Josef Flood Protection Scheme Upgrade (Stage 1), and Regional Infrastructure Fund Flood Resilience Projects funded Franz Josef Flood Protection Scheme Upgrade (Stage 2).

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report*

Attachments

Attachment 1: Franz Josef IRG & RIF Projects Update

FRANZ JOSEF IRG/RIF PROJECTS UPDATE

PROJECT	Franz Josef Stages 1 and 2	DATE	30/10/2026
SUBJECT	Rating District Joint Committee Meeting Update		
ISSUED BY	Scott Hoare	Programme Manager	
ISSUED TO	Tom Hopkins	West Coast Regional Council	

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a status update for the Franz Josef Stage 1 Infrastructure Reference Group (IRG) and Franz Josef Stage 2 Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) projects.

STAGE 1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Stopbank works are complete with Practical and Final Completion Certificates issued.
- The stormwater culvert to drain ponded water from behind the Link Bank has been installed. Some minor additional work has been requested by the designer, this will be installed by the contractor while they are onsite completing the Havill's Wall Upgrade as part of Franz Josef Stage 2.
- Additional work to the culvert has also been requested by WCRC Chief Engineer, the designer is reviewing the options and a recommendation to the Chief Engineer is expected in November.
- Formal transfer of ownership of Havill's Wall from WDC to WCRC has commenced with the engagement of a legal advisor to prepare the required transfer documents.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The cost to end August 2026 on the Stage 1 project is $11,015,505 against the original budget of $12,291,463.

Estimated forecast cost to complete - September 2026	
Spend to end August 2026	$ 11,015,505
Link Bank Culvert – additional works	$ 20,000
Design and modelling	$ 10,000
Project Management and Engineer to Contract	$ 13,000
Legal Fees	$ 8,000
Rock Purchase from Rating District stockpile	$ 137,000
Total forecast expenditure	**$ 11,203,505**

With the removal of the NZTA South Bank stopbank upgrade from scope the NZTA contribution has been returned to NZTA to undertake these works independently. Based on the estimated forecast cost to complete this will result in a circa $427,000 reduction of the Rating District local share from $1,914,055 to $1,484,908 as shown in the table

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below.

Funding Split		
Funding Source	Revised Budget	Forecast funding at completion
Kanoa	$ 9,218,597	$ 9,218,597
Rating District Loan	$ 1,914,055	$ 1,484,908
NZTA Contribution	$ -	$ -
WCRC Contribution	$ 250,000	$ 250,000
WDC Contribution	$ 250,000	$ 250,000
Total	**$ 11,632,652**	**$ 11,203,505**

STAGE 2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Overall:
  - A ceremony was held on Monday 07 September 2026 to celebrate the completion of upgrades to WCRC stopbanks on the south bank of the Waiho River. Associate Minister for Regional Development Mark Patterson, Westland Mayor Helen Lash and WCRC Chair Colin Smith attended and spoke at the event.
- Rubbish Dump Stopbank (previously Lined Rubbish Dump Stopbank):
  - The Rubbish Dump Stopbank has reached the stages of Practical and Final Completion and certificates have been issued.
  - An uplift in height was investigated and found to not be required.
- Willow's Stopbank (previously Unlined Rubbish Dump Stopbank):
  - Willow's Stopbank has reached the stages of Practical and Final Completion and certificates have been issued.
  - An uplift in height was investigated and found to not be required.
- Rata Knoll Stopbank (previously Milton and Others' Stopbank):
  - Rata Knoll Stopbank has reached the stages of Practical and Final Completion and certificates have been issued.
- Milton and Others' Stopbank:
  - A proposed extension of Milton's Stopbank was investigated, and the Joint Committee resolved to not proceed with this proposal.
- Havill's Wall:
  - Project scope changed from a proposed extension to a toe rock upgrade with an approved budget of $1.4M.
  - Detailed design has been completed and approved by WCRC's Chief Engineer.
  - Construction has been awarded to MBD Contracting via a variation to an existing contract.
  - Construction was scheduled to commence 21 September 2026 but was delayed to 19 October 2026 while the contractor awaited delivery and commissioning of new base station for machine control, due date for completion remains at 23 November 2026.
  - Agreement reached to fund the rating district local share contribution (40% = $560,000) of the Havill's Wall Upgrade from a WCRC investment fund.
- NZTA Stopbanks:
  - Removed from scope.

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FINANCIAL UPDATE

The cost on the project to end August 2026 is $3,572,626 against the approved budget of $6,500,000.

Life to Date					
Funds	Approved Budget (A)	Total Spend to Date (Actuals) (B)	Forecast cost to complete (C)	Forecast cost at completion (B + C = D)	Project Variance (A - D)
Rubbish Dump	$ 2,500,000	$ 1,761,204	$ 11,000	$ 1,772,204	$ 727,796
Milton and Others'	$ 2,600,000	$ 1,430,975	$ 10,500	$ 1,441,475	$ 1,158,525
Havill's	$ 1,400,000	$ 331,213	$ 1,068,787	$ 1,400,000	$ -
Sub-total	$ 6,500,000	$ 3,523,392	$ 1,090,787	$ 4,613,679	$ 1,886,321
NZTA	$ 49,234	$ 49,234	$ -	$ 49,234	$ -
Total	**$ 6,549,234**	**$ 3,572,626**	**$ 1,090,287**	**$ 4,662,913**	**$ 1,886,321**

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REPORTS

9.2	**Franz Josef Rating District 2-25-26 Financial Statement**
Author	Tracy Fitzgerald, Senior Management Accountant
Authoriser	Colin Weeks, Group Manager Corporate Services, CFO
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the Franz Josef Rating District with the Financial Accounts for 12 months to 30 June 2026.

Report Summary

Franz Josef Financials shows total revenue of $157,994 less expenses of $121,140. This resulted in increasing the prudent reserve from $275,971 to $312,825. The targeted prudent reserve is $670,000. There is a shortfall between targeted and actual reserves of $357,175.

The loan balance increased from $1,258,727 at 30 June 2025 to $2,583,422 at 30 June 2026.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Accept the Financial Accounts for the 2025/26 financial year*

Attachments

Attachment 1:	Franz Josef Rating District Financial Accounts for 12 months to 30 June 2026.

WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
FRANZ JOSEF DISTRICT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS
For the 12 Months to 30 June 2026

	2025/26 YTD	2025/26 BUDGET	2024/25 YTD
Franz Josef Merged Opening Balance	275,971		354,119
OPENING RESERVES BALANCE 1 JULY 2025	**275,971**	**-**	**354,119**
REVENUE			
Insurance Recoveries	-	-	128
Internal interest income / (expense)	8,971	-	3,603
Rates	149,022	150,000	157,720
TOTAL REVENUE	**157,994**	**150,000**	**161,451**
EXPENDITURE			
Advertising	865	-	351
Contractors	34,577	80,519	37,423
Consultants	12,059	-	8,165
Insurance	22,886	23,031	16,310
Postage	-	-	570
Resource Consents	-	-	9,485
Staff Time	50,478	46,250	37,380
Meals and accomodation	102	-	-
Venue Hire	174	200	109
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**121,140**	**150,000**	**109,792**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**36,853**	**-**	**51,659**
LESS:			
Capital Expenditure	-		75,908
Transfer of Prior Year Adjustment			53,899
	-		129,807
CLOSING RESERVES AS AT 30 JUNE 2026	**312,825**	-	**275,971**

TB Fitzgerald.

Senior Management Accountant
26 September 2026

Loan Summary	2025/26 Actual		2024/25 Actual
Opening Balance 1 July	**1,258,727**		-
Lower Waiho Loan Transfer			**303,975**
Less Reserve Credit Balance			(75,198)
Loans Raised	1,461,388		1,043,182
Transfer from prior year loan reserve*	48,034		
Loan repayments	(184,726)		(13,232)
Closing Balance	**2,583,422**		**1,258,727**
Rates revenue	(266,792)		-
Applied to interest	82,065		34,802.36
Applied to loan repayment	184,726		13,232.00
Total	**0**	-	**48,034**

* This is due to a rating shortfall in the previous year as interest costs were higher than anticipated and the drawdown of loans were higher than expected.

TB Fitzgerald.

Senior Management Accountant
26 September 2026

REPORTS

9.3	**Franz Josef Rating District Loans**
Author	Fiona Ferrar
Authoriser	Colin Weeks, Group Manager Corporate Services
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to finalise treatment of the $1 million in grant funding as resolved by Council on 19 May 2026 to "contribute to the significant cost of the capital projects currently underway in each rating district".

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Accept the Council recommendation to reduce the internal loan for Franz Josef by $1 million in* the 2026-27 financial year.

Issues and Discussion

Background

A report was presented to this committee on 15 June 2026 to seek endorsement of a proposal to add $1 million from the West Coast Regional Council's investment fund to the Franz Josef Stage 2 (Havill's Wall Upgrade) project budget. The following resolution was passed:

Endorse the proposal to add the $1 million offered by West Coast Regional Councillors from West Coast Regional Council's Investment Fund to the Franz Josef Stage 2 (Havill's Wall Upgrade) Project budget; noting that $560k of the $1m contribution will be allocated to provisional costs for the Havill's Wall Upgrade as reported, whilst allocation of $440k remaining funds will be decided for use at the discretion of Franz Josef Rating District Joint Committee, pending a later meeting date.

That report stated that "If the agreed scope of work and cost results in less than $1 million being required to fund the local share, then the balance of the investment fund contribution can be used to supplement the existing rock stockpile at Franz and/or be added to the rating districts' reserves to contribute to future maintenance."

Upon further review the recommendation for the best option for current and future ratepayers is to reduce the current internal loan for Franz Josef by $1 million in the current year which would reduce the interest payable on the loan and hence the targeted rate.

A report was presented to Council on 3 November 2026 recommending that "Withdraw $4 million from the JBWere fund and reduce the internal loans of Franz Josef, Greymouth, Hokitika and Westport by $1 million each in the 2026-27 financial year." Council approved the recommendation for Greymouth, Hokitika and Westport but requested that a further report be prepared for this committee to endorse that recommendation.

This recommendation came as part of a report outlining the treasury function and how investments and external/internal debt are administered. As part of that report it was explained that the internal loan book is used to calculate the interest and principal payments which are to be funded through targeted rates rather than general rates. For Franz Josef, the internal loan includes all of the capital expenditure that has been funded by loan to be repaid through the targeted rate for the loan.

The most effective way of reducing costs for the Franz Josef ratepayers is to use the $1 million to reduce the loan. The balance of the loan as at 30 June 2026 was $2.583 million. This would reduce that loan to $1.583m. The term of the loan would stay at 15 years as per the previous resolution.

Considerations

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.

Financial implications

The recommendations adopted from this paper will be used in the calculation for the targeted rate set for interest and principal repayments for the Franz Josef Loan.

Legal implications

Not applicable

9.4 Franz Josef Rating District Annual Works Report 2025/2026

West Coast Regional Council –Franz Josef Rating District

2026 Annual Works Report on Rating District Assets

Executive summary

This report outlines a summary of work undertaken as part of the Franz Josef Rating Districts annual works program for the 2025/2026 financial year including any maintenance, capital works and surveys undertaken. Additionally, this report details scheduled work for the 2026/2027 FY and proposes work required for the 2027/2028 financial year which includes consultation of the 2027/2028 maintenance rate, insurance premiums and engineer cost recovery.

Maintenance works summary 2025/2026

Vegetation mulching	$13,800.00
Vegetation weed spraying	$9,051.62
Resource Consent compliance monitoring	$6,080.00
Installation of 2 camera poles	$5,645.00
Total maintenance works for the 2025/26 financial year:	**$34,576.62**

Administration (other expenditure)

Advertising	$865.00
Postage	$0.00
Venue Hire	$174.00
Resource Consent annual charges	$0.00
Consultant's Professional fees for advice	$12,059.00
Insurance	$22,886.00
Staff Time	$50,478.00
Meals & accommodation	$102.00
Total other expenditure for the 2025/26 financial year:	**$121,140.62**

DRAFT

Capital works carried out from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

No non-project capital works undertaken during the year	**$0**
Project capital works for the 2025/26 financial year:	Refer to Project Works Report

Maintenance works carried out during this financial year to date (25/26)

Relocate 800t of rock to Havill Bank	$9,750
Total maintenance works completed for this financial year to date	**$9,750**

Future maintenance works to be carried out to end of this financial year

Vegetation Management	$10,000
Access maintenance	$10,000
Resource Consent Compliance Inspections	$20,000
Allow for unforeseen maintenance	$6,050
Total maintenance works estimated for remainder of this financial year	**$55,800**

Franz Josef Rating District financial balance

The balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2026 / 2027 financial year is approximately $312,825

This target balance for the 'prudent reserve' for this rating district is $670,000 and currently the balance is well below what is required.

This prudent reserve does not meet the target balance, however the funds that exist are immediately accessible for urgent emergency works that may be required following a major weather event.

It is likely the current reserve will only cover a portion of the actual cost of the potential damage that could occur.

Proposed Rates for the 2027 / 2028 financial year

Asset maintenance allowance

- Vegetation management $20,000

DRAFT

• Stopbank maintenance	$20,000
• Rock nourishment	$20,000
• Reactive repairs	$20,000
	$80,000
Resource Consent Compliance Inspections	$26,000
Engineers Cost Recovery	$40,000
Infrastructure Insurance	$35,000
Advertising/mailouts	$1,000
Hall hire	$200
Prudent Reserve Contribution	$17,800
Total:	**$200,000**

Council recommends a total maintenance rate strike of $200,000 excluding GST.

General Business.

Asset Inspections

Engineering staff are undertaking regular inspection and condition gradings of flood protection assets in the district. Information collected from this survey is now being analyzed and collated against criticality criteria to develop future work programming requirements. Funding for much of this work will be in addition to the normal annual maintenance activities. Area Engineers will develop some funding options for future community discussions.

Asset Maintenance

The Rating District has been very fortunate to date with the Capital Project covering the majority of the operational maintenance costs. However, as these capital works become completed and the assets are transferred over to the Operational Team a realistic maintenance budget is required to ensure the structures are kept in good condition. A good industry standard approach is to set a maintenance budget linked to 1% of the asset value. *($14,100,000 x 1% = $141,000).*

The lower recommended Asset Maintenance Allowance for the 2027/2028 financial year of $80,000 is an attempt to keep costs at an affordable level for the community. If this figure is unable to meet the needs of the years required work funds may need to be sourced from the Prudent Reserve.

DRAFT

9.5	**Rating District Annual Asset Condition Report**
Author	Lillian Crozier, Asset Management Coordinator, Catchment Management
Authoriser	Michael Beagle, Group Manager, Catchment Management
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

To present the Franz Josef Rating District & Joint Committee Annual Asset Condition Report summary pamphlet for the 2025-2026 financial year and provide members with an opportunity to discuss the condition of scheme assets and matters requiring follow-up.

Report Summary

The Annual Asset Condition Report Summary Pamphlet brings together recorded asset information, inspection findings, condition ratings and identified defects for the scheme.

The summary pamphlet explains the key findings in plain language to support discussion. The information helps identify matters for engineering assessment, further inspection, maintenance planning and improvements to asset records. Proposed works, costs and funding are considered through the separate Annual Works Report and financial reporting process.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note the attached Annual Asset Condition Report summary pamphlet, including the findings and follow-up matters identified for the rating district.

Issues and Discussion

Background

West Coast Regional Council manages flood protection, drainage and erosion-control assets associated with its rating districts. Regular inspections and condition reporting help staff understand how these assets are performing and identify where further assessment or work may be required.

Current situation

Further detail is provided in the attached summary pamphlet.

Note: This report pamphlet is for information purposes only.

Considerations

Implications/risks

Condition and defect information supports prioritisation but must be considered alongside engineering judgement, the consequences of failure, scheme performance and available resources. A condition rating alone does not establish the level of protection provided. Follow-up may include further assessment, inspection, maintenance planning or correction of asset records. Any immediate safety or operational concerns should be addressed promptly through the appropriate Council processes.

Significance and Engagement Policy assessment

This paper presents information and does not seek approval for a change to levels of service, new expenditure or targeted rates. Any subsequent proposal arising from the findings will be assessed separately under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, as appropriate.

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

Mana whenua views

No specific mana whenua views are recorded in this cover paper. Any matters relevant to mana whenua identified through the attached report or subsequent proposals should be considered through the appropriate Council engagement processes.

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

Views of affected parties

Rating district members are invited to provide local knowledge, raise concerns and discuss the findings and follow-up priorities. Relevant feedback will be recorded for staff consideration. Further engagement may be needed for any subsequent proposal affecting the scheme or its community.

Staff are not aware of any views of affected parties which impact on matters discussed in this Annual Asset Condition Report pamphlet.

Financial implications

Current budget

Receiving this report does not approve expenditure or alter the rating district's budget. Works, costs, rates and account balances are addressed through the separate Annual Works Report and financial reporting process.

Future implications

The findings may inform future maintenance, renewal or investigation requirements. Any proposed work will require engineering assessment, costing and consideration through the applicable planning, budget and approval processes.

Not applicable

Legal implications

No specific legal decision is sought through this information paper. Any subsequent works or changes to the scheme will be considered under the applicable Council processes and statutory requirements.

Not applicable

Attachments

Attachment: Franz Josef Rating District & Joint Committee Summary Pamphlet – 2025-2026 FY

Thank you

Thank you to the Joint Committee members, the Franz Josef community and landowners for supporting inspections, maintenance and local knowledge of these flood and erosion protection assets.

The key message

Franz Josef has 55 assets on the Waiho River, and most of the scheme is in good shape: of the 58 latest results that could be graded, 53 are **Good or Very Good**. Vegetation work was done in June 2026, the Rata Knoll upgrades were finished in August 2026, and the Havill's Wall upgrade is under way, with completion scheduled for November 2026. 17 defects are recorded: 12 logged so they can be planned into the works programme, 3 resolved, 1 deferred and 1 cancelled. Next: planning the logged repairs, tidying the asset records, finishing the AMP update and agreeing a practical maintenance programme through the Joint Committee.

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0508 800 118 | www.wcrc.govt.nz

Franz Josef

Rating District & Joint Committee

Our Flood & Erosion Protection Assets
Annual Report 2025/26

A simple summary for our community – a talking point for our meeting

Welcome

This is a short summary of how the flood and erosion protection on the Waiho River is looking. It shows what we have, what condition it is in, what problems have been spotted and what might happen next.

What protects Franz Josef?

The Waiho River carries huge amounts of gravel from the glacier, and its bed has risen over the years. Stopbanks and rock protection have been built and rebuilt since 1968 to protect the township, the airstrip and farmland. Today the rating district covers the Franz Josef township area and the Lower Waiho farmland downstream. Recent work includes the Milton & Others stopbank rebuilt after a 2019 flood, the Rata Knoll to Milton stopbank (2021), the new Link Bank and upgrades to the Rubbish Dump and Willows stopbanks (2025), and the Rata Knoll stopbank upgrade (2026).

Our assets in numbers

The Council's asset system lists these assets for the scheme.

55	24	21	5	5
assets in total	stopbank sections	riprap sections	groynes (rock spurs)	stockpiles, a culvert and a camera pole

Our stopbanks: Milton & Others, Rata Knoll, Willows, Rubbish Dump, the Link Bank and the Church Bank. **Owned by others:** Havill's (Westland District Council), Heliport (Hokitika Airport Authority), the Waka Kotahi NZTA banks including 55kph Corner, and Glacier Road (DOC).

Important – the AMP is being reviewed

The Council's Asset Management Plan (AMP) for Franz Josef (2023–2026) is the guidebook for looking after the scheme. It is reviewed every three years and is now being reviewed and updated. This pamphlet is here to help start the conversation.

What happens next?

1. Look at the highest-ranked defects

Start with spur WAI-16400R-SPU01 (page 9) and the four Medium defects: rock loss on riprap, vegetation on the Link Bank riprap, a stopbank drainage item and a ditch beside a stopbank.

2. Plan the riprap repairs

Logged rock top-ups and reshaping on the Milton & Others riprap, to be planned through the annual works report.

3. Decide about redundant assets

Confirm whether the missing spurs and the redundant stopbank sections stay on the asset list.

4. Tidy the records

Add the 17 checked assets not on the list, record first checks for the 10 listed assets, and close defects that are done.

5. Plan the work proposed

Put together a programme of works for defects, to be discussed and agreed through the Joint Committee, which makes recommendations to the Councils.

6. Finish updating the Asset Management Plan

Review the Franz Josef Asset Management Plan (AMP) (2023–2026), including the latest flood modelling and the new assets.

Questions we'd love to talk about

- ? Is there anything you would like more detail on?
- ? Are there local issues we should know about alongside this information?
- ? Do the maintenance and repair priorities make sense?
- ? What should we keep a close eye on?
- ? What would be useful to see in next year's report?

How often we check

How often each asset is checked is being confirmed across all of the Council's schemes, so this may change. After each check, the results are recorded in the asset system and talked through with the Joint Committee.

Where to find the rest

This booklet is about the **condition** of the assets and the **problems** that have been spotted.

The annual works report

Planned and proposed works, costs, rates, the loan and other money matters will be covered in the **annual works report** to the Joint Committee. It is a separate document, so none of those details are included here.

How the two fit together

This booklet: what we have, what condition it is in, what problems have been spotted and what we might look at next.

Annual works report: what work is planned and what it involves.

Your notes from the meeting

Who looks after the scheme?

Franz Josef is different from most rating districts: it has a **Joint Committee**.

Who is on the Joint Committee?

Under the Joint Committee Agreement (updated March 2024):

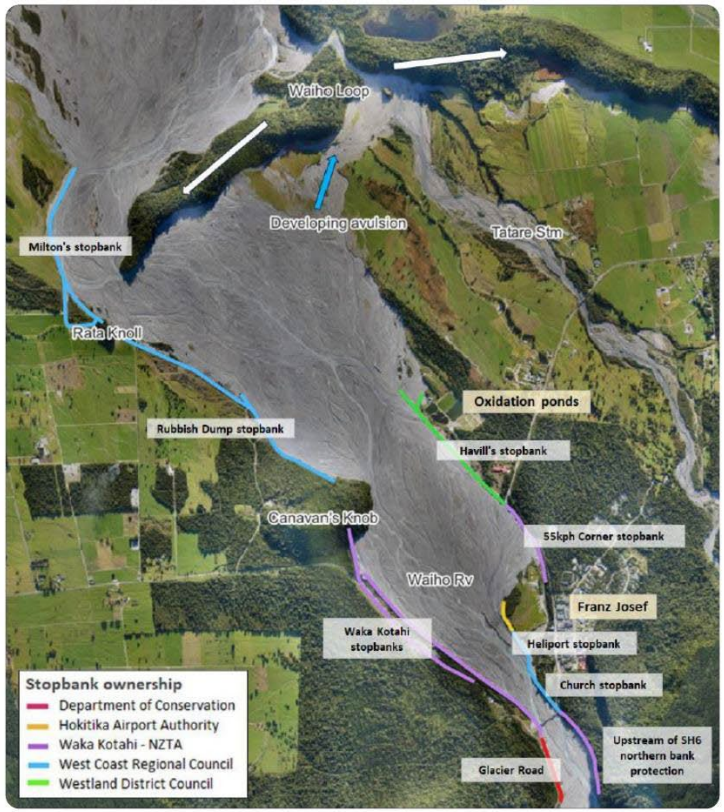
West Coast Regional Council	3 councillors
Westland District Council	the Mayor and 2 councillors
Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio	1
NZ Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi)	1
Department of Conservation	1
Community members	8 – four from each side of the Waiho River

The Chair alternates each year between the Regional Council Chair and the District Council Mayor. The Committee meets twice a year, under its current Terms of Reference.

What does it do?

Each year it looks at reports and expert advice and makes **recommendations** to the Councils on the work programme and budget. It does not set rates. The **Regional Council** makes the final decision on the work plan and the rate, and looks after the flood defence assets it owns. The **District Council** looks after stormwater, including pump stations and floodgates on drainpipes.

Where are our assets?



Map of the Waiho River stopbanks, coloured by who owns them (blue = West Coast Regional Council). The green line is Havill's stopbank (Westland District Council); purple lines are Waka Kotahi NZTA banks. An updated map is being prepared.

How we keep an eye on them

Area Engineers carry out regular checks of the assets, and extra checks can be done after significant weather events and after works. The results are recorded in the asset system and followed up with the Joint Committee.

What are these things?

Stopbank – an engineered earth bank that holds floodwater back. **Riprap** – large rock that protects a bank from erosion. **Groyne** – a rock structure built out from the bank to turn the flow. **Stockpile** – rock kept ready for emergencies.

What do they look like?

1 · Spur WAI-16400R-SPU01 · Erosion · Moderate (3) · High risk (criticality 5) · logged 13 Apr 2025



Asset system map – the spurs off the Church Bank (WAI-16400R at the bottom)

In plain English: this rock spur sticks out from the bank to turn the river away. The toe and nose could not be seen clearly or safely, but some rock may have been lost from the nose. Next: confirm whether the spur is still needed and who owns it, then top up if required.

2 · Link Bank riprap WAI-15300R-RRP01 · Vegetation overgrown · Moderate (3) · logged 15 Jan 2026



Scrub growing along the toe of the riprap

In plain English: scrub is growing along the bottom of this new rock riprap. Left alone, roots can loosen the rock. The recommended action is to cut it out, remove it and spray. It is logged so it can be planned into the works programme.

3 · Already done – Link Bank stopbank WAI-15500R-SBK01 · drainage · logged 13 Apr 2025



The Link Bank, where a culvert has now been installed

The April 2025 check suggested a culvert or spillway to drain stormwater in bigger events. **A culvert has now been installed**, so this record will be closed.

Photos and maps from the Council's asset system, cropped to fit.

Which problems come first?

We multiply how serious each defect is by how critical the asset is. Here are the 13 current defects (12 logged, 1 deferred):

1	4	6	2	0
High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Very High

The highest-ranked open defects

Asset	Severity × criticality	Risk
WAI-16400R-SPU01 Spur · rock may be lost from its nose · Logged (see page 9)	3 × 5 = 15	High
WAI-12400L-SBK02 Ditch beside a redundant stopbank · Deferred	4 × 3 = 12	Medium
WAI-14200L-RRP01 Rock loss · Logged	4 × 3 = 12	Medium
WAI-15500R-SBK01 Stopbank drainage · Logged	3 × 4 = 12	Medium
WAI-15300R-RRP01 Vegetation · Logged	3 × 4 = 12	Medium

Good to know

The Church and Link banks carry the highest criticality, so even routine jobs on them score high – a high score shows what to look at first, not that a bank has failed. One logged item on the Link Bank records that a culvert has now been installed; its record will be closed.

How to read the results

Condition (0 to 5)

How worn or damaged an asset is. **1 = Very Good**, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, **5 = Very Poor** (failed, or about to fail). A **0 means "unable to inspect"** – we could not do a proper check. That is not the same as poor.

Defect and severity

A **defect** is a problem an Area Engineer has spotted, like a crack in a path. **Severity** says how serious it looks, from 0 to 5 (1 = Low, 2 = Minor, 3 = Moderate, 4 = High, 5 = Severe; 0 = could not be determined). A defect is a flag to look closer – it does not mean the asset has failed.

Criticality (1 to 5)

How much it would matter if this asset failed. A higher number means bigger consequences.

Risk score = severity × criticality

To decide what to look at first, we multiply how serious the defect is (1–5) by how critical the asset is (1–5). That gives a score from 1 to 25, which sits in one of five groups: **Very Low, Low, Medium, High, Very High.**

Together, condition, severity and criticality help us decide what to look at first. Engineering judgement is used alongside the numbers.

The same approach across New Zealand

The asset management system and condition assessment approach used here is **prescribed nationally** across New Zealand for all flood schemes administered by regional councils. The Council's auditor, on behalf of the Auditor-General, also requires this system to be in place, with evidence that it is being applied.

How are the assets doing?

The Council's asset system shows the latest condition for **62 records** on the Waiho River:

0 – UNABLE TO INSPECT	1 – VERY GOOD	2 – GOOD	3 – FAIR	4 – POOR	5 – VERY POOR
4	18	35	3	1	1
6%	29%	56%	5%	2%	2%

What this means

Most of the scheme is in good shape. Of the 58 results that could be graded, **53 (91%) are Good or Very Good**. 3 are Fair, 1 is Poor and 1 is Very Poor. The Poor result is a former Milton & Others stopbank section now described as redundant. The Very Poor result (April 2025) was on a Willows stopbank section where a drain was eroding the landward toe – the drain has since been moved and that problem is recorded as resolved.

When were the checks done?

Most results come from a round of checks in April 2025. During the year there were checks by an engineering consultant (January 2026), checks after a flood and after vegetation work (June 2026) – the flood checks found no damage or slumping – and two after upgrade works (August 2026).

Tidying up our records

Two old spurs could not be found (likely buried or washed away), and two assets could not be checked after the river changed course in May 2025. 17 checked assets are still to be added to the asset list, and 10 listed assets are waiting for their first check in the new system. These are records jobs – "unable to inspect" is not the same as poor condition.

Problems spotted

17 defects recorded

12 are "Logged" – recorded so they can be planned into the works programme. **3 Resolved**, **1 Deferred** (kept for monitoring) and **1 Cancelled** (built as designed).

How serious?

Moderate (3)	10
High (4)	3
Minor (2)	2
Low (1)	2

Which assets?

Stopbank	8
Riprap	7
Groyne	2

What are they about?

Mostly routine upkeep: topping up and reshaping rock at the toe of the riprap, vegetation on stopbanks and riprap, and stopbank shape. Cost estimates for the logged defects are in the annual works report.



Vegetation over WAI-12200L-SBK02 – logged for mulching



WAI-12200L-SBK01 – sound; raising the upstream end is logged

Work done this year

Vegetation mulching and spraying along the stopbanks and riprap (June 2026), a new camera pole for river monitoring (February 2026), riprap upgrades on the Rubbish Dump and Willows banks (completed September 2025), rock stockpiles moved closer to where they would be needed in an emergency (August 2026), and stopbank and riprap upgrades at Rata Knoll finished in August 2026. The Havill's Wall upgrade is under way, with completion scheduled for November 2026.

9.6	**Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Engagement and Public Consultation Update**
Author	
Authorizer	Michael Beagle, Group Manager Catchment Management
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

To update the rating district on Council's review of the region's flood and coastal protection and land drainage schemes and to describe how rating district members will have input to that review.

Report Summary

The West Coast has a relatively large number of schemes and rating districts. Many of the schemes have a small number of rateable properties. The way the schemes are presently arranged may not be the most effective or efficient way of doing things.

Council requested and approved a review of flood and coastal protection and drainage schemes during preparation of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. All 23 schemes are within the scope of the review. The review is being undertaken in conjunction with preparation of the 2027-37 Long Term Plan. Some of the review matters are to be incorporated into formal consultation topics, referred to as "significant change proposals". The topics and the exact wording of the topics is yet to be decided by Council but the draft topics and their wording are presently:

1. How Council will manage its coastal, flood and drainage schemes.
2. How Council will fund the schemes (rating model).

Rating district input to this process is important. In October/November 2026 Council will engage with rating districts via rating district spokespeople to seek input on the two topics. Council will use that feedback to develop options to be publicly consulted on in March/April 2027. All landholders will be able to make submissions on those options and to speak to their submission at a Council hearing if they wish to do so.

Decisions on which options to implement, including the option of leaving things the way they currently are (i.e. the status quo), would be made as part of decision-making by the full Council on the 2027-37 Long Term Plan and after the Councillors

have received and considered public submissions. Any changes to schemes and how they are funded would be gradually implemented over the next three years.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Rating District Joint Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Note the Terms of Reference for the review of flood and coastal protection and drainage schemes, approved by the Operations Committee on 16 September 2025.*
3. *Note that the review of flood and coastal protection and drainage schemes is underway, in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference.*
4. *Note the two draft significant change proposals (consultation topics) that Council is developing as part of preparing the Draft 2027-37 Long Term Plan.*
5. *Note that engagement with rating district spokespeople seeking their input to development of options for the two draft significant change proposals will occur in October/November 2026.*
6. *Note that public consultation on the options for the two significant change proposals will occur in March/April 2027.*

Background

The West Coast has a relatively large number of schemes and rating districts (Figure 1). Many of the schemes have a small number of rateable properties (Figure 2).

Figure 1 – Flood and coastal protection schemes and land drainage schemes (2024-34 Long Term Plan, West Coast Regional Council)

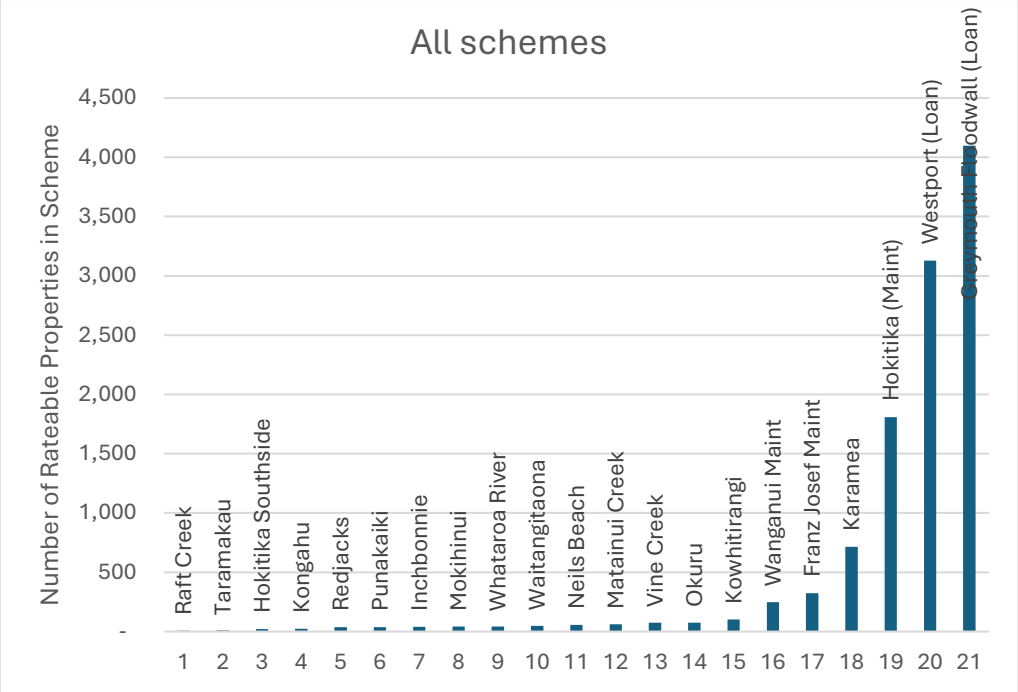


Figure 2 – Number of rateable properties within each flood and coastal protection and land drainage scheme

This arrangement of schemes enables Council to target flood, erosion and drainage works and services to specific parts of the region but is administratively complex and time consuming for councillors and staff. The lack of overarching principles has led to a variety of approaches to funding which no longer reflect the benefits or beneficiaries of the districts. Although each rating district has terms of reference, there is lack of clarity about the respective roles and responsibilities of landholders (the "rating district") and Council, especially for setting levels of service, and directing works programmes which are typically reactive and do not take a long-term view. For some rating districts it may be more efficient and effective for the community to take ownership and control, as has occurred at Raft Creek, or for Council to disband a scheme.

In response to these issues, Council requested and approved a review of flood and coastal protection and drainage schemes during preparation of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. A key objective is to ensure Council is maximising expenditure of the rateable income from each scheme on actual physical works to maintain the schemes whilst minimising the costs of administering the schemes.

Terms of Reference for the review were approved by the Operations Committee on 16 September 2025. The review is underway with the matters being reviewed listed in Appendix 1. All 23 schemes are within the scope of the review (Figure 1).

The current government is reorganising local government with the intention of abolishing regional councils by October 2028. Councillors consider it important to review the schemes and leave things well-placed for the entity or entities that will assume responsibility for the schemes. That new entity or entities may not have the same degree of governance or staff knowledge about flood hazards and flood schemes on the West Coast hence the desire to undertake the review now and enable a seamless transition to the new local government arrangements.

Discussion

Engagement

The review is being undertaken in conjunction with preparation of the 2027-37 Long Term Plan. Government proposals to reorganise local government across New Zealand have not changed the legal requirement for WCRC to prepare and adopt a Long-term Plan for 2027-37 by 30 June 2027. Council is using this requirement to formally progress some of the matters listed in Appendix 1 as part of formal consultation topics on the Draft 2027-37 Long Term Plan. These topics are referred to as "significant change proposals". The topics and exact wording of the topics is yet to be decided by Council but the topics and their draft wording are presently:

1. How Council will manage its coastal, flood and drainage schemes.
2. How Council will fund the schemes (rating model).

Some of the matters listed in Appendix 1 are operational and are being progressed as part of routine work programmes or through direct engagement with some individual rating districts on matters specific to their rating district. Some of the matters are the subject of separate papers to rating district meetings.

In October/November 2026 Council will engage with rating districts via rating district spokespeople to seek their input on the two topics. During that engagement information on the potential scheme amalgamation scenarios will be shared to support rating district discussion, and opinion sought on whether any schemes could potentially be transferred or disbanded. Council will also seek rating district input on possible approaches to how schemes could be funded.

Council will use feedback on the two topics to develop options that will be publicly consulted on in March/April 2027. All landholders will be able to make submissions on those options and to speak to their submission at a Council hearing should they wish. Councillors will consider submissions received and the full Council will make decisions in May/June 2027 as part of their decision-making on the 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

Implementation of any changes to schemes and how they are funded would be gradually implemented over the next three years. In the meantime, Council may make changes of an operational nature that do not require formal consultation through the 2027-37 Long Term Plan. Some of those proposed changes are described in other papers on this meeting agenda.

The two proposed consultation topics are discussed in more detail below, noting that the topics are yet to be finalised and approved by Council.

Managing schemes

The terms of reference for the review include the following:

1. The geographic boundaries of the rating districts and the opportunity to rationalise and amalgamate some districts.
2. The identification of which schemes or rating districts have sizable assets and need to be managed as systems, and those too small to be regarded as a system.

These matters arise because, as noted above, WCRC has a relatively large number of schemes, and many with few rateable properties (Figures 1 & 2). The issue is whether the arrangement is effective and efficient enough to justify continuing with the current arrangement. If the current situation with any scheme is not effective or efficient then the options are to transfer the scheme to the community, amalgamate it with one or more other schemes or disband it.

Currently, only West Coast rivers within scheme areas are managed through WCRC assets and works. Those works include maintaining and upgrading scheme assets as well as managing river channels through gravel management and vegetation control. The boundaries of scheme areas have been determined by the Westland Catchment Board and WCRC. Although there is a legislative process to follow to change the boundaries the boundaries themselves are not specified in legislation. WCRC may change the boundaries if it wishes to do so, provided it follows the correct process.

The terms of reference for the rating district are presented in Appendix 2. The terms of reference for all rating districts state:
"*For significant decisions such as major scheme capital upgrades or maintenance and associated expenditure, dissolving the scheme, rating classification reviews etc., the spokesperson, committee or WCRC can call for a full voting procedure of all scheme ratepayers. A majority vote is set at a minimum of 75% of scheme ratepayers that have voted.*"

The requirement referred to above for a minimum of 75% of scheme ratepayers relates to a recommendation to Council, and is not a referendum nor is it binding on Council. The decision on whether to leave things as-is or to make changes is a decision for Council to make.

To enable potential scheme rearrangement scenarios to be developed it is necessary to have some criteria on the characteristics of schemes that would make the scheme a potential candidate for transfer or amalgamation or being disbanded. The following criteria have been approved by Council for that purpose :

1. Whether there is community appetite or interest in a scheme being transferred, amalgamated or disbanded.
2. Whether schemes are within the same catchment.
3. Whether there is a transfer of effects and/or benefits between schemes.
4. Whether a scheme provides benefit to an area larger than the rating district area.
5. Whether there are fewer than 10 rateable properties or fewer than 10 people or entities owing rateable properties.
6. Whether WCRC has formally planned and rated for future enhancement works within a scheme.
7. The scale and complexity of the scheme assets.
8. The condition and criticality of the scheme assets.
9. The size of the scheme reserve balance.

It is important to note these are simply criteria for helping identify potential scenarios that will be part of engagement with rating district spokespeople. The engagement will then inform the development of options. Decisions about which options to implement, including the option of leaving things the way they currently are (i.e. the status quo), would be made as part of decision-making on the 2027-37 Long-term Plan, in June 2027, and after the full Council has received and considered public submissions.

Funding schemes

The terms of reference for the review include reviewing the targeted rating system for schemes based on benefit classes (Matter #18 listed in Appendix 1). All rating districts are targeted rate-funded, with the rating boundary matching the rating district boundary. The variety of approaches used to determine the targeted rate creates administrative complexity and the possibility of error in rates collection, such as undercharging or overcharging. This is exacerbated by the relatively large number of rating districts.

It is noted that approximately only 50% of the schemes are being fully funded through the targeted rate and there is a substantial amount of scheme activity funded by the general rate. This is inconsistent with the 100% targeted rate funding statement in the Revenue and Funding Policy formally consulted on by Council during preparation of the current Long Term Plan and adopted in 2024. This matter is discussed in more detail in a companion paper.

Some of the pros and cons of three of the many potential approaches available for rating schemes, are presented in Table 1, for information. These are not recommendations or framed as options for public consultation but are simply intended to show the approaches have trade-offs. They will be used to support engagement with rating district spokespeople in October/November 2026 and the subsequent development of options for public consultation.

Decisions on which options to implement, including the option of leaving things the way they currently are (i.e. the status quo), would be made by the full Council as part of decision-making on the 2027-37 Long-term Plan after they have received and considered public submissions. As noted above, implementation of any changes to schemes and how they are funded would be gradually implemented over the next three years.

Table 1 – Examples of pros and cons of some alternative approaches to rating for flood and coastal protection, erosion control and land drainage

Appendix 1

The matters within the scope of the review are as follows.

1. How to take a long-term view of flood risk and erosion management, including planning for adaptation to future climate change.
2. Systematic monitoring and reporting of the levels of service being provided and residual risk.
3. Decision-making processes and the apportionment of liability for decisions made.

4. The Terms of Reference for each rating district including the respective roles and responsibilities of WCRC, ratepayers, territorial authorities and network utility operators (New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail, West Power).
5. The geographic boundaries of the rating districts and the opportunity to rationalise and amalgamate some districts.
6. Whether any rating districts should be extended to enable a whole-of-catchment approach and to incorporate broader catchment management activities.
7. The identification of which schemes or rating districts have sizable assets and need to be managed as systems, and those too small to be regarded as a system.
8. Whether the Wanganui scheme should continue to be defined as a maintenance scheme rather than a capital and maintenance scheme.
9. The interface between urban stormwater systems managed by the territorial authorities and the flood protection and land drainage schemes managed by WCRC.
10. Establishing a coherent asset and infrastructure plan framework (i.e. Infrastructure Strategy, Strategic Asset Management Plan, Asset Management Plans for individual schemes).
11. Resourcing requirements for servicing the current and future number of rating districts, especially the annual rating district meetings.
12. Improving responsiveness of WCRC and network utility operators NZTA Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail, West Power) to urgent maintenance and preventative actions such as riverbank erosion.
13. Confirmation of the operational activities required for effective management of a scheme (additional to maintenance activity).
14. Insurance arrangements.
15. The methodology for calculating the prudent reserve for each scheme.
16. Options for methods of engaging with landholders and ratepayers within rating district areas including alternatives to the annual rating district meetings.
17. How to best administer joint committee schemes on an operational basis.
18. Reviewing the targeted rating system for schemes based on benefit classes.
19. Mapping all WCRC assets and verifying ownership.
20. Potential approaches to managing the risk of a catastrophic event destroying scheme assets beyond local capacity to fund repairs.

Appendix 2

Rating District Terms of Reference

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