

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 29 March 2023 – COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM**

PRESENT:

P. Ewen (West Coast Regional Council – Chair), P. Haddock (West Coast Regional Council), T. O’Keefe (Buller District Council), J. Caygill (Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency)

IN ATTENDANCE:

N. Costley (West Coast Regional Council), K. Jackson (Westland District Council), M. Sutherland (Buller District Council)

BY ZOOM:

H. Milne (Development West Coast), D. Budhathoki (Grey District Council), D. Mander (Department of Conservation), Toshi Hodliffe (Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency), David Rowland (Waka Kotahi, NZ Transport Agency)

2. Apologies:

Mayor Gibson (Grey District Council), R. Burden (Westland District Council)

Moved (P. Haddock / T. O’Keefe) that the apologies be accepted.

Carried

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

4. Confirmation of Minutes dated 14 September 2022

Moved (P. Haddock / P. Ewen) that the Minutes of the West Coast Regional Transport Committee meeting, dated 14 September 2022 be confirmed as correct.

Carried

5. Matters arising from the previous Minutes

Clr Haddock asked for an update on Stoney Creek. J. Caygill noted that this would be covered in the organisational update.

J. Caygill clarified the variable speed limit for Karoro School is already in place which meets the current requirement under the new Speed Management Rule. Clr Haddock noted the other safety measures such as the yellow lines on the western side of the state highway have made a significant difference.

6. Briefing for the incoming West Coast Regional Transport Committee and updated Terms of Reference

N. Costley noted that the Terms of Reference of the Committee had been updated for legislative compliance.

Chair Ewen queried the membership of the Department of Conservation to the RTC. The role the Department plays in the land transport network and as a major landowner is significant for the West Coast was recognised. N. Costley explained that as per legislation, other appointees can be made to the RTC however they do not have voting rights. D. Mander confirmed that the Department would welcome the opportunity to have someone at the table in an advisory capacity.

N. Costley noted the required quorum for the Committee. Committee members asked about whether a quorum can be obtained should they attend via Zoom. Legislation no longer provides for a quorum to be comprised of in person and zoom members.

Moved (J. Caygill / P. Haddock) *That the West Coast Regional Transport Committee:*

1. *That the briefing pack setting out relevant background information about the West Coast Regional Transport Committee included as Attachment 1.*
2. *Adopts the West Coast Regional Transport Committee Terms of Reference included as Attachment 2.*
3. *Recommends that the West Coast Regional Council adopts the Terms of Reference for the West Coast Regional Transport Committee.*

Carried

7. Chairman's Report

Chair Ewen noted his attendance at the recent South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group.

8. Update on Approved Organisation Work Programmes from the Regional Land Transport Plan

J. Caygill spoke to the State Highway work programme from the Regional Land Transport Plan. Further Geotech work is required for Stoney Creek to better understand what is required here. Are awaiting funding signals from the Crown. There is an increased focus on resilience. A draft GPS is expected to be issued in May. J. Caygill noted the diminishing funding available year on year. The RTC will have the ability to work through the prioritisation of projects in the Regional Land Transport Plan review later this year.

J. Caygill noted that the Prime Minister has redirected attention for speed changes to the top 1% roads resulting in deaths and injuries. Unable to advise what this means geographically for the region. This will be communicated to the Committee when received. For other areas not captured but are desired by the community then this can still be worked through.

Due to the relatively good weather experienced over recent months, maintenance programmes have progressed well standing the region in good stead in comparison to other areas. P. Haddock noted the improvement this has made to the asset. Clr Haddock noted the maintenance issues with the south bank of the Wanganui River and the ability of the roadside drains in Westland to cope with rainfall events. J. Caygill noted these matters as well as providing better, and more timely, information to road users. Clr O'Keefe noted similar issues in and around Westport. J. Caygill noted that there is an ongoing conversation with Councils and landowners that needs to be had in regards to the management of drains. Waka Kotahi's responsibility is to ensure that the road does not impede the flow of water not what happens with the water after this. Further discussions are required as to the levels of service the State Highway should be providing, particularly with communities that have one road in and one road out. Clr O'Keefe agreed that there was a lack of communication around this.

Chair Ewen noted the ongoing maintenance required to maintain vegetation growth alongside the State Highway. J. Caygill asked for notification of these areas to be provided as if it is a safety issue it will be dealt with, noting that they are funded for some things and not others such as visual amenity. They are funded to maintain safety. J. Caygill noted that they are currently doing the biggest maintenance programmes they have ever done. Generally speaking, the West Coast network is one of the best in the country. M. Sutherland noted the work underway on a bylaw for stormwater management.

Clr Haddock queried the weight restrictions for 4 Mile Creek and concern of heavy vehicle operators. J. Caygill noted this and will come back to the Committee.

K. Jackson spoke to the update on activities for Westland District Council. J. Caygill sought clarification on process for the other structure replacements noted.

M. Sutherland spoke to the update on activities for Buller District Council.

D. Budhathoki spoke to the update for Grey District Council. Replacements of Rough River, Moonlight and William-Stewart Bridges. Have gone out for contract for Seven Mile and Clear Creek. Are also planning for end-of-life bridge work over next ten-year time period.

9. Regional Speed Management Plan

D. Budhathoki provided a verbal update on this agenda item noting that all four Councils have been working closely following the releases of the Speed Management Rule. The Guidance has been released which provides much clearer direction on what needs to happen. Workshop held recently set timelines for the development of the plan. Are currently working towards the requirements for the speeds around schools and utilising funding that is available. The rest of the activities will be in the 2024-2027 NLTP.

The next update will provide further timelines for the Committee. Noted potential engagement of an external provider to assist with working through the requirements.

10. General Business

Chair Ewen noted the issue of funding and electric vehicles are no longer contributing to the funding pool.

The Lower Buller Gorge slump was raised by Chair Ewen. J. Caygill noted this and that would provide more information following the meeting.

Clr O'Keefe noted the work coming up for the Karamea Bluffs and potential issues. J. Caygill said that he would follow up on this.

Clr Haddock raised the pull over areas on State Highway 73. Noted that these were better on the West Coast side but on the Canterbury side there was still much room for improvement. J. Caygill noted this for followup.

Meeting closed 11.27am