

Committee Members

Chair: Cr Mark McIntyre
Cr Allan Birchfield
Cr Andy Campbell
Cr Ashley Cassin

Cr Chris Coll
Cr Peter Ewen
Cr Colin Smith

Iwi Representatives

Representative Te Rūnanga o
Ngāti Waewae
Representative Te Rūnanga o
Makaawhio



WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

PUBLIC COPY

West Coast Regional Council

AGENDA

Operations Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 6 October 2026

Time: 10.00 am

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. **Late Items**
6. **Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakau kōrero*)1**
 - 6.1 Operations Committee Meeting Minutes – 4 August 20262
7. **Actions List 10**
 - 7.1 Actions List Public Items - Update.....11
8. **Chairs Report (verbal update)**
9. **Reports:**
 - 9.1 **Update from West Coast Emergency Management Joint Committee..... 13**
 - 9.1.1 FRANZ JOSEF : Waiho River Flood Hazard POSITION STATEMENT August 2026.
..... 18
 - 9.2 **Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Policy on Provision of Advice to Landholders.....25**
 - 9.2.1 West Coast Regional Council Policy on Provision of Advice and Assistance in Relation to Flood and Coastal Protection, Land Drainage and River Management.....30
 - 9.3 **Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Update Report to Rating Districts.33**
 - 9.3.1 Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Engagement and Public Consultation Update.....35
 - 9.4 **Infrastructure Insurance Opt-Out Requests: Taramakau, Kowhitirangi and Vine Creek Rating Districts 46**
 - 9.4.1 The signed response forms from the Taramakau, Kowhitirangi and Vine Creek Rating Districts (To be supplied on the day of the meeting)
 - 9.4.2 Special Rating District Information Session 5 June 2026 Infrastructure Insurance.....60

10. Motion into Public Excluded.....76

11. Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes

11.1 Operations Committee Meeting Public Excluded Minutes – 4 August 2026

12. Actions List – Public Excluded

12.1 Actions List Public Excluded Items – Update

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

In the event of an emergency, please exit through the emergency door in the Council Chambers.

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 Committee:

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 Committee.

Minor Matters relating to the General Business of the Committee:

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 Confirmation of Operations Committee (Public)
Meeting Minutes – 4 August 2026**

Author Nethmi Kavindya, Administrative Support Officer

Public Excluded No

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive the minutes of the Operations Committee (Public) meeting of 4 August 2026.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. *Confirm that the minutes of the Operations Committee(Public) meeting held on 4 August 2026 are a true and correct record.*

Attachments

Attachment 1: Minutes of the Operations Committee (Public) meeting held on 4 August 2026.

WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
4 AUGUST 2026 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.56AM.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: D. Lew (Chief Executive)
S. Morgan (Group Manager Environmental Science)
J. Field (Group Manager Office of the Chief Executive)
M. Beagle (Group Manager Catchment Management)
T. Hopkins (Capital Programme Manager)
T. Wyndham-Smith (Principal Communications and Engagement Advisor)
W. Spencer (Area Engineer)
P. Rossiter (Westport Flood Protection Scheme) – Joined for part of the meeting.
N. Kankanam Arachchige (Administrative Support Officer)
C. Chinn (Principal Governance Advisor).

1. Welcome (*Haere mai*)

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

2. Apologies (*Ngā Pa Pouri*)

Apologies were received from Cr C. Smith.

Moved (A. Birchfield / C. Coll) apologies from Cr C. Smith were accepted.

Carried

3. Declarations of Interest

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

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

There were no public forums or deputations.

5. Late Items

There were no late items raised.

6. Confirmation of Minutes (Whakau korero)

6.1 Minutes of Operations Committee (Public) Meeting 5 May 2026

The Chair invited corrections to the minutes of the 5 May 2026 Operations Committee (Public) meeting. Minor corrections were noted (regarding spelling of Franz Josef in section 10.2 of the minutes).

Moved (P. Ewen / A. Birchfield) that the minutes of the Operations Committee (Public) meeting of 5 May 2026 are a true and correct record, subject to incorporating the above minor amendment.

Carried

7. Actions list

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

- Item 1 (ACT0044) – Ongoing
- Item 2 (ACT0105) – Ongoing
- Item 3 (ACT0114) – Ongoing.

Moved (A. Cassin / P. Ewen) that the Committee receive the Actions List and noted information.

Carried

8. Chairs report (verbal update)

There was no Chair's report.

9. Reports

9.1 Update from West Coast Emergency Management Joint Committee

J. Field presented the report. The WCRC Emergency Management team had been active over the past quarter, though there have been no activations. Key updates, noted include:

- The team has relocated from the recreation centre to the polytech.
- The Group Plan is nearing final approval by the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery and is expected to be issued within the coming months.
- Franz Josef evacuation planning awaiting testing with WDC and stakeholders.
- Significant work has been done to build structured teams for the Emergency Coordination Centre, with a focus on training staff into specific roles.
- Two NEMA Resilience Fund applications were successful: one for redrafting the fuel plan, and one for improving business resilience connections across the region, building on work done previously under the Resilient Westport project.
- The Emergency Management Bill is progressing and will have implications for the organisation, which will be discussed further during long-term plan development.
- The team is hosting the South Island Emergency Management Conference at Grey High School on 30 September and 1 October 2026.

Cr A. Birchfield raised the question of whether the \$1.5 million per year spent on emergency management administration would be better directed to fire brigades. Cr C. Coll noted that, while fire brigades are highly skilled at what they do, they do not have the expertise to manage large-scale flood or earthquake emergencies, and their capacity is limited.

Moved (A. Cassin / P. Ewen) that the Committee:

1. Receive the report.

Carried

9.2 Quarterly Catchment Management Status Report

W. Spencer spoke to the report. During this period, the Catchment Management team have focused on preparing for and delivering rating district meetings, carrying out maintenance and repair work in various rating districts, and managing major capital works projects co-funded with central government.

Cr C. Coll queried the reported budget figure of \$70,000 for rock replacement does not appear to include the full procurement cost of rock from the quarry. W. Spencer clarified that the cost had been locked in at \$28/tonne.

Moved (C. Coll / A. Campbell) that the Committee:

1. Receive the report.

Carried

9.3 West Coast regional Council Flood Infrastructure Capital Programme Status Report July 2026

T. Hopkins presented the report, bringing the Committee's attention to the new format.

The current approved budget for the whole programme is \$65 million. Expenditure to date is \$29 million across the programme. The forecast cost at completion is within the total programme budget, however the Westport reforecast is expected to take the cost above the approved budget. This will be addressed through the Special Consultative Procedure. Year-end financial figures are being prepared and are expected within the next couple of weeks, timed to inform the National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited (NIFFCO) submission.

It was noted that the overall programme health is dominated by the status of the Westport Flood Protection Scheme. T. Hopkins and P. Rossiter provided a more detailed update on the Westport Scheme, as follows:

- A project and design review is substantially complete after approximately six months of effort. A revised scope, budget, and programme is to be delivered by 31 August 2026 to NIFFCO. Related to this immediate work, the following meeting schedule was confirmed:
 - A Council workshop on 18 August 2026;

- A workshop with the Westport Flood Protection Scheme Joint Committee on 19 August; and
- An extraordinary council meeting on 25 August to endorse the revised scope, budget, and programme and authorise commencement of a Special Consultative Procedure, to run through to December to meet the construction season timeline.

Cr P. Ewen raised the matter of Westland District Council's retrospective consent for the Franz Josef stopbank constructed approximately three years ago, noting that the consent has a mandatory timeframe and cannot be extended. Staff confirmed that the application had been reactivated and is being processed by the WCRC consents team, having previously been placed on hold while the scope of WCRC's proposed Havill's Wall extension was reviewed.

An action was recorded for M. Smith, Group Manager, Regulatory and Policy, to report back to the Committee on the Westland District Council consent for the Franz Josef stopbank.

Moved (A. Birchfield / A. Cassin) that the Committee:

1. Receive the report.

Carried

9.4 River and Coastal Survey Programme Implementation Update

P. Birchfield presented the report. Surveys completed to date include Karamaea, Taramakau, Mokihinui, and Waiho rivers, using Land River Sea. Upcoming surveys include the Grey River and Hokitika this year, with the Buller River scheduled for the following year.

Moved (A. Campbell / A. Cassin) that the Committee:

1. Receive the report; and
2. Note that work to implement the draft River and Coastal Survey Strategy is progressing while the formal implementation strategy is being finalised.

Carried

9.5 Saltwater Creek Flood Mitigation: Stage one proposal

P. Birchfield presented the report. Seeking approval for an increase to the stage one investigation budget to \$100,000, from the original \$20,000. The increase reflects the complexity of the system and the proposal received the full support of the Greymouth Joint Committee at its meeting on 25 June 2026.

D. Lew outlined three key questions the investigation seeks to answer:

1. Whether the river mouth configuration, position, or opening can be optimised to improve drainage, an issue that has been outstanding for several decades.
2. Whether new subdivisions in the upper catchment have increased peak runoff through hard surfaces, and whether the local drainage network is sufficient to handle this, potentially compounding flooding issues downstream.
3. What channel capacities and levels are doing throughout the lower part of the system, and whether channel maintenance is needed.

The Committee were advised that, of the above, WCRC were currently only authorised to do (1) above, river mouth management.

Moved (A. Birchfield / A. Cassin) that the Committee:

1. Receive the report;
2. Approve an increase in budget to \$100,000 to enable completion of Stage One of the investigation (Saltwater Creek hydraulic modelling);
3. Note that the estimated current maintenance reserve for the Greymouth Rating District is \$380,000; and
4. Note that the proposed increase in the Stage One budget received the full support of the Greymouth Joint Committee at its meeting on 25 June 2026.

Carried

10. Public Excluded Business

Moved (A. Birchfield / A. Cassin) that:

1. The public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – **items 11 to 13** (all inclusive).

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

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
11.1 Minutes of Operations Committee public excluded meeting – 5 May 2026	<i>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</i>	<i>S48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</i>
12.1 Action List – public excluded	<i>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</i> <i>s7(2)(j) - the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage</i>	
13.1 Vector Control Services – Quarterly Report	<i>s7(2)(b)(ii) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</i>	<i>S48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</i>

Carried

The meeting moved into a public excluded session at 11.53am.

14. Operations Committee Resumes in Public Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11.59am.

.....
Chair

.....
Date

7 Actions List**Author** Nethmi Kavindya, Administrative 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.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

- 1. Receive the actions list and the information noted.*

Attachments

Attachment 1: Actions List Public – Update.

ACTIONS LIST – Public

Item No.	Reference	Date of Meeting	Item	Officer	Update
1.	ACT0044	15-Apr-25	Staff to review provisions in the TTPP regarding subdivisions and engage with Grey District Council on future developments that could exacerbate flooding.	Group Manager – Michael Beagle	
2.	ACT0105	3-Mar-26	Investigate feasibility of Insurance for Rating District assets	Group Manager – Colin Weeks	Ongoing – A Council Workshop was held on 16 June 2026 covering "Flood Protection and River Management Liabilities" with Philip Maw (NZ legal specialist on the topic).
3.	ACT0114	5-May-26	The Existing Use Rights for Pre-1991 Flood Protection Structures Council paper (Item 9.1) is provided to the next round of Rating District meetings, so this advice gets to all the Rating Districts for their information around consenting and existing use rights.	Group Manager – Michael Beagle	Ongoing – The Existing Use Rights for Pre-1991 Flood Protection Structures Council paper (Item 9.1) will be provided at the next round of Rating District meetings.

Item No.	Reference	Date of Meeting	Item	Officer	Update
4.	ACT0127	04-Aug-26	Report back to the Committee on the progress on the Westland District Council consent for the Franz Josef stopbank.	Group Manager – Matt Smith	Complete - Granted 20/07/2026. A Revised assessment by WCRC Engineers indicated no concerns.

REPORTS

9.1 **Update from West Coast Emergency Management Joint Committee**

Author Claire Brown, Regional Group Manager WCEM

Authoriser Jo Field, Group Manager, Office of the Chief Executive

Public No

Excluded

Report Purpose

This report provides a quarterly update of West Coast Emergency Management (WCEM), including decisions made at the West Coast Emergency Management Joint Committee meeting on 20 August 2026.

Report Summary

This report provides recent updates on key activities and decisions resulting from the West Coast Emergency Management (WCEM) Joint Committee on 20 August 2026.

The key updates in this report are:

- The new Emergency Management Act came into force on 4 September 2026. Changes include enhanced roles and responsibility for local authorities.
- A Coordinating Executive Group workshop will take place in October to consider the new Emergency Management Act and review the work programme. KPIs and levels of service across the councils will also be discussed.
- The new WCEM Regional Plan (formerly the Group Plan) has been submitted to the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery. We are expecting to present the final approved plan to the WCEM Committee in November to adopt.
- At the request of NEMA, WCEM Committee submitted their position on the Franz Josef Flood Hazard in September.
- WCEM is hosting the South Island Emergency Management Conference on 30 September and 1 October.
- WCEM were successful in two NEMA Resilience Applications focussed on updated the regional fuel plan and building business resilience. The total value of these two projects is \$70.000.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*

Key Areas to Update

The key discussions and decisions made at the last Joint Committee Meeting on 20 August 2026, and any other key updates since that meeting are set out below.

NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

The new Emergency Management Act 2026 was passed into law on 28 August 2026. This marks an end to the wait for an anticipated refresh of emergency management legislation. Key changes include:

- Clearer roles and responsibilities for local authorities
- Emphasis on understanding, communicating and managing natural hazard risk
- Increased response planning for disproportionately affected communities,
- Stronger voice for communities, iwi and Māori around emergency management
- Increased oversight and assurance provisions.

CO-ORDINATING EXECUTIVE GROUP (CEG) WORKSHOP 9 OCTOBER 2026

As mentioned above, as a result of the new emergency management legislation, and to expand on the approved work programme performance measures, CEG will workshop to:

- share LTP emergency management considerations across the four councils
- set-out implementation timeline for changes required under new Emergency Management legislation
- review Work Programme project plans
- review Partnership Agreement and Terms of Reference in light of the new legislation.

The workshop will also consider a living 'corrective action plan' to track and monitor areas needing improvement as identified from exercise and emergency response debriefs.

NEW WEST COAST EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP PLAN (now Regional Plan)

The new WCEM Group Plan was submitted to the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery for approval on 3 September 2026. The plan was developed with a strong connection to the Emergency Management Bill to ensure the new Group Plan was aligned to the new legislation where possible.

Given this, and as hoped, the early indication from the Minister's office is that minor changes will be requested such as changes in terminology (example replace reference to Group Plan with Regional Plan, and Joint Committee to Emergency Management Committee). The formal response is expected in early October. We are still on track to submitting the Regional Plan to the Emergency Management Committee for formal adoption in November.

**WCEM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
– POSITION STATEMENT ON FRANZ JOSEF FLOODING HAZARD**

In response to a request to the Emergency Management Committee on 22 April 2026 from John Price (Deputy Chief Executive of NEMA) a position statement on Franz Josef Waiho River Flood Hazard was approved by the Committee on 20 August and sent to NEMA on 3 September.

The statement notes that the committee considers the Waiho River flood hazard an escalating risk of national significance. Rapid river changes, increasing pressure on flood protection infrastructure, and uncertainty around future flood behaviour are creating growing risks to people, property, critical infrastructure, tourism, the economy and community wellbeing.

The statement emphasises that, despite ongoing engineering works and monitoring, significant residual risk remains. Using the 4Rs framework, it highlights the need for enhanced evacuation planning, community preparedness, multi-agency coordination, and recovery planning.

In conclusion, that statement asks NEMA to:

- exercise current evacuation and other response arrangements so they are effective and continue to build on resilience
- inform WCEM Joint Committee's responsibility and role in long-term adaptation planning alongside those of the specific councils and central government.
- advocate across local and central government to support Westland District Council in master adaptation planning.

QUARTERLY EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITY

On 20 August 2026 the WCEM Committee was advised there were no emergency response activations in the region since their last meeting in May 2026. However, the following activity was noted: the severe wind disruption in South Westland on 6–7 July; the first confirmed Avian Influenza case in New Zealand on 15 July; followed by a large earthquake near Te Anau on 16 July causing evacuations in Fiordland.

There were also two short duration thunderstorm events on 15 and 24 July that affected localised areas around the Greymouth township. These events resulted in a small number of properties affected (both residential and commercial) as well as damage to local roads, the highway and railway.

Since the WCEM Committee met in August the two-week period from 22 August through to 6 September saw teams either monitoring or activated over three districts in relation to multiple weather warnings. EOC teams were either on standby or partially activated as a result in multiple rivers reaching alarm levels over that period.

SOUTH ISLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The South Island Emergency Management Conference will be held at the Greymouth High School on 30 September and 1 October 2026. There are over 150 registrations with emergency management practitioners, partner agencies and central and local government representatives attending from across the country. The event provides an opportunity to showcase West Coast initiatives and strengthen regional and national relationships. The conference website and registration form are available at the following website: <https://au.entegy.events/siemc2026>

We acknowledge and thank our conference sponsors and exhibitors:

Platinum Sponsor: Natural Hazard Commission

Gold Sponsors: NEMA, NZTA, Response and Recovery Aotearoa NZ (RRANZ)

Exhibitors: Chorus, JTECH, Resilient Westport and KitMe.

SUCCESSFUL NEMA RESILIENCE FUND APPLICATIONS

On Tuesday 28 July 2026 NEMA announced seventeen successful Resilience Fund Applications. WCEM had two successful applications for this 2026–27 year. These are:

- Revise West Coast Fuel Plan (last updated in April 2022) – \$20,000
- Business Resilience Promotion and Coaching – Extension of Resilient Westport project for other parts of the region – \$50,000.

The Resilience Fund is a contestable fund to enhance hazard risk resilience. Emergency Management Groups and other organisations can apply each year. Applications are considered by NEMA's Subject Matter Experts against criteria with emphasis on improved collaboration, improved resilience locally and regionally, and consistent approaches.

Implications/Risks

While the WCEM group is designed to consider and prepare for hazards across the region, there is no specific implications or risks from this paper.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

This paper is not considered significant under the Significance and Engagement Policy. There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this policy.

Tangata whenua views

The WCEM group actively engages with Tangata whenua in its work. Their views have not been sought for this paper.

Views of affected parties

There are no other affected parties needing to be consulted.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications from this paper.

Legal implications

There are no legal implications from this paper.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: FRANZ JOSEF : Waiho River Flood Hazard POSITION STATEMENT August 2026.

DRAFT @ 7 August 2026

WEST COAST EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT JOINT COMMITTEE

Position Statement: Waiho River Flood Hazard

Purpose

This statement records the West Coast Emergency Management Joint Committee's position regarding the Waiho River flood hazard. This is in response to correspondence from the National Emergency Management Agency requesting the Committee's views on the hazard and its implications for the emergency management system.

The statement outlines the Committee's emergency management perspective and should not be interpreted as a decision on river engineering, land-use planning or long-term adaptation options, which remain matters for the relevant statutory authorities.

1. Understanding the Severity of Risk

The West Coast Emergency Management Joint Committee considers the Waiho River flood hazard to be a significant risk with national implications requiring sustained local and central government attention.

The Committee notes that:

- The Waiho River system continues to undergo rapid geomorphic change, including ongoing aggradation, avulsion and changes to flood pathways.
- Recent geomorphic assessments demonstrate that the avulsion channel is widening, deepening and migrating upstream faster than previously predicted.
- Existing flood protection infrastructure continues to face increasing pressure and residual flood risk remains significant.
- The hazard presents risks to people, property, lifeline infrastructure, tourism, economic activity, environmental values and community wellbeing.
- Significant uncertainty remains regarding the future behavior of the river system, particularly following large flood events or a major Alpine Fault earthquake.
- The Waiho River Technical Advisory Group has recently reviewed their 2023 report (*Future Management of the Waiho*), with their provisional findings indicating a need for:
 - urgently identifying and strenuously pursuing opportunities for government-level investment given that the small rating district has reached its tolerance for debt
 - emergency management planning to consider possible flood impacts on both sides of the river, not only at Franz Josef township
 - analysis to estimate the likely time that it might take before the Waiho returns to the southern riverbed to give an indication of the remaining available response/implementation time for the strategy
 - expansion of the Waiho and Tatara rivers monitoring programme, given the rapid changes that are now being observed in the catchments
 - a coordinated national-level communication programme to build wider awareness and understanding of the important issues of concern in this area

and help promote urgent action to respond to the increasing level of risk (to both life and property) from the Waiho

- avoiding further extension of Havills wall, given uncertainty about the effect would have on flood flows. The main structure of Havills wall should provide protection to its design level, provided it remains in sound condition.

The Committee endorsed further development of a dedicated Franz Josef/Waiau flood evacuation framework (including both north and south side of the Waiho River flooding scenarios) at its meeting of 19 February 2026. This work reflects the Committee's view that emergency management arrangements must assume that significant flooding, stopbank failure or rapid changes in river behavior may occur despite ongoing mitigation works, and that robust evacuation and welfare arrangements are therefore essential.

The Committee acknowledges that no formal Joint Committee decisions have been made regarding preferred long-term hazard management options for the Waiho River.

The Section 17(1)a of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act (2002) sets out the Committee's functions to:

in relation to relevant hazards and risks,—

- I. identify, assess, and manage those hazards and risks:**
- II. consult and communicate about risks:**
- III. identify and implement cost-effective risk reduction:**

Long-term hazard management decisions remain matters for the relevant councils and agencies exercising their respective statutory responsibilities.

2. Scenarios

The Committee considers the Waiho River hazard to represent a rapidly evolving risk profile, with both likelihood and consequence increasing over time, potentially exceeding the tolerance of current land use and infrastructure configurations.

The development of the Tatare avulsion is occurring more rapidly than forecast by previous modelling. This may shorten the timeframe available to implement longer-term adaptation measures and therefore increases the importance of timely decision-making.

Below sets out three scenarios as context to this position statement.

Scenario1: Rapid-Onset Flooding

- Life-safety and rapid breakout scenario
- This scenario involves a short, intense burst of rainfall over a few hours, causing the Waiho River to rise rapidly with little warning.
- The greatest risk is a sudden stopbank failure, overtopping, or river breakout. The Waiho Flood 2016 event involved significant damage to Scenic Group Hotel, evacuations, and estimated damages cost of \$30 million.

Scenario 2: Prolonged Catchment-Loading Flood

- Lifeline disruption and infrastructure failure scenario

- This scenario results from sustained heavy rainfall over one to three days, generating prolonged river pressure, large sediment and boulder movement, and widespread infrastructure impacts.
- Unlike Scenario 1, the risk comes from duration and cumulative stress rather than a sudden spike in river levels.
- This is the scenario most likely to cause regional isolation.
- The 2019 event involved the destruction of SH6 bridge, severing the lifeline route for the region, and other infrastructure damage.

Scenario 3: Moderate Rainfall with River Vulnerability

- Fragility and geomorphic-change scenario
- This scenario recognises that damaging flooding can occur even during moderate rainfall if the Waiho River is already in a vulnerable condition. Factors such as riverbed aggradation, channel migration, erosion, weakened stopbanks, temporary protection works, or the river pressing against critical assets can significantly increase risk.
- This is currently the most relevant scenario for the Franz Josef wastewater treatment plant and oxidation ponds.

The greatest life-safety risk is Scenario 1, the greatest regional and economic disruption risk is Scenario 2, and the most likely emerging risk to the wastewater system and northern flood-protection assets is Scenario 3.



3. Legislative and Functional Responsibilities

The Committee recognises that management of the Waiho hazard spans multiple legislative frameworks and mandates. There are elements that fall outside of the CDEM

mandate and sit within local government responsibilities under the Resource Management Act.

Function	Primary mandate/legislation	Lead agencies
Flood protection works, river management and monitoring	Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act, Local Government Act	West Coast Regional Council
Land-use planning and development control	Resource Management Act, District Plan	Westland District Council
Community adaptation and master planning	Local Government Act	Westland District Council, WCRC, Central Government
State highway resilience	Land Transport Management Act	NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
Lifeline utility resilience	CDEM Act, sector legislation	Lifeline utility operators
Emergency management readiness, response and recovery	Emergency Management Act	West Coast Emergency Management Group
National coordination and support	Emergency Management Act	National Emergency Management Agency

The Joint Committee's role is governance of the regional emergency management system rather than determination of river engineering solutions. However, the Committee also understands their function as set out in the CDEM Act to identify and implement cost effective risk reduction (refer to section 1 above).

4. THE 4Rs LENS: Reduction / Readiness / Response and Recovery

REDUCTION

Substantial work has already been undertaken to reduce risk as set out below:

Structural Measures

Stopbanks and engineering works	LEAD AGENCY
Ongoing geomorphic monitoring, LiDAR surveys and modelling	West Coast Regional Council
Operation and maintenance of flood protection infrastructure	
Recent decisions to undertake strengthening works to Havill's Wall	
Ongoing review of technical advice and river management options	
Hydrological modelling and flood data	

Planning Controls

Adaptation Master Planning	LEAD AGENCY
The Mayor of WDC has scheduled meetings with Ministers and central government during August 2026 to discuss the programme and explore potential pathways for partnership and implantation. Subject to the outcomes of these discussions, a cross sector meeting is proposed for September 2026 to bring together key agencies and stakeholders to consider governance arrangements, implementation priorities and next steps for progressing a coordinated long term adaptation programme.	Westland District Council

Notwithstanding these actions, a significant residual risk remains where stopbanks are designed for 1:100 year flood event. This is also exacerbated as riverbed aggradation raises flood levels over time.

The Committee considers that:

- structural works may reduce the likelihood of flood impacts but cannot eliminate flood hazard risk
- future river behavior remains uncertain;
- both the most likely and most dangerous scenarios must continue to be planned for;
- planning assumptions should recognise the potential effects of major flood events, climate variability and the Alpine Fault rupture.

The Committee supports continued investment in hazard monitoring, modelling, risk communication and long-term adaptation planning.

READINESS

The Committee considers that enhanced readiness arrangements are required due to the evolving nature of the hazard and the continuing residual risk to the Franz Josef/Waiau community.

The Committee notes that, at its meeting on 19 February 2026, it reviewed the draft Franz Josef Flood Evacuation Plan, which establishes a comprehensive framework for evacuation decision-making, public warning, welfare support, and coordinated multi-agency response arrangements. The evacuation plan includes both north and south side evacuation scenarios. The plan includes Trigger Action Response Plans (TARPs), identifies evacuation priorities, provides for both voluntary and mandatory evacuation processes, and addresses the needs of residents, visitors, vulnerable populations, and companion animals.

Priority readiness activities include:

- maintaining and regularly reviewing Waiho-specific contingency and evacuation arrangements.
- maintaining and exercising the Franz Josef Flood Evacuation Plan and associated TARPs;

- ensuring evacuation planning reflects the potential for rapid river change, stopbank failure, bridge closure and community isolation;
- maintaining arrangements for the evacuation and welfare support of residents, visitors and vulnerable persons;
- continuing public education, community engagement and risk communication activities;
- maintaining situational awareness and intelligence systems to support timely decision-making;
- ensuring critical infrastructure operators have business continuity and contingency arrangements in place; and
- exercising multi-agency response arrangements on a regular basis including training local Franz Josef community response group, engagement with Department of Conservation, Ministry of Primary Industries, and essential infrastructure entities such as Chorus and NZTA.

The Committee approved 2026-27 WCEM work programme includes an exercise of the current Franz Josef / Waiho evacuation plan.

RESPONSE

The Committee notes that future Waiho events may involve:

- stopbank failure;
- rapid avulsion or altered flood pathways;
- isolation of Franz Josef;
- disruption to State Highway 6 and lifeline services;
- impacts on wastewater, telecommunications and electricity infrastructure;
- requirements for evacuation, shelter and welfare support.

The evacuation of Franz Josef may involve large numbers of residents and visitors, including up to several thousand tourists during peak periods, and that evacuation operations may need to be undertaken within constrained timeframes and under rapidly changing conditions. The Committee therefore places a high priority on maintaining effective evacuation trigger frameworks, warning systems, welfare arrangements and multi-agency coordination processes.

Significant events are likely to exceed local capacity and will require regional or national support.

RECOVERY

The Committee considers that recovery from a major Waiho event is likely to be prolonged and complex.

Potential consequences include:

- damage to homes and businesses;
- disruption to tourism and local economic activity;
- environmental impacts;
- loss or relocation of infrastructure;

- psychosocial impacts on the community; and
- requirements for adaptation, relocation or managed retreat discussions that would more effectively occur pre-event.

The Committee considers that central government involvement in recovery planning and funding arrangements may be required given the potential scale and national significance of impacts.

5. Implications for the Emergency Management System

The Waiho River hazard raises broader issues for the national emergency management system, including:

- the interface between hazard reduction, adaptation and emergency management;
- long-term support for communities facing escalating natural hazard risk;
- funding mechanisms for adaptation and resilience initiatives;
- governance arrangements for nationally significant natural hazards; and
- the respective roles of local government and central government in supporting at-risk communities.

The emergency management system is broadly defined as the legislative, regulatory, policies and systems that interact across the 4Rs. The Committee seeks NEMA assistance to negotiate what assistance or intervention is possible from across the emergency management system.

The Committee notes that the existing rating base has limited capacity to fund the scale of intervention likely to be required and that long-term solutions will require significant central government participation.

6. Conclusion

Given the increasing national implications of the hazard and the scale of investment likely to be required, the Committee considers that a stronger central government role may be necessary to support adaptation planning, infrastructure transition, risk reduction and community resilience initiatives.

The Committee supports a collaborative, multi-agency adaptation approach that recognises both the immediate emergency management requirements and the future challenges facing the Franz Josef/Waiau community.

The Committee seeks NEMA support to:

- assist WCEM Joint Committee in its long-term adaptation planning role alongside those of the specific councils and central government
- exercise current evacuation and other response arrangements so they are effective and continue to build on resilience
- advocate across local and central government to support Westland District Council in master adaptation planning.

REPORTS

9.2 Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Policy on Provision of Advice to Landholders

Author Darryl Lew, Chief Executive

Authorizer Darryl Lew, Chief Executive

Public No

Excluded

Report Purpose

To seek approval of a new policy on the provision of advice to landholders in relation to flood and coastal protection, land drainage and river management.

Report Summary

Council is reviewing its flood and coastal protection and drainage schemes in accordance with a Terms of Reference approved by the Operations Committee on 16 September 2025. As part of that work the current policy on advice provided to landholders on flood and coastal protection, land drainage and river management has been reviewed. Council approval of a proposed new policy is sought.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee resolve to:

- 1. Receive the report.*
- 2. Approve the proposed new policy on advice being provided to landholders on flood and coastal protection, land drainage and river management.*
- 3. Note that the proposed new policy replaces any policies that are currently operative or previously approved by Council on this matter.*
- 4. Publicise the new policy through rating district committees and by posting on WCRC's website.*

Issues and Discussion

Background

Council is reviewing its flood and coastal protection and drainage schemes in accordance with a Terms of Reference approved by the Operations Committee on 16 September 2025. On 23 June 2026 Council made resolutions in relation to the review that included:

Request staff review the current policy on advice being provided to landowners by Area Engineers and bring the reviewed policy to Council for approval no later than 30 September 2026.

This paper presents the results of that review and a proposed policy for approval by Committee.

Issues

WCRC's website states "If a landowner is not in a designated scheme area (Special Rating District) our Engineers can assist with advice and, if requested by the community, look at more comprehensive mitigation options through potential new management schemes." The nature and scope of advice that can be provided is not documented and therefore expectations about what can and cannot be provided by way of advice is not clear to staff or to landholders.

The lack of a fully documented policy creates risk for Council as there are liabilities associated with providing advice. In particular where the advice is of a technical nature, such as the design and specification of assets and river works. These liabilities have been explained to Councillors at workshops in 2025 and June 2026. Additionally, Council has limited staff resources.

The review of the current policy is intended to address these issues of service expectation, resource limitations and liability.

Options

A proposed policy has been developed and is presented in Appendix 1. It has been reviewed by WCRC's legal counsel.

The policy balances being helpful to customers whilst restricting the scope of the advice provided and thereby limiting the liability of WCRC.

The policy would apply everywhere within the region including within scheme areas (rating districts) unless the provision of advice to landholders has been agreed by Council as part of a formally approved programme of work. The policy applies to advice given to all third parties, including territorial authorities and network utility operators.

This matter is operational and is therefore not a consultation topic for the 2027/37 Long Term Plan. However, options were described in the paper considered by Council on 23 June 2026 as the matter is relevant to the scheme review. Those options have been refined and are presented as follows.

Option 1 – Status Quo

The current policy, as described on the website would continue to apply.

Option 2 – Adopt Proposed Policy

The proposed policy would be adopted and take immediate effect, superseding any policies that are presently operative or that have been previously approved. As noted above, the proposed policy would apply to advice being provided to landholders both within and outside scheme areas.

Option 3 – Direct Further Work on a Proposed Policy

Further work would be undertaken to address any matters of concern to Committee and a revised proposed policy brought back to Committee for approval. In the meantime, the current policy, as described on the website, would apply (Option 3A). Alternatively, Committee could direct that staff are not to provide advice unless and until a revised proposed policy has been considered by Committee (Option 3B).

Discussion

Option 1 is not recommended as it creates uncertainty for landholders as to what level of service they can expect. The lack of a fully documented policy creates risk for Council as there are liabilities associated with providing advice.

Option 2 is recommended because it provides clarity for landholders as to what level of service, they can expect and helps manage the liabilities for Council. It also provides written clarification for staff so that they know exactly what they need to do or not do as the case may be.

Considerations**Implications/Risks**

The proposed policy reduces the risks for Council as it clarifies and restricts the scope of advice provided by staff and by consultants acting for and on behalf of WCRC. Restricting the scope of advice provided will mean that some landholder requests cannot be fulfilled. There is a possibility that some landholders will not be willing or able to procure professional advice elsewhere. This may leave issues unresolved or cause landholders to take actions that are not appropriate from a technical point of view.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

This matter does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Mana whenua views

Mana whenua views have not been sought.

Views of affected parties

If the proposed policy is approved, landholder views on the policy would be monitored during implementation.

Financial Implications

To date staff have been providing advice to landholders and at times this has been reasonably significant. The costs of this cannot be quantified as staff time for this activity is not recorded in a way that enables cost to be calculated and reported. The proposed policy does not increase the scale of activity undertaken by WCRC. It will reduce the funding requirements from general rates. It will also reduce the time commitment of staff for this activity, enabling a greater focus on council administered scheme assets.

Legal implications

The proposed policy helps WCRC fulfil its legal obligations under the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 and Land Drainage Act 1908 and reduces the Council's exposure to liability. It has been reviewed by WCRC's legal counsel.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: West Coast Regional Council Policy on Provision of Advice and Assistance in Relation to Flood and Coastal Protection, Land Drainage and River Management.

Appendix 1

West Coast Regional Council Policy on Provision of Advice and Assistance in Relation to Flood and Coastal Protection, Land Drainage and River Management

Background

West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) manages flooding and riverine and coastal erosion risk for landholders in some parts of the region. It does this by undertaking engineering works, including the construction and maintenance of structures such as stopbanks and seawalls, and channel management works such as removal of islands and vegetation control. The primary statutory basis for this is the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941. In addition, it manages land drainage in some parts of the region, under the Land Drainage Act 1908.

For administrative purposes this activity is grouped into geographic areas that are called rating districts or that have formally established Joint Committees. Works are only undertaken by WCRC in places that are part of a rating district, or within an area served by a Joint Committee. Occasionally staff are approached to provide advice and information for areas outside the scheme areas or in relation to private or abandoned structures within scheme areas.

The WCRC website states:

"If a landowner is not in a designated scheme area (Special Rating District) our Engineers can assist with advice and, if requested by the community, look at more comprehensive mitigation options through potential new management schemes."

This document sets out a policy on nature and scope of the advice that can be provided.

The scope of what can and will be provided by WCRC is limited. Providing advice and information outside of this policy may not lead to the best advice being received by the requestor. It also potentially creates liability for Council. The policy is intended to help manage these risks.

The Policy

This policy sets out how staff will respond to enquiries and requests. It also applies to consultants and contractors engaged by the Council.

Enquiries and requests may be received from people with different roles and interests in relation to an issue. These include landowners, land occupiers, consultants, contractors, district councils and government entities such as the New Zealand

Transport Agency and Kiwirail. They may also include prospective purchasers of property or solicitors acting on their behalf. For the purposes of this policy, all these people and entities are “requestors”. The policy applies to all requestors.

The policy shall be implemented alongside and consistent with WCRC’s other policies, including:

- Requests made under LGOIMA 1987 (<https://www.wcrc.govt.nz/council/official-information-request>)
- Management Approach to Non-Council Managed Flood and Coastal Assets, report to 18 March 2025 meeting of WCRC Operations Committee.

Staff may provide the following services and responses to requestors:

- Explain how requestors can access the Natural Hazards Portal and the information on WCRC’s Selected Land Use Sites (SLUS) register including the government’s Hazardous Activities and Industries List (HAIL).
- Provide information held by WCRC, such as aerial photographs and historical cross-section surveys, in accordance with WCRC policy on the provision of information including WCRC policy on charging.
- Provide information (but not opinions) on observed river behaviour and characteristics.
- Inform the requestor of guides and guidelines made publicly available by WCRC and how they can access them.
- Provide details of assets on WCRC’s Fixed Assets Register, noting any gaps and uncertainties in information.
- Explain the rules of any operative flood protection bylaw.
- Explain the rules of any operative and proposed Regional Plan and noting that it is for the requestor to satisfy themselves that they comply with all conditions of any Permitted Activity rule(s)

In applying this policy staff shall:

- Operate within approved delegations and their own professional limits and competencies.
- Consider whether it would be appropriate to direct the enquiry or request to another part of WCRC, for example Compliance or West Coast Emergency Management.
- Ensure any explanation or information provided does not give or imply approval of WCRC as an affected party.

- Note to the requestor, where appropriate, that authorisations may be required from other bodies and it is the responsibility of the requestor to determine what those other authorisations are and to obtain them.
- Maintain records of all requests and responses in accordance with WCRC policy and procedures.
- Record time in accordance with WCRC policy and against the appropriate cost centre.

The following are outside the scope of services and response that are provided:

- Advice or opinion on actual or desirable levels of service, asset condition or expected performance for assets not on WCRC's Fixed Assets Register.
- Advice on design or design options, construction methods and standards, and specifications.
- Advice on contractual matters including forms of contract.
- Names of suggested or preferred consultants and contractors.
- Generation of new information, such as model runs and further analysis of river bed levels.
- Advice on how to prepare an application for an approval, permit, or consent, or the content of an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE).
- Advice on how to remedy a regulatory non-compliance.
- Advice or opinion in relation to any matter that is the subject of dispute between other parties.

REPORTS

9.3 Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Update Report to Rating Districts

Author Darryl Lew, Chief Executive

Authorizer Darryl Lew, Chief Executive

Public No

Excluded

Report Purpose

To seek Committee approval for a report to be provided to all rating districts at their respective annual meetings, updating them on Council's review of the flood and coastal protection and land drainage schemes and preparation of the draft 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

Report Summary

Council will shortly commence the next round of annual meetings with rating districts to discuss scheme activity. It is proposed that the meetings are provided with an update on the scheme review and the preparation of the draft 2027-37 Long Term Plan. A paper has been prepared for that purpose, for approval by the Committee.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Approve the attached report being provided to all of the rating districts at their respective annual meetings and to landholders seeking an update on the scheme review.*
3. *Authorise the Chief Executive making changes to the attached report of a minor or editorial nature.*

Background

Council will shortly commence the next round of annual meetings with rating districts to discuss scheme activity. It is proposed that the meetings are provided with an update on the scheme review and the preparation of the draft 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

Discussion

A paper has been prepared for the purposes of updating the rating districts on progress with the scheme review and preparation of the draft 2027–37 Long Term Plan. It is proposed that the paper is part of a formal agenda item on these matters. The proposed paper is attached, for approval by the Committee.

Considerations**Implications/Risks**

The proposed paper helps reduce communications risks by providing a formal report to all rating district meetings.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

This matter does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Mana whenua views

Mana whenua views have not been sought.

Views of affected parties

Views have not been sought but an update paper is likely to be supported by rating district landholders.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications from this paper.

Legal implications

The proposed paper helps Council fulfil its consultation and engagement obligations.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Engagement and Public Consultation Update.

X.X Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Engagement and Public Consultation Update

Author Darryl Lew, Chief executive

Authorizer Darryl Lew, Chief Executive

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 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)

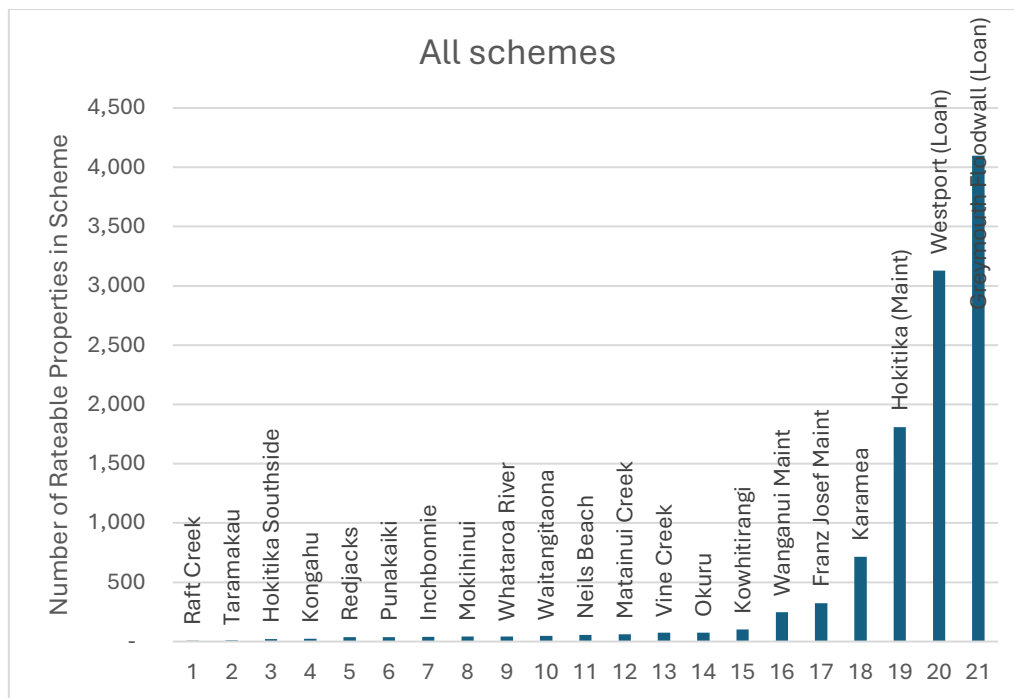


Figure 2 – Number of ratable properties within each flood and coastal protection and land drainage scheme.

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.

Current Approach		Alternative 1 (of many)		Alternative 2 (of many)	
Differential rating for targeted rate within schemes - Multiple benefit classes within each scheme area, based on relative flood and coastal protection, erosion control and land drainage benefits. - no region-wide (i.e. regional) component.		Nil or limited differential rating for targeted rate within schemes - Rating for each scheme continues to be confined to each scheme area i.e. boundaries of rated areas do not change. - no region-wide (i.e. regional) component. - Current multiple classes are reduced to one or two within each scheme area i.e. elimination or simplification of differentials within each scheme.		District-wide and region-wide rating split - All rateable properties within region are rated regardless of whether they are within a scheme area. - Rating for each scheme covers the whole District the scheme lies within (e.g. 50%) along with a region-wide (i.e. regional) component (e.g. 50%). - Elimination of differentials (classes) within each scheme.	
Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
Equity : those receiving higher protection pay more	Complexity: rates process and calculation more involved	Simplicity: relatively easy to administer	Equity: benefit relative to cost can vary significantly between ratepayers	Equity: accounts for indirect benefits and non-rateable properties	Accountability: more difficult to match rates paid and benefits received between schemes, and allocation between schemes
Transparency: clearer connection between rates paid and benefit received	Information: requires robust technical information and detailed technical analysis	Consistency: less sensitive to changes in flood hazard over time and to new technical information	Communication: more difficult to explain connection between rates paid and benefit received	Simplicity: easier to account for indirect benefits of multiple schemes across a wider area	Value: indirect benefit and the value of services provided are less clear and less tangible for some properties
Incentives: promotes risk reduction by individuals	Relevance: sensitive to changes in flood hazard over time and to new information	Standardisation: better enables the same approach between schemes	Risks: potentially encourages higher-value activity within flood hazard areas	Services: enables provision of District-wide river management	Demand: Potentially increases demand for protection works outside current scheme areas

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

Attachment 1: The current Terms of Reference for the relevant Rating District Joint committee will be attached to this paper.

REPORTS

9.4	Infrastructure Insurance Opt-Out Requests: Taramakau, Kowhitirangi and Vine Creek Rating Districts
Author	Michael Beagle, Group Manager – Catchment Management
Authorizer	Darryl Lew, Chief Executive
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the responses from the Taramakau, Kowhitirangi and Vine Creek Rating Districts on opting out of the South Island Council Collective infrastructure insurance programme, and to update Council on the status of each response.

Report Summary

Following the Special Rating District Information Session on infrastructure insurance held on 5 June 2026, Council wrote to the three Rating Districts setting out what opting out means, the district-specific valuation and reserve data, and the risks involved. Each Rating District was asked to confirm, by 25 September 2026, a resolution supported by at least 75% of its members under its Terms of Reference, and to obtain independent financial and insurance advice.

The Taramakau Rating District has returned its response form, signed by the Chair on 22 September 2026, with the OPT-OUT position selected. The Kowhitirangi and Vine Creek Rating Districts have verbally confirmed their decision to opt out and have provided ratepayer signature sheets in support. Staff will update Council at the meeting on receipt of their signed response forms.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee resolve to:

- 1. Receive the report.*
- 2. Note that Council staff are neutral on the opt-out requests from the Taramakau, Kowhitirangi and Vine Creek Rating Districts.*
- 3. Note that Council is in discussions with its insurance providers on how the insurance policy would respond in the event of a claim, and that the outcome is not yet confirmed.*
4. Receive the response form from the Taramakau Rating District, signed by the Chair on 22 September 2026, as a true and correct record of the district's decision to opt out of the infrastructure insurance programme.
5. Note that the Kowhitirangi Rating District has verbally confirmed its decision to opt out of infrastructure insurance for the Kowhitirangi Scheme, and that staff will update Council at the meeting on receipt of the signed response form.
6. Note that the Vine Creek Rating District has verbally confirmed its decision to opt out of infrastructure insurance for the Vine Creek Scheme, and that staff will update Council at the meeting on receipt of the signed response form.

Issues and Discussion**Background**

On 5 June 2026, staff gave an in-person workshop and presentation to the Rating Districts on infrastructure insurance (the Special Rating District Information Session). Three Rating Districts — Taramakau, Kowhitirangi and Vine Creek — indicated a preference to opt out of the South Island Council Collective infrastructure insurance programme. Council then wrote to each Rating District setting out the implications, the district data, the risks, and the decision-making process, with a response form to be returned by 25 September 2026. The Information Session handout is attached as Appendix 1. The signed response forms from the Rating Districts will be supplied on the day of the meeting.

What opting out means

Opting out means the relevant assets are removed from the insurance schedule: no premium is charged, and no claim is available. If those assets are damaged, the Rating District funds 100% of the repair itself. Because comprehensive insurance was available and not taken, the Rating District would also lose access to the NEMA 60% central government contribution, which is conditional on either holding comprehensive insurance or demonstrating it genuinely could not be obtained.

Council is currently in discussions with its insurance providers regarding how the insurance policy would respond in the event of a claim. The outcome of these discussions is not yet confirmed and may be relevant to Council's decision.

District data

Table 1 sets out the position for each Rating District, including the Optimised Depreciated Replacement Cost (ODRC) as at 30 June 2025 from WSP's independent valuation (final, 9 September 2025), the Full Reinstatement Insurance Value for the 1 November 2026 to 1 November 2027 cover period, and the prudent reserve position against the Asset Management Plan (AMP) target.

Table 1: District data (figures current as at 31 August 2026)

	Taramakau	Kowhitirangi	Vine Creek
Independent valuation – Optimised Depreciated Replacement Cost (ODRC) at 30.06.2025 (WSP)	\$26,998,593	\$10,034,824	\$2,739,335
Full Reinstatement Insurance Value (FRIV) at 30.06.2026 plus inflation adjustment to 1 November 2027	\$38,638,400	\$14,326,000	\$3,858,200
Annual premium allocation (2025/26)	\$15,677.56	\$7,568.57	\$3,486.90
AMP prudent reserve target	\$500,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Current prudent reserve	\$34,169	\$214,305	\$97,024
Reserve as % of AMP target	7%	214%	65%

FRIV (Full Reinstatement Insurance Value) is the estimated cost of fully rebuilding an asset from scratch, including demolition, adjusted for inflation to the end of the cover period. It is the figure used to set the declared insured value and the premium. It is not a market price or a depreciated accounting value. ODRC is the depreciated value of the assets used for Council's financial reporting; it is not an insurance value.

Reserve positions differ between the three districts. Kowhitirangi holds more than twice its AMP target. Vine Creek holds 65% of its target, a shortfall of \$52,976. Taramakau holds 7% of its target, a shortfall of \$465,831, leaving limited capacity to fund a rebuild itself if it opts out.

Responses received

Table 2 sets out what Council has received from each Rating District against the process set out in Council's letters.

Table 2: Status of Rating District responses

	Taramakau	Kowhitirangi	Vine Creek
Council letter and response form sent	9 September 2026	9 September 2026	9 September 2026
Chair-signed response form	Returned — OPT-OUT circled, signed by Damien Groot (Chair), 22 September 2026	Verbal confirmation received; signed form to be provided at the meeting	Verbal confirmation received; signed form to be provided at the meeting
Ratepayer signatures received	None	Statement dated 21 September 2026 — approx. 52 entries	Approx. 26 entries: 6 written on the Kowhitirangi sheet ("as above for the Vine Creek Scheme"); approx. 20 on an undated sheet headed "Vine Creek"

Responsibility for gathering and confirming support within each Rating District rests with the Chair of that Rating District. Council relies on the Chair's signed response form as confirmation that:

- the Rating District has passed a resolution supported by at least 75% of its members, in accordance with its Terms of Reference;
- the signatures collected are from members of that Rating District and are accurate and complete;
- the resolution covers all flood protection assets in the scheme; and
- the Rating District has obtained, or has had the opportunity to obtain, independent financial and insurance advice.

Council does not verify individual signatures or membership. Any ratepayer signature sheets provided are the Rating District's supporting records.

The Taramakau Chair has signed and returned the response form. The Kowhitirangi and Vine Creek Rating Districts have provided ratepayer signature sheets and have verbally

confirmed their decision. Their Chairs are to sign and return the response form, and staff will update Council at the meeting.

Risks acknowledged

The following risks were set out to each Rating District and apply if an opt-out request is agreed:

- No insurance claim, at any scale, on the de-declared asset – not for minor repairs, not for full loss.
- No NEMA 60% contribution if damaged by a large-scale emergency event – the largest single funding source lost.
- Full financial exposure sits with the Rating District.
- The decision is not reversible in the moment; insurance cannot be purchased retroactively after damage has occurred.
- The outcome of Council's discussions with its insurance providers is not yet confirmed.

Timing

The current cover period ends on 1 November 2026. If Council agrees to a request, the affected assets would be removed from the insurance schedule from the next renewal. A decision to seek further information (Option 3) means current insurance continues until Council decides.

Options for Council

Once all signed response forms are received, Council may take any of the following options for each Rating District separately.

Option	Description	Indicative implication
1	Agree to the opt-out request as submitted; the affected assets are removed from the insurance schedule from the next renewal.	No further premium charged. No insurance claim and no NEMA 60% contribution available for those assets.
2	Decline the request and retain current insurance arrangements.	Premiums and NEMA eligibility continue unchanged.
3	Ask for more information before deciding. For example: proof of the 75% vote, proof of independent advice, how a reserve shortfall would be paid for, or the outcome of Council's talks with its insurers.	No decision yet. The insurance stays in place until the information is provided and Council makes a decision.

Considerations

Implications/Risks

If a request is agreed, the financial risk of damage to the affected assets moves from the insurance programme to the Rating District, and the NEMA 60% contribution is no longer available for those assets. If a request is agreed on material that does not clearly meet the 75% threshold under the Terms of Reference, Council's decision may be open to challenge by ratepayers who did not support it.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

This report is informational and advisory.

Tangata Whenua views

Staff are not aware of specific mana whenua interests directly engaged by this report at this stage. Where further investigation or physical works are progressed, engagement with relevant rūnanga would be undertaken as required.

Legal implications

Not applicable. This report is provided as an update.

Views of Affected Parties

The Taramakau, Kowhitirangi and Vine Creek Rating Districts have indicated their wish to opt out through the Special Rating District process, including the in-person workshop and presentation, and the material returned to Council. Ratepayers who did not sign are not represented in the material received.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: The signed response forms from the Taramakau, Kowhitirangi and Vine Creek Rating Districts (This will be supplied on the day of the meeting, as the Rating Districts are still providing them in the correct format.)

Attachment 2: Special Rating District Information Session 5 June 2026
Infrastructure Insurance.



WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Special Rating Area Information Session 5 June 2026 Infrastructure Insurance



Agenda

Topic

- River / Flood protection assets, Infrastructure insurance and Special Rating Areas (SRAs)

Purpose

- Clarify the 60/40 infrastructure insurance funding model,
- Clarify what “catastrophic insurance” is
- Outline the implications of ‘opting-out’ of the 60/40 funding model

This is an information only session to provide ratepayers and members of special rating areas with an opportunity to receive information and seek clarification on the topic. No decisions will be made at this information session.

Why we're here

- Some Special Rating Areas (SRAs) have proposed to **'opt-out'** of the commercially provided infrastructure insurance policy.
- We need a shared understanding of **what 'opt-out' actually means.**

Terminology:

Rating Districts (RD): WCRC has three (3) Ratings Districts, being the Buller District, Grey District, and Westland District.

Each RD has a number of **Special Rating Areas (SRA)**. There are 22 SRAs in total across the West Coast Region.

Define 'Opt-out' ~ a hard definition

- 'Opt-out' means the REMOVAL of specific river/ flood protection assets from the insurance programme (**de-declared**).
- No insurance premiums will be charged (or allocated to that SRA) because there is NO insurance cover for those assets (**uninsured assets**).
- Council will be **unable** to include de-declared assets in any insurance claims for damage/loss.
- **Given commercial insurance is available but not taken, the SRA should not expect Government co-funding (via NEMA) of up to 60% under than 60/40 infrastructure insurance funding programme.**



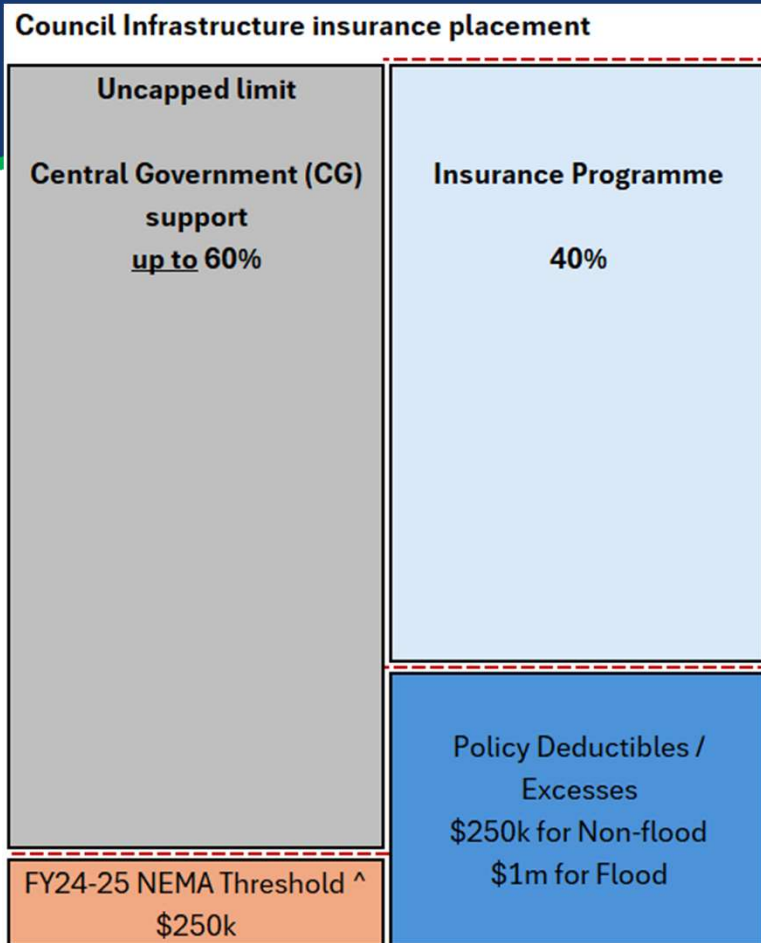
The reality of natural disasters

- Large flood/landslide events can damage river systems across multiple areas / SRAs.
- Councils must act quickly to protect life and communities.
- Council carries financial risk even when insurance and Government support exist.



How the 60/40 Infrastructure Insurance Programme works

- Council pays first (response + initial recovery)
- Insurance can contribute ~40% of covered losses above **deductibles** and limits.
- Government, via NEMA, may contribute up to 60% of eligible costs above the **threshold**.
- Council funds the deductibles, thresholds, ineligible costs, and any shortfall.



Source: Aon Infrastructure Insurance Guide - Local Government Clients 2025-26 prepared by Aon, April 2026

^ NEMA threshold / excess is laid out on section 33 of the Guide to the National CDEM Plan



The infrastructure insurance policy is a 'Catastrophic' events policy

- Designed for rare, severe natural disasters and catastrophic losses.
- High deductibles mean many smaller event won't trigger insurance payment.
- The value of the policy comes from reducing the 'financial shock' to ratepayers , via Council, in a major event.

A **natural catastrophic event** under the policy includes earthquake, natural landslide, tsunami, tornado, volcanic eruption, hydrothermal and geothermal activity, subterranean fire, flood and windstorm (including storm surge).



What NEMA can fund for river / flood protection infrastructure assets

- Government support can apply to **essential infrastructure** recovery repairs / rebuild.
- Includes repair / recovery of river management systems where there is **major disruption or continuing risk to life**.
- Support is partial and criteria based (**not automatic**).

NEMA threshold

- Why small events don't qualify

- Government reimbursement applies only above a threshold linked to net capital value.
- Regional Council threshold is 0.002%** of net Capital Value (CV), where CV is the total property valuation in the region (excl GST).
- Below threshold: Council pays

NEMA Threshold for Regional Councils

0.002%

Financial Year	WCRC Net Capital Value * (\$b)	WCRC NEMA Threshold (\$k)
2021/22	\$ 8.5	\$ 169.6
2022/23	\$ 8.5	\$ 169.6
2023/24	\$ 11.4	\$ 228.2
2024/25	\$ 12.5	\$ 250.1

* Per Rating Base Information in WCRC's Annual Reports



NEMA eligibility is about function and risk

- **Core Test:** Damage affects performance / function **or** imminent failure is likely,
- For river protection assets, life-safety / criticality considerations matter (e.g. **stopbanks**).
- **Focus is restoring** network performance, **not fixing all damage**.



Betterment – upgrade vs restore

- **Unintentional** betterment (needed to restore function) **may be eligible** for NEMA funding support,
- Deliberate betterment (extra resilience / capacity) is not generally eligible for 60% NEMA funding support,
- If Council chooses upgrades, Council will need to fund that increment.

NEMA's responded to provide clarification

*"NEMA funding is reimbursing actual **eligible costs to repair** the damage, regardless of asset valuation.*

For above ground assets, [including stopbanks], NEMA's expectation is that Council's will obtain comprehensive insurance OR demonstrate that it was unable to obtain comprehensive insurance for NEMA 60% to apply.

*For river protection assets that Council is **unable to get comprehensive insurance** (e.g. stopbanks), **then** Council can insure 40% through either use of reserves, insurance or both. NEMA 60% will apply above the NEMA threshold. NEMA's 60% funding will be available as long as the repair settlement from 3rd party insurance is not greater than 40% of the total repair costs. The remaining 40% is up to council how they wish to finance (e.g. reserve or insurance)."*



Premium impact varies by SRA and Payouts are rare in small events

Premium allocation mechanics:

- Premium allocation is driven by declared asset value located in each SRA
- Cost per ratepayer depends on the SRAs rating base
- High asset value + Small rating base =
 - Higher cost per ratepayer,
 - Stronger pushback / 'opt-out' view

High deductible = Catastrophic cover

- Deductible for Flood, Windstorm (incl storm surge) is high (\$1m) , so many smaller events don't trigger insurance
- Government reimbursement applies only above the NEMA threshold and to eligible costs

The policy is designed for catastrophic, multi-asset, multi-area events (not day-to-day cover)



Opt-out = Self-insurance

What Changes

- No premium allocated = No insurance cover for assets in that SRA
- No insurance claim available for those assets
- The SRA must fund restoration via reserves / borrowing / rates (self-insurance)
- Forgo eligibility to NEMA financial support – chose not to take available commercial insurance

What Stays the Same

- Life-safety / community expectations to restore flood protection remain
- NEMA remains threshold/eligibility-based and reimbursement focused
- Council still pays: thresholds, ineligible costs, and any betterment

Opt-out doesn't remove risk – it removes one funding source and shifts cost to after the event

If opt-out is supported: Minimum safeguards

- Ring-fence SRA reserves and have a funding plan to cover risk retained by Council
- Have clear post-event expectation (i.e. What gets restored and When)
- Have pre-agreed rules for betterment and cost overruns
- Transparency: Publish what is and isn't covered if an SRA opts-out of the commercial infrastructure insurance policy



SRA views on the infrastructure insurance policy and Full reinstatement insurance valuation at 30 June 2025

SRA views on Infrastructure Insurance Cover	# of SRAs 20th May 2025	# of SRAs 19th May 2026
Retain	13	12
Uncertain	2	6
Opt-out	6	3
N/A	2	2
Total # SRAs	23	23

RD feedback is based on the information gathered at SRA meetings over a two year period. The information was consolidated and presented to the WCRC Operations Committee meeting (20th May 2025) and the Extra-ordinary Council meeting (19th May 2026).

N/A: Raft Creek and Rapahoe

SRA views on Infrastructure Insurance Cover	# of SRAs 19th May 2026 ^	Full Reinstatement Insurance Valuation at 30.06.2025	Increase / (Decrease) in Full Reinstatement Insurance Valuation
Retain	12	137,332,300	21,161,381
Uncertain	6	91,249,500	39,493,023
Opt-out	3	55,418,600	14,807,940
N/A	2	739,100	(560,649)
	23	284,739,500	74,901,696

^ RD meetings held between Nov-25 and Mar-26



WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Appendices



Declared Full Reinstatement Insurance Value (\$209.8m) – Cover period 1-Nov-22 to 1-Nov-26 by Special Rating Area and Insurance Premium allocation

Sort Order	Special Rating Area (SRA)	SRA views on Infrastructure Insurance Cover ^	Policy 2025/26 Declared Full Reinstatement Insurance Value (\$)	Premium Allocation of 1-Nov-2025 to 1- Nov-2026
	Administration		0.00	64,463.97
1	Franz Josef Combined	Retain	35,694,751	6,297.53
2	Greymouth Floodwall	Retain	27,197,582	24,150.18
3	Hokitika Seawall Combined	Retain	11,042,619	6,921.04
4	Hokitika Southside	Retain	1,200,510	1,197.21
5	Inchbonnie	Retain	8,033,273	5,781.63
6	Karamea	Retain	11,752,616	11,422.77
7	Kongahu	Uncertain	0	1,922.94
8	Kowhitirangi	Opt-out	10,679,722	7,568.57
9	Matainui Creek	Retain	120,011	111.11
10	Mokihinui	Retain	3,318,706	2,624.72
11	Neils Beach	Uncertain	37,986	0.00
12	Nelson Creek	Retain	7,144,386	5,499.53
13	Okuru	Uncertain	1,446,519	1,190.78
14	Punakaiki	Retain	5,583,415	5,008.53
15	Raft Creek	N/A	1,299,749	448.61
16	Rapahoe	N/A	0	0.00
17	Redjacks Creek	Uncertain	1,858,789	1,384.12
18	Taramakau	Opt-out	24,618,627	15,677.56
19	Vine Creek	Opt-out	5,312,312	3,486.90
20	Waitangi-Taona	Uncertain	7,610,507	5,153.45
21	Wanganui	Uncertain	40,802,676	27,425.09
22	Westport	Retain	3,681,960	0.00
23	Whataroa	Retain	1,401,090	1,123.35
	TOTAL		209,837,804	198,859.59

^ SRA feedback is based on the information gathered at SRA meetings between Nov-25 and Mar-2026. The information was consolidated and presented at the Extra-ordinary Council meeting (19th May 2026).



Detailed: SRA views on Infrastructure insurance cover and full reinstatement insurance values (FRIV) of assets located within each Special Rating Area (ordered highest to lowest value)

Notes:

Current infrastructure insurance cover period is 1-Nov-2025 to 1-Nov-2026

The declared FRIV under the current policy cover is \$209.8m.

Aon have been advised of the FRIV increase to \$284.7m per the independent insurance valuation at 30.06.2025 (i.e. 36% increase to FRIV).

Sort Order	Special Rating Area (SRA) Name	SRA views on Infrastructure Insurance Cover ^	Full Reinstatement Insurance Valuation (FRIV) at 30.06.2025 (\$)	% of FRIV	Comments / Observations
21	Wanganui	Uncertain	70,303,700	24.7%	\$239,830,400 FRIV is held across 9 SRAs, and represents 84.2% of Total WCRC FRIV
18	Taramakau	Opt-out	37,683,800	13.2%	
2	Greymouth Floodwall	Retain	37,242,100	13.1%	
1	Franz Josef Combined	Retain	26,239,800	9.2%	
6	Karamea	Retain	16,470,200	5.8%	
20	Waitangi-Taona	Uncertain	14,586,200	5.1%	
8	Kowhitirangi	Opt-out	13,972,100	4.9%	
3	Hokitika Seawall Combined	Retain	12,914,900	4.5%	
5	Inchbonnie	Retain	10,417,600	3.7%	
12	Nelson Creek	Retain	9,707,500	3.4%	
22	Westport	Retain	8,457,900	3.0%	
14	Punakaiki	Retain	5,761,600	2.0%	
10	Mokihinui	Retain	5,627,500	2.0%	
19	Vine Creek	Opt-out	3,762,700	1.3%	
17	Redjacks Creek	Uncertain	3,343,600	1.2%	
13	Okuru	Uncertain	2,098,600	0.7%	
23	Whataroa	Retain	1,960,700	0.7%	
4	Hokitika Southside	Retain	1,954,900	0.7%	Above \$1m "flood" deductible
7	Kongahu	Uncertain	768,200	0.3%	Below \$1m "flood" deductible
15	Raft Creek	N/A	739,100	0.3%	
9	Matainui Creek	Retain	577,600	0.2%	
11	Neils Beach	Uncertain	149,200	0.1%	
16	Rapahoe	N/A	0	0.0%	
TOTAL FRIV			284,739,500	100.0%	

^ SRA feedback is based on the information gathered at SRA meetings between Nov-25 and Mar-2026. The information was consolidated and presented at the Extra-ordinary Council meeting (19th May 2026).

Understanding the Basis of Value

Financial Reporting (Fair Value)

Used for balance sheet reporting and audit purposes. Fair value reflects the value of an asset in its current condition, taking into account age, remaining useful life, and optimisation assumptions. It is designed to support transparency and consistency in financial statements rather than recovery following a loss.

Outputs:

- Fair value for financial reporting
- Depreciated and optimised asset values

Purpose:

To support statutory reporting, audit assurance, and financial transparency.

Reinstatement (Replacement Cost)

Used for insurance and recovery planning. Reinstatement value reflects the cost to rebuild or replace an asset to an equivalent modern standard, incorporating current construction costs, professional fees, and compliance with today's building requirements.

Outputs:

- Reinstatement or replacement cost
- Allowance for modern standards and code compliance

Purpose:

To support effective recovery and reinstatement following an insured loss

Key Distinction

Each basis of value serves a different purpose. Issues arise when a value prepared for financial reporting is relied on for insurance or recovery without understanding the implications.

Outputs:

- Clear articulation of valuation basis
- Improved alignment between valuation and insurance intent

Purpose:

To reduce ambiguity and risk at claim time.

Source: Aon Local Government Strategy Meeting Q1 2026

20

Basics of Value and Claim Outcomes

If Financial Reporting Values Are Relied On

When insurance decisions are based on fair value prepared for financial reporting, claim settlements may reflect depreciated or optimised assumptions rather than actual rebuild cost.

Outputs:

- Settlement aligned to book value logic
- Potential funding gap on reinstatement

Purpose:

Highlights residual financial risk retained by council.

If Reinstatement Values Are Used

When assets are valued on a reinstatement basis for insurance purposes, claim settlements are more closely aligned to the real cost of restoring buildings to functional use.

Outputs:

- Settlement aligned to rebuild reality
- Reduced unplanned capital contribution

Purpose:

Supports timely and effective recovery following loss.

Why This Matters Pre-Loss

Understanding and selecting the appropriate basis of value before a loss enables better risk financing decisions and clearer conversations about insurance structure and limits.

Outputs:

- Better quality data into insurance programmes
- Clearer understanding of retained vs transferred risk

Purpose:

To inform risk strategy and support better recovery outcomes.

Source: Aon Local Government Strategy Meeting Q1 2026

21



Resources

- Aon Infrastructure Insurance Guide - Local Govt Clients - 2025-26_prepared April2026
- Aon Local Govt Strategy Meeting Q1 2026 - Slide Deck

NEMA website factsheets and guidance, including:

- [Insurance cover and Government funding assistance relating to the rebuild or repair of damaged below ground and above ground essential infrastructure](#)
- [Eligibility for essential infrastructure repair or rebuild](#)
- [Approval of projects into essential infrastructure recovery programmes for 60:40 funding](#)
- [33. Government financial support to local authorities](#)

10 Motion into Public Excluded Meeting

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve:

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

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

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
11.1 <i>Minutes of Operations Committee (Public Excluded) meeting – 4 August 2026</i>	<i>s7(2)(a) – the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</i> <i>s7(2)(b)(ii) – the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information</i> <i>s7(2)(j) – the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage</i>	<i>s48(1)(a)(i) – the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</i>

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