

Committee Members

Chair: Stuart Challenger
Cr Allan Birchfield
Cr Brett Cummings
Cr Peter Ewen

Cr Debra Magner
Cr Laura Coll McLaughlin
Cr John Hill

Iwi Representatives

Francois Tumahai (Ngāti Waewae)
Jackie Douglas (Makaawhio)



THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Meeting of the Resource Management Committee
(Te Huinga Tu)

Tuesday, 13 September 2022

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

and

Live Streamed via Council's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/WestCoastRegionalCouncil>

10.30 am: Resource Management Committee Meeting

**On completion of the Committee meeting: A workshop to be held followed by the
September Council Meeting**

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Resource Management Committee Meeting

(Te Huinga Tu)

A G E N D A

(Rarangi Take)

1. Welcome (*Haere mai*)
2. Apologies (*Ngā Pa Pouri*)
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Public Forum, Petitions and Deputations (*He Huinga tuku korero*)
5. Confirmation of Minutes (*Whakau korero*)
 - Committee Meeting 9 August 2022
 - **Matters Arising**
6. Chairman's Report (verbal)
7. **Planning and Science Group**
 - 7.1 Planning and Resource Science Group Report
 - 7.2 Managing Exotic Afforestation Consultation
8. **Consents and Compliance Group**
 - 8.1 Consents Report
 - 8.2 Compliance Report
9. **General Business**

**At the conclusion of the Resource Management Committee meeting a workshop will be held for:
"Designations Submissions on the Proposed TTPP"**

H Mabin
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.

Please note that due to Covid restrictions there are limits to the number of people permitted within the Council Chambers.

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 AUGUST 2022 AT THE NGATI WAEWAE ARAHURA MARAE COMMENCING AT 10:30 AM.

PRESENT:

S Challenger (Chair), A Birchfield, J Douglas, P Ewen, D Magner, B Cummings , L Coll McLaughlin, F Tumahai, J Douglas.

IN ATTENDANCE:

H Mabin (Chief Executive), N Costley (Manager Strategy & Communications) via Zoom, C Helem (Consents & Compliance Manager), R Vaughan (Acting Planning & Resource Science Manager) via Zoom, Daniel Jackson (WCRC Consultant) via Zoom, Amie Drnasin (Minute taker).

Also present: Brendon McMahon (Grey Star)

WELCOME

Chair Challenger opened the meeting and read the prayer.

APOLOGIES

The Chair called for any apologies. Cr J Hill was an apology for the meeting.

Moved (P Ewen/B Cummings) *that the apology from J Hill was accepted.*

Carried

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

F Tumahai declared his association with Taumata Arowai stating he is the chair.

PUBLIC FORUM, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There were no public forum, petitions or deputations.

MINUTES

The Chair asked the meeting if there were any changes to the minutes of the previous meeting. There were none.

Moved: (L Coll McLaughlin /D Magner) *the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 12 July 2022 be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters Arising

Cr Coll McLaughlin asked when the next Hokitika Joint Committee meeting would be scheduled. The Chairman advised the meeting will be organised as soon as possible.

Cr Ewen asked if access to the Hokitika Beach had been remedied. H Mabin advised there are further investigations to be made.

H Mabin noted the fact that she had contacted both P Madgwick and F Tumahai and that they recommended that the review of the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Agreement be completed after the election and swearing in of the new Council in October.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chairman delivered his report verbally. He advised he was unable to attend the LGNZ Conference in July due to a positive Covid test result prior to departure. He had nothing further to report.

Moved (A Birchfield/ B Cummings) *That the report is noted.*

Carried

REPORTS

PLANNING AND RESOURCE SCIENCE GROUP REPORT

R Vaughan spoke to this report and took it as read, noting the quality of the feed via zoom was not optimal and the Councillors were slightly difficult to hear. R Vaughan highlighted there are still documents coming out of Central Government and staff are lodging submissions for these. She reported L Sadler, Planning Team Leader, was invited to speak to the Environment Select Committee on behalf of the West Coast Regional Council with regards to the Emissions Reduction Plan. R Vaughan also confirmed The Joint Submission from the four West Coast Councils on the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity has been lodged.

The Chair asked if having L Sadler present at the select committee was a sign Central Government was starting to listen to Regional Council. R Vaughan replied that she hoped so, stating L Sadler made the case very well by highlighting the increased concern around landowners private property rights being eroded through central government policy and that there is very little support for West Coast Landowners.

Cr Coll McLaughlin asked if L Sadler was invited to speak or if it was initiated by West Coast Regional Council. R Vaughan confirmed L Sadler had been invited to speak on behalf of the submission, L Sadler and N Costley attended in person with L Sadler speaking.

Cr Coll McLaughlin sought further information regarding the 14 Water Watch Radar Senses mentioned in the report. R Vaughan advised they are a relatively low-cost alternative mobile monitoring system. They are a radar gun which can be mounted to any existing structure to measure the water surface levels relative to how much the beds have graded without endangering staff. R Vaughan further advised they are not susceptible to flood damage as they can be mounted above river flows, the cost was \$1500 each and will add to the monitoring systems already in place. They will be used in areas where there are gaps and where other data is required in addition to what the stationary system currently provides.

Cr Coll McLaughlin further asked if the data can be accessed via the Council webpage. R Vaughan advised they are not loaded on the website, at this stage the raw data is being used to indicate river gauging. The intention is not to provide the raw data but confirmed it will be linked where possible in the future to reports readily available on Council's website.

Cr Ewen congratulated Staff for the well-crafted submissions. Cr Ewen referred to page 18 of the Agenda where reference was made to where West Coast communities will be significantly affected by the "cessation of mining" noting this would be a double jeopardy for the Coast as it would result in the cessation of the Tranz Alpine Railway which is dependant at this stage on the production of coal. R Vaughan agreed this was a good point.

Cr Coll McLaughlin asked R Vaughan to clarify the request for the RMC to provide direction on whether or not to submit feedback regarding the response on the Managing Exotic Afforestation Incentives submission. R Vaughan gave a brief overview of the earlier submission sent on 29 April 2022 and will re-circulate this in full to the Committee. R Vaughan will come back to the Committee with the main discussion points raised by the Ministers for the RMC to provide comment.

Moved (P Ewen/J Douglas) *that the Resource Management Committee:*

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Agree with the updated staff advice in Appendix 1 about which national documents to submit on.*

Carried

TE TAI POUTINI PLAN REPORT

H Mabin spoke to this report on behalf of J Armstrong and took it as read. The Chair noted there are problems when accessing the plan and maps online and this needed to be remedied. Cr Coll McLaughlin added the searchable nature of the maps did not allow for a person to search on a specific place. H Mabin thanked the Chair and advised she would relay the concerns to J Armstrong.

Moved (A Birchfield/B Cummings) *that the Resource Management Committee:*

1. *Note the report.*

Carried

TE TAI POUTINI PLAN MOVING FORWARD

H Mabin spoke to this report on behalf of J Armstrong and took it as read highlighting that the paper was a product of a discussion among the Chief Executives regarding the future and structure of the Te Tai Poutini Plan Committee. The report was provided to the RMC to inform and provide background information. There were no questions arising.

Moved (F Tumahai/J Douglas) *that the Resource Management Committee:*

1. *Note the report and the attachment*

Carried

CONSENTS REPORT

C Helem spoke to this report and took it as read, outlining the main points. A Birchfield asked what was the status with the consent was relating to the black sand. C Helem confirmed it was Westland Mineral Sands and it has been granted post appeal.

Moved (B Cummings/ F Tumahai) *that the Resource Management Committee;*

1. *Receive the August 2022 the Consents Group Report*

Carried

COMPLIANCE REPORT

C Helem spoke to this report and took it as read, outlining the main points. Cr Coll McLaughlin requested further clarity regarding erosion at Bruce Bay, C Helem advised he would provide an update in a future report. Cr Ewen has had queries from members of the public for more clarity and guidance where “floods of gravel” come down stream and what they can do or cannot do without being prosecuted. C Helem advised an

engineer has visited the site in question and discussions have been held. Cr Ewen highlighted several other area's of concern and C Helem advised he will look into these further.

Moved (J Douglas/B Cummings) *that the Resource Management Committee;*

1. *Receive the August 2022 report of the Compliance Group; and*
2. *Approve the release of the \$6,000 cash bond for RC-2016-0088 H Roundhill & R Inwood; and*
3. *Approve the release of the \$12,000 surety bond for RC-2016-0100 M J K Mining Limited*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair noted the elections are getting close and nominations will close midday Friday, he encouraged those who are standing again to get their nominations in. Cr Magner noted there was no visibility of who had been nominated on the West Coast Regional Council website. H Mabin advised she would ensure the nominations would be uploaded to the website.

Cr Ewen asked why Grey District Council decided against accepting the West Coast Regional Council nominations. H Mabin advised there had been a departure of a key staff member within the Grey District Council and N Costley of Regional Council had been appointed the Deputy Electoral Officer. Cr Ewen asked why the Councillors were not informed of the change, H Mabin replied the notification came in very late. Cr Ewen further added there is all credit to Staff who had to learn the process in a short time however he felt there should have been a conversation between Grey District Council and West Coast Regional Council before the elections noting the Mayors, Chair, & Iwi meeting as the best forum. Cr Birchfield asked if the votes are still counted in the Grey District Council, N Costley advised she would have to check and confirm the correct location.

Cr Cummings asked if personal Identification still required when filing a nomination. N Costley recommended to have a passport on hand, Cr Magner confirmed proof of citizenship is required.

Chair delivered closing prayer.

The meeting closed at 11:19 a.m.

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Chair S Challenger

.....
Date

Report to: Resource Management Committee	Meeting Date: 13 September 2022
Title of Item: Planning and Resource Science Report	
Report by: Lillie Sadler, Planning Team Leader	
Reviewed by: Rachel Vaughan, Acting Planning and Science Manager	
Public excluded? No	

Report Purpose

To update the Committee on Planning and Resource Science developments over the last month and seek their agreement on the updated staff advice in Appendix 1.

Draft Recommendations

It is recommended that Council resolve to:

1. Receive the report.
2. Agree with the updated staff advice in Appendix 1 about which national documents to submit on.

Issues and Discussion

Anticipated documents to be notified for submissions

The Table in Appendix 1 is updated based on recent updates from the Ministry for the Environment. Updated information is shown with underline.

Submissions lodged

The joint West Coast Councils' submission on the Stewardship Land Reclassification Review, and comments on West Coast land parcels' reclassifications, were lodged on 23 August.

A copy of this submission with Attachment 1 Joint WC Councils' submission lodged in March 2022, and the Excel spreadsheet with comments on individual West Coast land parcels' reclassification, accompanies this report as Appendix 2.

Staff have been contacted regarding speaking to the Council's submission. At the time of writing, a date has not been confirmed.

National Adaptation Plan

The Ministry for the Environment (MFE) released the final version of the first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) on 3 August 2022. The NAP sets out what actions the Government will take over the next six years to help all New Zealanders adapt and thrive in a changing climate. It has actions relevant to every sector and community in Aotearoa New Zealand and addresses the priority risks that need action now. The Plan also acknowledges the crucial role of local government in helping communities to understand climate risk and act.

Here is a link to the finalised NAP:

<https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/climate-change/MFE-AoG-20664-GF-National-Adaptation-Plan-2022-WEB.pdf>

MFE have prepared a factsheet for local government listing actions points from the NAP that are relevant to local government being able to implement the NAP in planning, infrastructure and decision-making. Councils will need to have regard to the NAP in their plan making processes from November 2022.

<https://environment.govt.nz/publications/climate-change-and-local-government-what-the-national-adaptation-plan-means-for-you/>

Comparison of Council submission and final National Adaptation Plan

Staff have undertaken a comparison of what the Council sought in their submission on the Draft National Adaptation Plan, and what is in the final version of the Plan. The comparison is attached as Appendix 3, and shows that:

- Some recommendations were not addressed in the final NAP;
- For some recommendations, there were actions in the Draft NAP, and these were unchanged in the final NAP;
- For Recommendations 3 and 4, there appears to be minor changes to actions in the final NAP to improve or clarify the action.

Ironically, the disposal of Stewardship land has not taken Climate Change into account. This is frustrating for areas where parcels could be used for flood retention or climate retreat. Unfortunately, staff have now learned that stewardship land disposals will occur on the open market, consistent with the Department of Conservations current disposal policy.

Te Tai o Poutini Plan

Update on consultation following notification of Sites of Significance to Māori

Following the notification of TTPP, mapping errors were identified in the Sites of Significance to Māori Overlay. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu have reviewed these errors, and provided a way forward.

Three types of errors identified:

- Ellipsoid shapes in Poutini Ngai Tahu mapping has transferred into an oval in the Plan map.
- Areas which are to apply to water bodies only, when being plotted onto a GIS system, don't allow for the waterbody to have moved.
- "Silent files" were shown in the hard copy maps, but not in the online maps.

All 216 sites have been comprehensively reviewed. Letters have been drafted to advise property owners in each of these circumstances. Letters have also been drafted to let property owners know that they have been incorrectly identified as having a Site of Significance to Māori on their property.

Extracting rating addresses, mail merging, and customising these letters requires careful precise work. It is hoped that the letters will be completed ready for mailing by week ending 18th September. The accompanying information sheet is contained in Appendix 1. This is available on TTPP website.

To ensure that at least 20 working days is available to make submissions, TTPP Planners have requested that the submission period for TTPP **be extended until 28 October 2022**. This paper will be tabled at TTPP Committee meeting 8th September 2022.

The public will be notified of any change to the submission closing date.

Update on consultation on TTPP

- Public meetings

Following notification 18 public meetings have been held across the region. The meetings were held to help inform communities on the planning process including submissions, and to answer planning queries.

Approximate numbers at these meetings were: Maruia (20), Ross (15), Franz Josef (6), Okarito (3), Haast (45), Arahura (6), Runanga (30), Reefton (2), Karamea (25), Moana (6), Blackball (6), Nelson Creek (7), Hokitika (40), Greymouth (40), Punakaiki (12), Barrytown (48), Ngakawau (10) and Westport (50).

TTPP Committee members, District Councillors and staff, and Pip Lynch, Poutini Environmental attended the meetings to support the team. This was greatly appreciated.

- Library sessions

Drop-in sessions were held at the Westport, Reefton, Hokitika and Greymouth libraries. These were opportunities for people to work through individual queries and get some help navigating the online plan.

The library staff were also briefed on the planning process, training on navigating the plan, and where to direct technical queries.

- Information sheets

Information sheets with a summary of the key changes for zoning for specific locations, and relevant overlays have been created, and are available online. There are also information sheets for topics which have had a lot of public interest.

Location specific info sheets – Westport, Westland Rural Areas and Small Settlements, Westland Coastal Settlements, Runanga – Rapahoe – Dobson and Kaiata, Reefton, Lake Brunner, Karamea, Hokitika, Grey Townships, Franz Josef and Fox Glacier, Buller Townships, Greymouth

Topic specific info sheets – Existing use rights, Requests for rezoning as part of TTPP, Mineral Extraction

- Queries

Following notification dozens of general queries were received every day. This has now changed to more technical queries, from people wanting to understand what the proposed plan means for specific properties.

- Submissions lodged

45 submissions have been lodged so far. These are on a variety of topics with no key theme.

Resource Science

Air Quality

Air quality monitoring is ongoing especially during the winter months when weather conditions and domestic burners are more likely to impact ambient air quality.

Water quality

Recreational water quality monitoring programmes run from November to March.

Hydrology

Twelve flood warning alarms were responded to in August. For further information, here is the link to the Flood Warning webpage on the Council's website:

<https://www.wcrc.govt.nz/services/flood-monitoring>.

This month, the Hydrology team began installing bigger solar panels at several of our sites such as the Hokitika and Ahaura Gorges to help improve resilience during weather events. The team have several more panels to install over the next 1-2 months. Other installations included three of the Waterwatch radar sensors at the Cobden Aromahana Lagoon culvert, and the Crooked River and Styx River bridges; the latter of these providing useful information on the northern branch of the Hokitika catchment during weather events.

The team was also involved in the mid-August weather event, which saw staff keeping up a 24/7 roster to monitor river levels and rainfall, as well as assisting with field observations at the Waiho and Hokitika Rivers.

Attachments

Appendix 1: Anticipated documents to be notified for submissions in 2022

Appendix 2: West Coast joint submission on Stewardship Land Reclassification Review, with Attachment 1 joint WC Councils' submission lodged in March 2022, and the Excel spreadsheet with comments on individual West Coast land parcels' reclassification

Appendix 3: Table comparing recommendations in Council submission on Draft National Adaptation Plan with content of final NAP

Appendix 1: Anticipated documents to be notified for submissions in 2022

Document	Main points	Closing date, or approximate period, for submissions	Recommendation to submit or not
<u>Fisheries NZ: Habitats of Significance to Fisheries Management</u>	<u>Duplication of regulation</u>	<u>18 November 2022</u>	<u>Brief submission to be prepared</u>
<u>“Managing our wetlands in the coastal marine area”</u>	<u>MFE propose to replace all references to natural wetland in the NES-F with natural inland wetland and define ‘natural inland wetland’ by reference to the existing definition in the NPS-FM. This would clarify that the NES-F wetland provisions no longer apply to natural wetlands in the CMA. Two other options also considered.</u>	<u>21 Sept</u>	<u>Recommend to submit in support of proposal that the NES-F wetland provisions no longer apply to natural wetlands in the CMA.</u>
<u>Further submission on permanent forest category in Emission Trading Scheme</u>	<u>Ministers invite further feedback on a number of options raised in first round of submissions to address the permanent forest category in the ETS.</u>	<u>No timeframe given for feedback</u>	<u>Recommend to provide feedback highlighting main points of our original submission.</u>
Natural and Built Environments Bill	First of two Bills giving effect to RMA reform, and replacing the RMA. This focuses on the setting of environmental limits and outcomes, environmental and land use planning and the governance of those activities.	Expected to be introduced to Parliament in the fourth quarter of 2022, possibly October.	To be advised in due course.

	The Bill was originally intended to be consulted on in late 2021, then early 2022. The timeframe has been further pushed out.		
Spatial Planning Bill	<p>Provides for the development of long-term (30 yrs minimum) regional spatial strategies that integrate land-use planning, environmental regulation, infrastructure provision and climate change response.</p> <p>Mandates use of spatial planning.</p> <p>Requires central govt, local govt, and mana whenua to work together to prepare a strategy.</p> <p>The Bill was originally intended to be consulted on in late 2021, then early 2022. The timeframe has been further pushed out.</p>	Expected to be introduced to Parliament in the fourth quarter of 2022, possibly October.	To be advised in due course.
Aquaculture reform as part of resource management reform – MfE and MPI	Fisheries NZ will be consulting on reforms to the aquaculture management system, as part of the resource management reforms. It will include consideration of Open Ocean Aquaculture.	To be consulted on as part of the two new resource management Bills in the third quarter of 2022.	To be advised
Climate Change Adaptation Bill	<p>This is the third new piece of legislation as part of the Resource Management Reform suite. It will focus on the necessary steps to address effects of climate change and natural hazards.</p> <p>Will deal with complex legal and technical issues (e.g. liability and compensation) around managed retreat.</p>	Consultation in 2023	To be advised in due course.

Appendix 2: West Coast joint submission on Stewardship Land Reclassification Review



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22 July 2022

Department of Conservation

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on Decisions on Stewardship Land Reclassification

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed reclassification proposals for Stewardship Land within the West Coast Conservancy.

The three West Coast District Councils (Buller, Grey and Westland), and the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC or the Council) have made a joint submission, which is attached. A joint submission is appropriate given the extent of Department of Conservation land holdings on the West Coast; and the four Councils are working together with mana whenua to give effect to the purpose of local government, including the preparation of a combined District Plan - Te Tai o Poutini Plan - for all three Districts under an Order in Council.

The West Coast/Te Tai o Poutini differs from most of New Zealand as it is fortunate to have an abundance of diverse and intact indigenous ecosystems and vegetation types.

We note that the Councils are not opposed to protecting, maintaining or restoring land for conservation purposes in principle. However, the Councils strongly believe, aside from the mana whenua reclassifications, that full socio-economic assessments must be undertaken in partnership with the Councils prior to reclassifications being progressed.

Our contact details for service are:

Rachel Vaughan
Acting Planning and Science Manager
West Coast Regional Council
PO Box 66
Greymouth 7840
Phone: 021 2236867
Email: rachel.vaughan@wcr.govt.nz

We would be grateful for acknowledgement of receipt of our submission.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Mabin', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Heather Mabin
Chief Executive Officer

West Coast Council's Joint Submission on the Stewardship Land Reclassification – West Coast Conservancy

Summary of Feedback

The West Coast Regional Council and the Buller, Grey and Westland District Councils:

1. Support the recommendations of the mana whenua Panel for reclassifications to local purpose reserves, conservation parks, scenic reserves, wildlife management areas or retention as Stewardship Land on the basis of specifically identified cultural and historical values;
2. Support the recommendations by either Panel to dispose of Stewardship Land in some instances;
3. Oppose all other reclassifications of Stewardship Land to specially protected areas under the Conservation Act, National Parks Act, or reserves under the Reserves Act (unless the land in question was specifically purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund for the purpose of adding it to a national park);
4. Support the rationale for Recommendation 3 for full socio-economic assessments to be done in partnership with the Councils prior to reclassifications being progressed;
5. Request that the Department of Conservation (the Department) consult with existing permission or concessions holders, mining permit holders, or occupiers of land prior to making a final recommendation; and
6. Reiterate their concerns about process and limited scope of the assessments made in the earlier submission.

The Council's repeat their request for a meeting with Minister Williams to discuss the points raised in the submission and the Council's concerns with the process.

Introduction

The four West Coast Councils (the Councils) appreciate the opportunity to submit on the recommendations for reclassification of Stewardship Land in New Zealand.

In March 2022, the Councils lodged a submission on the discussion document dated November 2021, which presented options to streamline processes for reclassification and disposal of Stewardship Land (see Attachment 1). The Councils requested a meeting with the Minister to discuss the issues raised in the March 2022 submission.

The Councils note this invitation was not accepted by the Minister.

Further we note that the Councils are not opposed to protecting conservation values on Stewardship Land in principle. However, the Councils are deeply concerned that reclassification of some areas of land will adversely affect West Coast ratepayers. For the reasons set out in the following submission, the National Panel recommendations fail to have proper regard to the conservation, economic and social context within which stewardship land is administered by the Department on behalf of all New Zealanders. This includes the potential use of Stewardship Land to support the West Coast's resilience and adaptation to climate change.

The National Panel recommendations also fail to acknowledge the Government's stated intention to review all conservation legislation and national policy as a priority. Proceeding with the National Panel recommendations for reclassification of large areas of land in advance of that review risks undermining, or being inconsistent with, the more fundamental review of the Conservation Act and other relevant legislation. Progressing the West Coast review in advance of other Conservancy areas further exacerbates this inconsistency as the West Coast Conservancy will have been considered under different legislation to the rest of New Zealand.

As stated in the discussion document submission, large scale reclassification recommendations should not be progressed until the criteria for reclassification has been considered on a national basis. There is no compelling reason to rush the reclassification process now. Resources would be better spent first on a strategic review of conservation legislation and policy, of which Stewardship Land is an important component.

The 2005 Conservation General Policy, and Policy 6, should be the subjects of a fundamental review as part of the overall review of conservation legislation. Whole-scale reclassifications of Stewardship Land which contain more than very low conservation values should not proceed until such a review is finalised.

The Councils consider that a test for reclassification of Stewardship Land having 'no or very low conservation values' is no longer fit for purpose. Consequently, the Councils generally oppose a streamlined process which further enables the Panels to apply such a test in reclassifications.

The Councils consider that a strategic approach should be taken when determining what level of statutory protection should be provided to different types of ecosystems in different ecological districts and regions. If that were done, decisions about how much Stewardship Land might therefore be available for exchange or disposal could be made within that broader context.

There is an unstated assumption in the paper that all land with more than very low conservation values should be held as specially protected areas under the Conservation Act because that will give that land 'better protection'. The Councils consider that such an assumption is unwarranted and unsupported. On the West Coast there are currently large areas of existing conservation land which the Department does not have the resources to effectively manage for animal pests and weeds.

In the context of the forthcoming general review, changes should be made to the Conservation General Policy (and the Conservation Act if necessary) which would require the Panels to have regard to:

- (a) the social and economic benefits of Stewardship Land with more than low conservation values becoming private land by way of disposal or exchange;
- (b) the means by which conservation values can be protected and enhanced if the land is exchanged or disposed of;
- (c) the value of any Crown owned minerals in the Stewardship Land as part of the reclassification process (in a similar manner to s61(6) of the Crown Minerals Act); and
- (d) the cultural, economic and social values of mana whenua.

The Conservation General Policy (and the Conservation Act if necessary) should be amended to reverse the unanticipated result of the Supreme Court's decision in the Ruataniwha case that an exchange is deemed to be a disposal and therefore can only occur where there is not the potential for greater than very low conservation values.

Neither the Department, nor the Minister, has released a summary of submissions on the consultation paper, nor has the Government signalled any response to the submissions.

Earlier this month, the Department of Conservation publicly announced proposed reclassifications of 504 parcels of Stewardship Land on the West Coast. Councils have had to consider conservation value reports in order to make a submission. There are 290 reports, each providing a description of the individual piece of Stewardship Land, including its size and location. These reports have information limited to the ecological values, recreational values, heritage values, permissions and cultural values and interests of the area. There are no descriptions or narrative of how these land parcels link to the larger ecological or recreational areas. Instead, information is limited to some discussion on ecosystems, and on the effects of the reclassification on existing interests in the area.

We note that information presented by the Department is by no means exhaustive.

About the Submitter

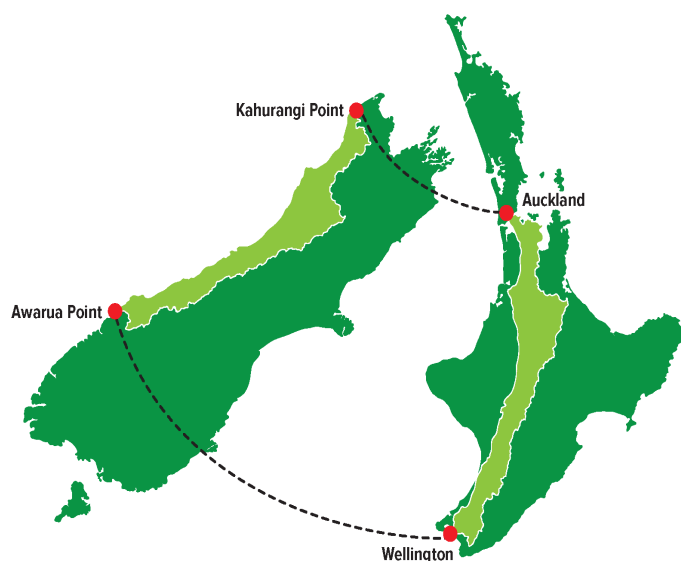
The West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) is the local authority, and the three District Councils are the territorial authorities in a region covering a vast area with a sparse population. Extending from Kahurangi Point in the north to Awarua Point in the south, this is the approximate distance from Wellington to Auckland. The West Coast is predominantly rural.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio (Poutini Ngāi Tahu – PNT) are mana whenua of Te Tai o Poutini (the West Coast). The WCRC's Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (Resource Management Act - Iwi Participation Arrangement) captures the intent of the WCRC and Poutini Ngāi Tahu to progress our relationship in accordance with the Treaty of Waitangi partnership between iwi and the Crown.

The WCRC and the three territorial authorities (the Buller, Grey and Westland District Councils) work closely together. Outside of the main towns of Westport, Greymouth, Reefton and Hokitika, the region's relatively small population of approximately 32,600 is spread across smaller settlements and rural communities. It is important that central government priorities for protecting, maintaining and restoring indigenous biodiversity are relevant to our unique region, and beneficial to the social, economic, and cultural well-being of all West Coast communities and the natural environment.

The Conservation Estate comprises 84.17% of the West Coast land area, with an additional 1.55% administered by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). Conservation Estate is not rateable land, therefore it does not contribute to local economy in the Region.

Figure 1: Map of New Zealand to highlight 600km length of West Coast Region compared to distance between Auckland and Wellington



The West Coast region stretches the equivalent distance of that between Auckland and Wellington

Impacts of National Panel Recommendations on West Coast landowners

The Councils are concerned that the changes in land status will change the ability for the Department to grant access over land with each of those new classifications, for uses other than conservation, or to otherwise deal with the land.

Legal advice suggests that despite the same legal tests applying, it is likely to be more difficult to obtain concessions or access arrangements for commercial activities on specially protected conservation areas than it is for such activities on Stewardship Land. This further forecloses the ability to undertake economic activity on the West Coast, which is already constrained due to the limited availability of public land.

Only Stewardship Land is available for exchange under s16A of the Conservation Act(s16A). Specially protected conservation areas cannot be exchanged, although it is possible to exchange most types of reserves held under the Reserves Act. (The Conservation Authority has recommended that exchanges be allowed for most specially protected areas – dependent on the specific values which an area in question has).

Parts of specially protected areas cannot be exchanged under s16A. Specially protected areas can be reclassified as stewardship areas (and therefore available for exchange under s16A) only if the land in question no longer has the conservation values for which it was classified.

An increasing number of wetlands and indigenous bush/forest areas on private land are being impacted through new land use and development restrictions enforced through central government policy and regulation, such as the National Policy Statements for Freshwater Management, Indigenous Biodiversity, and the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater. The identification and protection of freshwater and terrestrial Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) on private land under the Resource Management Act further reduces the availability of private land for economic, social and cultural use and development.

Various studies boast of the economic benefits SNAs contribute to the tourism sector. This is of little relevance for the Councils when 84% of the West Coast is already public conservation land (PCL). The Councils do not believe that the additional 7% of bush on private land that would be contributed through the SNA protection would make any real difference to tourism values.

With Government support through funding initiatives such as the Tai Poutini Regional Growth Study and Action Plan, and the Provincial Growth Fund, the West Coast has had tourism promoted as the panacea of the region as various Governments have embraced a move away from traditional industries such as minerals extraction. However, the global pandemic turned off the international 'tourist tap' virtually overnight at significant detriment to this region. It is likely to take many years before the tourism economy returns to pre-Covid numbers, if it ever does. Eco-tourism ventures on Public Conservation Land are a limited source of income, and do not provide certainty or diversity for our regional economy.

Other regions have a more diverse local economy with a range of industry stimulating economic activity. Economic sectors on the West Coast are facing climate adaptation requirements, agricultural restrictions through the Freshwater Package and requirements to protect indigenous biodiversity on private land, further restricting productive opportunities.

There is a question of equitable fairness across the nation. Most regions throughout New Zealand have benefitted economically from clearing vast proportions of their natural areas over time. However, due to the topography, isolation, settlement patterns and other factors, the West Coast did not experience the same level of development and native vegetation clearance. Now the region is economically penalised as the importance of such areas is recognised nationally and legislation and restrictions around development are implemented. This is an example of Central Government's rollout of standardised policy changes across Aotearoa and when one size does not fit all, especially the West Coast.

The West Coast Councils particularly support Federated Farmers and our local run holders' submissions. Although these grazing run situations will differ depending on the land parcel, there appears to be a general concern that grazing runs and national parks do not go together. We, the Councils of the region, disagree.

It is a risk for landholders when grazing runs are reclassified, as in some instances, the concessions holder will not be allowed a renewal to graze. Grazing lease terms have been reduced since DOC was formed. In 1987, the term was 5+5+5 years. Now, land concessions are renewed for only 5+5 years. This gives limited certainty to the runholders farming on remote 'river run' blocks, and in many instances this has been a multi-generational occurrence. By changing this, the government is impacting the cultural and economic basis of our communities. It is worth noting that grazing concessions and leases are historic. Some are still in original settler families with concessions taken over by successive generations.

The Stewardship Land recommendations also affect existing concession and access arrangement holders who require long term certainty for business planning. This includes:

- helicopter operators undertaking tourism and other activities, including pest control on public conservation land;
- primary industries including moss pickers;
- access to private landholdings for agriculture or forestry;
- apiarist access to beehives;
- quarry operators that may supply rock for roading, the rail network, buildings and flood protection infrastructure;
- miners as well as concessionaires and grazing run holders; and,
- the West Coast Regional Council's monitoring equipment located on land administered by the Department which is necessary for flood warning for communities.

Table 1 below outlines the current permissions which may be affected by reclassification recommendations.

Table 1: Summary of current permissions on stewardship land on the West Coast

Summary of current permissions on Stewardship Land on the West Coast

Permission type	Number of permissions	Permission duration
Access arrangement	125	Linked to permits under the Crown Minerals Act. Varied timeframes apply
Grazing concession	175	Up to 10 years
Easement concession	56	Up to 30 years in most cases, may be up to 60 years
Beehive concession	4	Up to 10 years
Structure concession	66	Up to 30 years
Gravel extraction concession	46	Up to 10 years
Guiding concession	4	Up to 10 years
Aircraft concession	4	Up to 10 years
Telecommunications sites	38	Up to 10 years
Accommodation concession	46	Up to 30 years, may be up to 60 years
Storage concession	1	Up to 30 years
Wild animal control	10	Up to 10 years
Total	575	

The Councils also note there are some instances of Stewardship Land occupation or Stewardship Land being used for access with no formal permissions in place. The Council's urge that the Department discuss any existing formal or informal arrangement with the land occupier prior to making recommendations.

The Councils are concerned that the Conservation General Policy may foreclose current uses on some areas that are reclassified. Conservation Management Strategies under the Conservation Act must implement the Conservation General Policy. A concession can only be granted if it is consistent with the relevant conservation management strategy prepared under the Conservation General Policy. In considering an access arrangement application for mining activities, the Minister must have regard to the Conservation General Policy (see Attachment 3 for a copy).

For all activities in national parks, the General Policy for National Parks applies rather than the General Policy for Conservation. This General Policy is issued by the Conservation Authority rather than the Minister. The Conservation General Policy and the General Policy for National Parks, are therefore critical policy documents in determining whether an access arrangement or a concession can be granted, and whether Stewardship Land can be exchanged or disposed of. In some instances, access provisions may not comply with the relevant strategy or the Conservation General Policy. This means access will legally be severed and, in many cases, an alternative may be unavailable.

The Councils also note that recommendations did not take into account community climate adaptation and resilience value. There are many sites that may give value in the short and long term for climate adaptation and mitigation. It is noted the Department of Conservation Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan does not mention the role Stewardship Land could play in assisting community climate adaptation.

Submission Feedback

The West Coast Regional Council, Buller District Council, Grey District Council and Westland District Council (the Councils):

1. Support the recommendations of the mana whenua Panel for reclassifications to local purpose reserves on the basis of specifically identified cultural and historical values;

The Councils support the mana whenua recommendations where there has been identification of specific cultural and historical values, but oppose all other reclassifications proposed by the Government-appointed Review Panel on the basis that no reclassifications should proceed without a full socio-economic assessment being made by the Department in partnership with the Councils.

2. Support the recommendations by either Panel to dispose of Stewardship Land;

The Councils support the disposal options agreed by the two Panels as there is agreement that none of this land holds conservation value. It is noted by the Councils, that the disposals form only 0.01% of the land area under consideration as part of this process.

The Councils draw the Panel's attention to the list in Attachment 2, which was considered as part of this review.

3. Oppose all other reclassifications of Stewardship Land to specially protected areas under the Conservation Act, National Parks Act, or reserves under the Reserves Act (unless the land in question was specifically purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund for the purpose of adding it to a national park); and
4. That the rationale for Recommendation 3 is for a full socioeconomic assessment to be undertaken in partnership with the Councils prior to reclassifications being progressed.

The proper reclassification, disposal, or exchange of Stewardship Land is a significant issue impacting on the environmental, economic, social and cultural wellbeing of the West Coast and all of our communities.

In general terms, the Councils are supportive of measures to streamline the process for the reclassification, exchange and disposal of existing Stewardship Land. However, for the reasons set out in this submission, the Discussion Document fails to have proper regard to the conservation, economic and social context within which Stewardship Land is administered by the Department on

behalf of all New Zealanders. This includes the potential use of Stewardship Land to support the West Coast's resilience and adaptation to climate change.

Large-scale reclassifications should not be progressed until the criteria for reclassification have been reconsidered. Unless the criteria are amended to enable these wider considerations to be taken into account, there is no compelling reason to adopt the reclassification recommendations, notwithstanding the Government's desire for speed. Resources would be better spent first on a strategic review of conservation legislation and policy, of which Stewardship Land is an important part.

Having said that, the Councils agree that the Panels can perform an important role in the meantime, and that certain changes to the reclassification process can usefully be made. The Councils wish to highlight the importance of finding the right balance by ensuring that there is no further decline in economic, social or cultural wellbeing on the West Coast.

5. Reiterate their concerns about process and limited scope of the assessments made in the earlier submission.

The Council's March 2022 submission is attached to this submission as Attachment 1.

This ends our feedback.

Attachment 1

Submission on Stewardship Land in Aotearoa New Zealand discussion document:

Options to streamline processes for reclassification and disposal. March 2022

Attachment 2

List of Department land in Westland not included in review

OBJECTID	NaPALIS_ID		Section	Rec_Area_ha	TLA
6583	2806541	Lake Brunner	s.25 - Stewardship Area	4079.202	Grey
5685	2805267	Okarito Bach (Part)	s.25 - Stewardship Area	0.0718	Westland
5686	2805268	Okarito Bach (Part)	s.25 - Stewardship Area	0.0278	Westland
3572	2801098	Waiatoto Valley	s.25 - Stewardship Area	3165.331	Westland
3526	2800926	Knights Point	s.25 - Stewardship Area	0.7586	Westland
3454	2800620	Area	s.25 - Stewardship Area	30	Westland
6188	2806239	Hokitika Area Workshop	s.25 - Stewardship Area	0.2513	Westland
8136	2801489	Arawhata	s.25 - Stewardship Area	102274.7	Westland
3802	2801490	Arawhata Riverbed	s.25 - Stewardship Area	2985.608	Westland
3804	2801492	Lake Ellery	s.25 - Stewardship Area	372.3108	Westland
9775	2801480	Arawhata	s.25 - Stewardship Area	9115.84	Westland
3609	2801158	Adair Road, Haast	s.25 - Stewardship Area	0.0776	Westland
3610	2801159	Haast Field Centre Workshop	s.25 - Stewardship Area	0.288	Westland
5503	2805008	Sandy Beach - Jacobs River	s.25 - Stewardship Area	11.2296	Westland

Attachment 3

The role of Conservation General Policy and General Policy: National Parks

1. Statements of general policy (known as Conservation General Policy - CGP) are issued by the Minister under the Conservation Act.
2. The Supreme Court in the Ruataniwha Dam case decided that, because of the way the Conservation General Policy under the Conservation Act is worded, an exchange of land under s16A is defined as a type of 'disposal' of land. Under the General Policy 6 an exchange or a disposal can only happen where the land has "no, or very low, conservation values". In 2016, the Conservation Authority recommended to the Minister that she change the Conservation General Policy to re-establish that exchanges of Stewardship Land can take place where there is an overall 'net gain'.
3. Changing the CGP is a publicly notified process, but the Minister is the final decision maker.
4. Conservation management strategies under the Conservation Act must implement the Conservation General Policy. A concession can only be granted if it is consistent with the relevant conservation management strategy. In considering an access arrangement application for mining activities, the Minister must have regard to the Conservation General Policy.
5. For all activities in national parks, the General Policy: National Parks applies rather than the General Policy: Conservation. This General Policy is issued by the Conservation Authority rather than the Minister.
6. The Conservation General Policy and the General Policy: National Parks are therefore critical policy documents in determining whether an access arrangement or a concession can be granted, and whether Stewardship Land can be exchanged or disposed.
7. The following is a summary of relevant policies from the General Policy: Conservation, the General Policy: National Parks, and the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy.

Conservation General Policy 2005 – activities requiring authorisation policies

11.1 All activities

11.1 (a) *Any application for a concession or other authorisation will comply with, or be consistent with, the objectives of the relevant Act, the statutory purposes for which the place is held, and any conservation management strategy or plan.*

11.1 (b) *All activities on public conservation lands and waters which require a concession or other authorisation should, where relevant, avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects (including cumulative effects) and maximise any positive effects on natural resources and historical and cultural heritage, and on the benefit and enjoyment of the public, including public access.*

11.2 Grazing and farming

- 11.2 (a) *The following criteria should be applied when considering applications for grazing and farming concessions:*
- i. *the land is in existing pasture or farming use;*
 - ii. *the number and type of stock are suitable for the location and land type;*
 - iii. *grazing animals can be effectively controlled;*
 - iv. *any adverse effects of stock on waterways, wetlands and riparian zones can be avoided or otherwise minimised;*
 - v. *there are no adverse effects on wāhi tapu;*
 - vi. *there is no risk of erosion caused by grazing or farming;*
 - vii. *the need to use grazing for management purposes;*
 - viii. *the potential for restoration is not compromised; and*
 - ix. *public access is maintained.*
- 11.2 (b) *Grazing concessions should be issued for a fixed period and market rentals should be paid.*

11.4 Crown minerals and pounamu

- 11.4 (a) *All applications for access arrangements to minerals on public conservation lands and waters will be considered under section 61(1A), where applicable, and section 61(2) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.*
- 11.4 (b) *Access arrangements for the removal of pounamu from public conservation lands and waters within the takiwā of Ngāi Tahu will be considered only where the applicant has authorisation for collection from the kaitiaki rūnanga of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.*
- 11.4 (c) *Conservation management strategies and plans will identify where sand, shingle or other natural mineral material can be removed from the bed of a lake or river or foreshore, consistent with the protection of natural resources and historical and cultural heritage values.*

West Coast Conservation Management Strategy 2010 – activities requiring authorisation policies

General

1. *The cumulative effects of other authorities for use, issued in respect of a particular area or opportunity, should be taken into account when considering new applications for those areas or opportunities.*
2. *When approving concessions or other authorisations, specific conditions may be applied as deemed appropriate.*
3. *The Department should periodically monitor compliance with authorisation conditions.*
4. *The Department should apply the ‘Concession allocation in limited supply situations guideline’, developed in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism and Tourism Industry Association New Zealand, in order to ensure the best outcome is achieved for natural, historical and cultural heritage values and recreational opportunities*

Crown Minerals

1. *The Minister will consider each application for an access arrangement on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the criteria set out in the relevant section (i.e. s61 or s61A and s61B) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.*
2. *When assessing an application for an access arrangement for prospecting, exploration or mining, consideration should be given to (but not be limited to):*
 - a) *the significance of the conservation values present and the effect the proposal will have on those values;*
 - b) *the adequacy and achievability of the proposed site rehabilitation work (see also Policy 3 below); and*

- c) the adequacy or appropriateness of any compensation offered for access to the area (see also Policy 4 below).
3. Appropriate site rehabilitation methods should be employed.
 4. Compensation should be required when damage to, or destruction of, conservation values cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
 5. Where ancillary activities such as roads and infrastructure can reasonably be located off public conservation land, this will be expected.
 6. The term of any access arrangement should be limited to the period reasonably required to carry out the defined work, including site rehabilitation after mining has been completed.
 7. Low-impact access options will be preferred (e.g. the use of existing formed roads, or helicopters in areas without existing roads).

Grazing and Farming

1. Grazing licences may be granted for a term of 15 years, unless the achievement of the outcomes and objectives of this CMS, any relevant management plan or any constraints require a lesser period.
2. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu should be consulted when considering applications to graze areas containing nohoanga entitlement sites. Approval may include specific conditions to protect the site, e.g. fencing (see also Section 3.1.3.4).
3. Concessionaires shall not unreasonably withhold consent to hunters who hold a current hunting permit issued by the Department of Conservation to hunt on the site, or access to hunters who wish to cross the site.

National Parks General Policy 2005 – activities requiring authorisation policies

General

- 10.1(b) Any application for a concession or other authorisation will comply with, or be consistent with, the purposes of the National Parks Act 1980, the statutory purposes of the place where the activity is located, the conservation management strategy and the national park management plan.
- 10.1(c) Conservation management strategies and national park management plans should, subject to policy 10.1(b), require that all activities in national parks which require a concession or other authorisation:
- i) be consistent with the outcomes planned for places;
 - ii) be consistent with the preservation as far as possible of the national park in its natural state;
 - iii) minimise adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on other national park values;
 - iv) not have any adverse effects on the existing recreational opportunities in the area;
 - iv) be restricted to the use of existing access; and
 - v) minimise adverse effects on the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, including public access.

Grazing and farming

- 10.2(a) A national park management plan may make provision for grazing or farming only on land which is already farmed or grazed, and only where the balance of evidence demonstrates that it is in the public interest that farming or grazing on that land should continue.
- 10.2(b) An application for a grazing or farming concession for a national park may, subject to policy 10.2(a), be granted where:
- i) there is no risk of erosion caused by grazing or farming;
 - ii) national park values will not be detrimentally affected;
 - iii) grazing animals can be effectively controlled;
 - iv) the number and type of stock are suitable for the location and land type;

- vi) *adverse effects of stock on waterways, wetlands and riparian zones can be avoided;*
- vii) *freedom of entry and access for the public can be maintained; and*
- viii) *the potential of sites for restoration will not be compromised.*

10.2(c) *Any grazing concession issued should, where possible, be for a term not exceeding five years, and market rentals should be paid.*

10.2(d) *National park management plans may make provision for continuation of grazing in the public interest as a management tool where the balance of evidence has shown this is appropriate to preserve particular indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems and other national park values.*

Attachment 4

Submission on reclassification proposals

Appendix 3: Table comparing recommendations in Council submission on Draft National Adaptation Plan with content of final NAP

Draft National Adaptation Plan	WCRC Submission	Final National Adaptation Plan
Pg 37, Objective SW2: “Explore definitional tools to support greater investment”	<p>Recommendation 3 <i>Support for research and development for resilient and adaptive business models</i></p>	<p>P94 “Action 5.14: Support the development of definitional tools to encourage greater investment in ‘green’ projects”</p> <p><i>See the Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Sovereign Green Bond (Green Bond) programme.</i></p>
	<p>Recommendation 4 <i>A climate change levy for larger emitters (shipping, aviation)</i></p>	
Pg 50, Objective NE3: “Establish an integrated work programme to deliver climate, biodiversity and wider environmental outcomes”	<p>Recommendation 4 <i>Incentive for landowners to maintain wetlands and forests, including pre-1990 forests</i></p> <p><i>Economic incentives or credits for areas where zero emissions can be achieved.</i></p>	<p>P106 “Action 6.5: Establish an integrated work programme to deliver climate, biodiversity and wider environmental outcomes”</p> <p>“Investigating incentives for public and private investment in biodiversity. This work will investigate how: – to remove barriers landowners face in accessing funding and information – investments in biodiversity can protect and enhance carbon stocks and support climate resilience.”</p>
	<p>Recommendation 5 <i>Greater provision for increasing the natural removal of emissions via sinks</i></p>	
	<p>Recommendation 6 <i>To promote education for communities to understand safety and resilience measures (to limit appeals)</i></p>	<p>P45 Table 2 Objective “Enable communities to adapt”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable communities to provide resources and take action for their unique situation.

Draft National Adaptation Plan	WCRC Submission	Final National Adaptation Plan
<p>Pg 33, Objective SW2: “Design and develop an Adaptation Information Portal”</p> <p>Pg 78, Objective C1: “Raise awareness of climate-related hazards and how to prepare”</p> <p>“By the end of 2024 a public education strategy will be developed for natural hazards and increased availability of information on preparedness for extreme weather events.”</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and share knowledge of local issues in culturally appropriate ways. • Support community engagement in decisions. • Provide information on adaptation options. <p>P46 “Action 3.2: Design and develop risk and resilience and climate adaptation information portals”</p> <p>Action 3.4: “Raise awareness of climate hazards and how to prepare.”</p> <p>P46: “Programmes are being implemented to develop new knowledge and understanding of climate impacts and consequences”</p>
	<p>Recommendation 7 <i>To make available public conservation land or Crown land for managed retreat</i></p>	
	<p>Recommendation 8 <i>Better collaboration and cost-sharing between infrastructure agencies and landowners with avoiding and mitigating hazard</i></p>	
	<p><i>3D coastal mapping: to be reimbursed for the mapping that has already been done</i></p>	
<p>Pg 90, Objective, EF2: “Develop options for home flood insurance”</p> <p>“By the end of 2022, the Government has received advice on flood insurance</p>	<p>Recommendation 12 <i>That the government works with the insurance industry, local government and other relevant agencies to develop options.</i></p>	<p>P87 “Action 5.4: Develop options for home flood insurance”exploring options to support access and affordability of flood insurance.</p> <p>“By the end of 2022, the Government will have received advice on flood insurance options</p>

Draft National Adaptation Plan	WCRC Submission	Final National Adaptation Plan
options and agreed to next steps.”		and agreed to next steps. Further implementation measures will depend on the Government’s decisions on options”
<p>Pg 35, Table 3, &Pg 125, Objective SW3: “Regularly update adaptation guidance for local government“</p> <p>“Publish a prioritised delivery plan by September 2022 setting out when each piece of guidance will be updated.”</p>	<p>Recommendation 13 <i>The Government needs to keep local government informed of the findings of research on the regional economic impacts of climate change adaptation</i></p>	<p>P52 “3.7.5: Regularly update adaptation guidance for local government. Timeframe: Years 1–4 Supports local government to consider adaptation in planning and decisions. This will include guidance on communicating scientific and technical information to communities, and on making climate decisions.”</p>
	<p>Recommendation 14 <i>Assistance for small councils about the cost of methane capture for landfills</i></p>	

Report to: Resource Management Committee	Meeting Date: 13 September 2022
Title of Item: Managing Exotic Afforestation inclusion in the Emissions Trading Scheme	
Report by: Rachel Vaughan Acting Planning and Science Manager	
Reviewed by: Heather Mabin, CEO	
Public excluded? No	

Report Purpose

To give a suggested response from Committee on from the letter from the Ministers of Climate Change and Forestry regarding Exotic Forest Plantations inclusion in the Emissions Trading Scheme

Draft Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Direct staff to lodge the submission*

Issues and Discussion

In April 2022, WCRC lodged a submission on the *discussion document on proposals to change forestry settings in the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme Managing exotic afforestation incentives.*

The main points of the submission feedback on the discussion document are shown in Figure 1 below.

On 28 July 2022, the Ministers of Climate Change and Forestry wrote to submitters of the original discussion document seeking further views on suggested outcomes to enable the ETS permanent exotic forest category to remain open. See a copy of the Ministers' letter in Attachment 1. The Ministers' letter was included in the last Committee report, and the Committee sought a summary of points to consider along with the questions.

1. **That Government investigates incentivising existing and new, permanent native carbon forestry by:**
 - a. **Amending the ETS to provide carbon management incentives for existing permanent native carbon forestry; and**
 - b. **Providing incentives for indigenous carbon forest to be planted and used to offset emissions.**
2. **That the Government provides for an in-between option of regenerative forest, where:**
 - a. **exotics are planted in appropriate locations at a staggered rate over a period of time; and**
 - b. **when the first exotic trees are harvested, the land is replanted with natives, to cover both short and long term sequestrations.**

3. The Government adopts Option 3(a) in the discussion document, to limit permanent exotic forestry from registering in the permanent post-1989 category in the ETS, with some exemptions to be set out in regulations.
4. Subject to being consistent with Feedback 1-3 above of this submission, the Government:
 - a. explores whether there is opportunity for greater local democratic input into carbon farming (e.g., in local/regional government being able to determine where permanent exotic forests can be planted);
 - b. consider a start date of 1 January 2024 – so that the exemptions regime set out in regulations can be designed and consulted on at the same time as legislation amending the NZ ETS goes through Parliament.
5. That the Government supports further research on:
 - a. which species, including exotics, may be appropriate;
 - b. the regulations around permanent forest management to provide for other economic incentives through management options;
 - c. supporting natural and managed sphagnum moss wetlands through the ETS.

Figure 1: Main points from Submission on discussion documents

Below is the proposed response to the Ministers suggested objective and outcomes. The response has been prepared in consultation with the Compliance Team who currently have monitoring in place for the four high risk activities associated with forest management: harvesting, river crossings, earthworks, and quarrying.

Objective, Outcomes and possible design options outlined in Minister’s letter

The Ministers’ objective and suggested outcomes are in the frames with possible design options suggested following.

Objective:

A permanent forest category that provides for effective management of forests supported through the NZ ETS, and that delivers forests which provide positive outcomes (e.g. indigenous biodiversity, soil and water health, ongoing jobs and income) while contributing removals towards our targets.

Suggested WCRC comment:

WCRC believes permanent forestry should also be managed to deliver reduced risk of debris fall and natural land subsidence. WCRC does not necessarily believe that all the suggested outcomes deliver the objective.

1. Forests supported by the category realise positive long-term outcomes as part of Aotearoa New Zealand's climate transition

Inclusion of:

- *transition forests (regeneration)*
- *transition forests (strip harvesting or cross-subsidisation)*
- *continuous cover forest models.*

Suggested WCRC comment:

The WCRC ***gives partial support*** for the use of additional permanent forest cover to contribute to the Emission Trading Budget.

Partial support is given due to concerns that:

- Permanent forest can be detrimental to the economy and the environment
- Permanent forest can negatively impact rural West Coast communities.

Over the long-term, permanent forests can result in low, long-term economic activity and job creation in the area directly surrounding that land relative to competing land uses (generally sheep and beef, deer, dairy and production forestry).

This result is somewhat due to the strict regulations around permanent forestry management.

If there is a role for permanent forests further research on which species, including exotics, that may be appropriate is required.

Areas of marginal, hilly land that are unsuitable for sheep, beef or deer being used for production forestry would suit being reverted to permanent forestry.

The ETS does not currently allow for alternative management of these permanent forest areas resulting in the following perverse outcomes of the management regime

- the lack of economic incentive to retain pre-1989 indigenous forest cover; and
- the lack of flexibility around management of existing permanent forest cover.

This results in greater incentives for West Coast landowners to consider removal of existing forest cover.

Where consistent with previous feedback, WCRC supports Option 3(a) in the discussion document. This option will limit permanent exotic forestry from registering in the permanent post-1989 category in the ETS, with some exemptions to be set out in the regulations.

2. Forest owners are held accountable for delivering effective forest outcomes

For example:

- *forests are not operated as 'plant and walk away',*
- *transition forests using regeneration are attempted at manageable scale, and in sites with suitable conditions – such as indigenous seed sources*

Options:

- *All forests required to have forest plans.*
- *Bonds.*
- *Pauses in unit earnings or defaulting back to averaging.*
- *Audits of forest management plans.*
- *Forest management requirements linked to outcomes for forests at different ages of forest.*
- *Providing information on forest regime to the regulator (e.g., stocking rate and silvicultural regime).*
- *Requiring transition in no more than one rotation.*
- *How long-term risks are managed towards end of forest life.*

Suggested WCRC comment:

The WCRC recognises that there may well be benefits to increased populations of indigenous species and habitat from native carbon afforestation.

There is a risk of monoculture monopoly with this approach.

On the West Coast, native carbon afforestation may not necessarily provide a more diverse range of habitat if only the faster growing or best carbon sequestering species of native trees are planted.

The West Coast could end up with more of the same type of native vegetation and no increase in biological diversity of those indigenous species or habitats that are underrepresented.

The WCRC is concerned about the additional administrative requirements associated with forest plans, bonds, NES-PF compliance and monitoring requirements. The WCRC does not have the resourcing or expertise to perform these functions.

3. Effective financial management of forests occurs over long-term

For example, landowners understand and are able to manage the decrease in carbon stock for 'transition forests' as these are managed to indigenous.

Options:

- *Bonds.*
- *Examine carbon accounting for novel forest types.*
- *Re-visit look-up tables (including for indigenous).*
- *Long-term forest health and carbon stocks.*

Suggested WCRC comment:

The WCRC considers that the ETS 'door' should be kept open for some permanent exotic carbon forestry, and provide for permanent native carbon forestry, in circumstances where this is appropriate to enable effective financial management of forests.

It is unclear from the Government's suggestion if the proposed change is economically feasible and appropriate, and if low carbon emission land uses that will maintain the cultural, environmental, economic, and social wellbeing of the West Coast.

The suggested outcome is on the premiss that native afforestation is a viable alternative to exotic carbon forestry as it is better at carbon sequestration and more self-sustaining. Native afforestation is also a low, long-term economic activity and will have the same effects on small rural West Coast populations as permanent exotic carbon forestry.

The advantage of this approach is restoration of native forests and drained peatlands, and improving the sustainability of managed forests, generally enhances the resilience of carbon stocks and sinks.

In managed forests, adaptation options include:

- sustainable forest management,
- diversifying and adjusting tree species' compositions to build resilience, and
- managing increased risks from pests, diseases and wildfires.

The ongoing risk of wind-blown timber and ageing trees affecting land stability continues to be an issue. This has a big impact on the West Coast and needs to be managed in transition forests and permanent forests.

4. Stable NZ ETS price and market conditions are maintained in the long-term, and the category can be fairly accessed

For example,

- *long-term supply volumes are effectively managed,*
- *requirements are not so onerous that they prevent smaller scale landowner or community participation, and*
- *benefits of the category are not concentrated solely towards larger scale commercial entities.*

Options:

- *Management of overall volumes per annum.*
- *Enhanced public reporting of information.*
- *Weighting or scoring of applications.*
- *Limits by geographical characteristics (e.g., Land Use Classification (LUC), erosion susceptibility).*

The WCRC comment:

The WCRC supports additional incentives to enable wider participation in the ETS.

The ETS needs to provide carbon credits for existing permanent native carbon forestry, which are accounted for in the New Zealand Emission budget. This is because West Coast landowners are unduly penalised for retaining native forest cover on private land. Other Regions cleared forest land for other productive purposes prior to the regulations coming into place. This means landowners in other areas are free to use their land for any productive purpose, while landowners on the West Coast must retain their permanent forest cover, with no economic incentive.

The WCRCs submission on “Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green Paper 2021” also sought that research be undertaken to identify options for increasing the economic value of wetlands and indigenous forest. These natural resources need an economic value as an incentive for private landowners to protect and retain them on their land.

The WCRC wishes to reiterate suggestions specific to the West Coast Region, where support for participation in the ETS would stimulate the economy and the transition to a low carbon economy. That is an economy that is low in emissions or sequesters less carbon. While outside the scope of the letter, these suggestions are:

The WCRC request that an incentive is considered in the ETS for managing and encouraging sphagnum moss wetlands.

Some marginal land on the West Coast may have potential for sphagnum moss harvesting where the land is boggy with a relatively higher water table. Sphagnum moss wetlands enable retention of a wetland with a productive use as opposed to converting into some other form of productive land use

5. Forests meet environmental and other forest management good practice

For example,

- *health and safety risks for harvest on steep marginal land are well prepared for and managed,*
- *fire breaks and other practices to manage fire risks are used.*

Options:

- *Links to the resource management system in CCRA.*
- *Forest management plans.*
- *Expanding National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) to cover 'carbon forestry'.*
- *Industry code.*

The WCRC comment:

The WCRC believes greater flexibility needs to be considered in how permanent forest areas are managed to provide for sustainable harvest, wind-blown harvest and under-storey management.

West Coast waterways are frequently impacted by timber debris entering rivers during periods of heavy rainfall. As the rivers clog with deadwood debris, flow capacity is compromised. This results in the damming of waterways, which when released, has significant impact on downstream structures (roads, bridges and stopbanks) and land. This issue has grown since the selective logging of permanent native forested areas ceased. The risk of wind-blown timber and ageing trees falling, affecting land stability is an issue.

Wind-blown harvest means timber that has naturally fallen in the forest is able to be removed for sustainable use purposes.

6. Risks to rural communities from the category are managed

Options:

- *Management of overall volumes per annum.*
- *Limits by geographical characteristics (e.g., LUC, erosion susceptibility).*
- *Consider specific needs of Māori rural communities.*

The WCRC comment:

It is unclear how these options will benefit rural Communities. There is a risk that social and economic impacts are felt in rural Communities as land areas are locked up for permanent forestry. Often the landowner will not live in the community, particularly if owned by a corporation. Therefore, any economic advantage is taken from the local community. The limited job opportunities in permanently forested areas adversely affects rural communities. The flow on effects is loss of social connection dropping school rolls and volunteers and social services. There would be a subsequent loss of population based funding to the community, such as health services any education.

7. The category can support whenua Māori to realise aspirations for the land

For example, the category provides land use options that can be suitable for marginal land. The Crown works with Māori to identify options for Māori land and outcomes sought in addressing issues related to permanent exotic forestry.

Options:

Permanent forest regime provides forest options suitable to marginal land (where production forests are not suitable), e.g., transition forests, continuous cover forests.

The WCRC comment:

- The WCRC strongly supports provision of redress of historical issues around Iwi/Māori in the carbon farming industry, support whenua Māori to practice kaitiaki, tino rangatiratanga and benefit from the NZ ETS, and potentially enable locally tailored approaches to carbon forestry.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Ministers' letter, Managing Exotic Afforestation Consultation dated 28 July 2022



28 July 2022

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your submission and your engagement on the proposals to prevent exotic forests from registering in the permanent forest category of Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).

These proposals generated significant interest, shown by the volume and strength of the submissions we received. We want to provide you with an update following the end of public consultation.

This Government is committed to ensuring the ETS delivers the best outcomes for New Zealanders. While we consulted on options to prevent exotic forests from registering in the permanent forest category by the end of the year, we have now decided to take more time to fully consider options for the future direction of the ETS permanent forest category. While all decisions are ultimately for Cabinet, this means it is unlikely that we will propose closing the permanent category to exotics on 1 January 2023. This is particularly the case as we have been very heartened by the progress on the industry code of practice.

As a Government, we are committed to achieving the following objectives from the permanent forest category:

- Support forests to deliver positive long-term outcomes as part of Aotearoa New Zealand's climate transition.
- Hold forest owners accountable for delivering effective forest outcomes.
- Ensure effective financial management of forests over long-term.
- Support stable NZ ETS price and market conditions in the long-term, while ensuring the category can be fairly accessed.
- Ensure forests meet environmental and other forest management good practice.
- Manage risks to rural communities from the category are managed.
- Support whenua Māori to realise aspirations for the land.

A number of suggestions have been provided as to how these outcomes could be achieved and these are summarised and attached for information. We are committed to exploring these ideas further with technical experts, stakeholders and Māori. We are seeking your views on this, if you have any feedback please provide it via MPI.Forestry@mpi.govt.nz.

Thank you for your continued interest in this important issue.

Nāku noa, nā,

Hon James Shaw
Minister of Climate Change

Hon Stuart Nash
Minister of Forestry

Appendix One: Outcomes for a revised NZ ETS permanent post-1989 forest category

Objective: A permanent forest category that provides for effective management of forests supported through the NZ ETS, and that delivers forests which provide positive outcomes (e.g. indigenous biodiversity, soil and water health, ongoing jobs and income) while contributing removals towards our targets.

Outcomes sought for a revised permanent forest category	Possible design options raised by stakeholders – to be explored
<p>1) Forests supported by the category realise positive long-term outcomes as part of Aotearoa New Zealand’s climate transition</p> <p>For example, forest models supported by the regime help to build towards a long-term indigenous carbon store for New Zealand.</p>	<p><i>Inclusion of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>transition forests (regeneration)</i> • <i>transition forests (strip harvesting or cross-subsidisation)</i> • <i>continuous cover forest models.</i>
<p>2) Forest owners are held accountable for delivering effective forest outcomes</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forests are not operated as ‘plant and walk away’, • transition forests using regeneration are attempted at manageable scale, and in sites with suitable conditions – such as indigenous seed sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All forests required to have forest plans.</i> • <i>Bonds.</i> • <i>Pauses in unit earnings or defaulting back to averaging.</i> • <i>Audits of forest management plans.</i> • <i>Forest management requirements linked to outcomes for forests at different ages of forest.</i> • <i>Providing information on forest regime to the regulator (e.g., stocking rate and silvicultural regime).</i> • <i>Requiring transition in no more than one rotation.</i> • <i>How long-term risks are managed towards end of forest life.</i>
<p>3) Effective financial management of forests occurs over long-term</p> <p>For example, landowners understand and are able to manage the decrease in carbon stock for ‘transition forests’ as these are managed to indigenous.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bonds.</i> • <i>Examine carbon accounting for novel forest types.</i> • <i>Re-visit look-up tables (including for indigenous).</i> • <i>Long-term forest health and carbon stocks.</i>
<p>4) Stable NZ ETS price and market conditions are maintained in the long-term, and the category can be fairly accessed</p> <p>For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long-term supply volumes are effectively managed, • requirements are not so onerous that they prevent smaller scale landowner or community participation, and • benefits of the category are not concentrated solely towards larger scale commercial entities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Management of overall volumes per annum.</i> • <i>Enhanced public reporting of information.</i> • <i>Weighting or scoring of applications.</i> • <i>Limits by geographical characteristics (e.g., Land Use Classification (LUC), erosion susceptibility).</i>
<p>5) Forests meet environmental and other forest management good practice</p> <p>For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health and safety risks for harvest on steep marginal land are well prepared for and managed, • fire breaks and other practices to manage fire risks are used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Links to the resource management system in CCRA.</i> • <i>Forest management plans.</i> • <i>Expanding National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) to cover ‘carbon forestry’.</i> • <i>Industry code.</i>
<p>6) Risks to rural communities from the category are managed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Management of overall volumes per annum.</i> • <i>Limits by geographical characteristics (e.g., LUC, erosion susceptibility).</i> • <i>Consider specific needs of Māori rural communities.</i>
<p>7) The category can support whenua Māori to realise aspirations for the land</p> <p>For example, the category provides land use options that can be suitable for marginal land. The Crown works with Māori to identify options for Māori land <i>and</i> outcomes sought in addressing issues related to permanent exotic forestry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Permanent forest regime provides forest options suitable to marginal land (where production forests are not suitable), e.g., transition forests, continuous cover forests.</i>

Report to: RMC Committee	Meeting Date: 13 September 2022
Title of Item: Consents Monthly Report	
Report by: Leah Templeman, Consents & Compliance Business Support Officer	
Reviewed by: Colin Helem Consents & Compliance Manager	
Public excluded? No	

Purpose

For the Resource Management Committee to be kept informed of activities in the Consents department, and to provide an update on current matters.

Summary

This is the Consents report for August 2022 activities.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council resolve to receive the September 2022 report of the Consents Group.

Site Visits

No Consent site visit was undertaken 1 August 2022 to 31 August 2022

Non-notified Resource Consents Granted

Eleven non-notified resource consent applications were granted 01 August to 31 August 2022

RC-2022-0086
Buller District Council
Alma Road, Westport

To undertake earthworks in a non-erosion prone area associated with drain formation for the Alma Road sub-division, Westport.

To discharge stormwater to water namely Lagoon Creek, associated with the Alma Road subdivision, Westport.

RC-2022-0090
Colligan Farm Ltd
Orowaiti River

To disturb the dry bed of the Orowaiti River for the purpose of removing gravel and willow trees.

RC-2022-0077
Charleston to Westport Coastal Trail Trust
Section 5a of the cycle trail from Okari Road to Okari Terrace.

To undertake earthworks and vegetation clearance including within 50m of the Coastal Marine Area, within riparian margins and on slopes greater than 25 degrees associated with the construction and maintenance of a section of cycle trail, Okari.

To undertake vegetation clearance and earthworks within 10m of a natural wetland associated with the construction and maintenance of a section of cycle trail, Okari.

To install culverts associated with the construction and maintenance of a section of cycle trail, Okari.

RC-2022-0015
Leisure Land Limited
150 Māori Creek Road, Marsden – Lot 1 DP
3390

To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining at Māori Creek Road, within EP 60681 (or its successor).

To take and use surface and ground water for alluvial gold mining activities within EP 60681 (or its successor) at Māori Creek Road.

To discharge sediment-laden water to land associated with alluvial gold mining within EP 60681 (or its successor) in circumstances where it may enter water.

RC-2022-0048
KiwiRail Holdings Limited
Rail Bridge 93, Mallinson's Creek, Arnold
Valley

To temporarily divert water while replacing Rail Bridge 93, Mallinson's Creek.

The incidental discharge of sediment to Mallinson's Creek as a result of replacing Rail Bridge 93, Mallinson's Creek.

RCF-2022-0092
Andrew & Jody Shaw
Arthur Creek, 184 Hackells Mill Road

To disturb the dry bed of Arthur Creek for the purpose of extracting gravel.

To discharge dairy effluent to land where it may enter surface and groundwater from stockholding areas, Kokatahi

RC-2022-0084
Cape Foulwind Staple 2 Limited
Cape Foulwind Road – Pt Sec 8 Blk I Steeples SD
part of RT NL9B/346 lot 15 of RC170026

To undertake earthworks for the purposes of specified infrastructure construction including dwelling construction within 100 metres, but outside of 10 metres, to a natural wetland associated with a subdivision and land use at Cape Foulwind.

To undertake earthworks and vegetation disturbance including planting for the purpose of natural wetland restoration associated with a subdivision at Cape Foulwind.

To discharge treated onsite sewage wastewater and stormwater to land in circumstances where it may enter water within, 100 metres to a natural wetland, 50 metres to a water body and 50 metres to the Coastal Marine area associated with a subdivision at Cape Foulwind.

RC-2022-0091
John Bourke
Arahura Valley, Jack Ward Road - Lot 13 DP
358668

To discharge treated onsite sewage wastewater from a dwelling to land in circumstances where it may enter water, at Lot 13 DP 358668.

RC-2022-0096
Mark Sweatmore
Lake Brunner Road, Inchbonnie
Lot 8 DP 511721

To discharge treated onsite sewage wastewater from a dwelling to land in circumstances where it may enter water, at Lot 8 DP 511721.

RC-2022-0100
Rosco Contractors Limited

To disturb the dry bed of the Grey River near Ikamatua for the purpose of gravel extraction.

Grey River – Ikamatua

RC-2022-0106
Grant Summerfield & Susy Henham
121 Fairhall Road, Kaiata

To discharge treated onsite sewage wastewater from a dwelling to land in circumstances where it may enter water, at Lot 1 DP 3405.

Changes to Consent Conditions

One application to change consent conditions were granted in the period 01 August 2022 to 31 August 2022

RC-2020-0035-V1 BBC Excavations Limited Old Christchurch Road – SEC 1 SO 652 RS1719 3105 4218 5460-62 5 469	Variation to change the location of the water take and to correct the mineral permit number.
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Considerations

Implications/Risks

There are no implications/risks associated with this report.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

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

Tangata whenua views

In line with the implementation of Paetae Kotahitanga ki Te Tai Poutini Partnership Protocol in the Mana whakahono ā Rohe Resource Management Act Iwi Participation Arrangement, Poutini Ngāi Tahu are provided with the weekly consent applications received report.

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

Financial implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Report to: RMC Committee	Meeting Date: 13 September 2022
Title of Item: Compliance and Enforcement Monthly Report	
Report by: Chris Barnes Compliance Team Leader	
Reviewed by: Colin Helem Consents and Compliance Manager	
Public excluded: No	

Purpose

For the Resource Management Committee to be kept informed of activities in the Compliance and Enforcement department, and to provide an update on current matters.

Summary

This is the Compliance and Enforcement report for August 2022 activities.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council resolve to:

1. Receive the September 2022 report of the Compliance Group.

Site Visits

A total of 64 site visits were undertaken during the reporting period, which consisted of:

Activity	Number of Visits
Resource consent monitoring	15
Mining compliance & bond release	34
Complaints	15
Dairy farm	0

This report covers the period of 29 July 2022 to 31 August 2022.

- A total of 15 complaints and incidents were recorded.

Non-Compliances

There were 8 non-compliances that occurred during the reporting period.

Activity	Description	Location	Action/Outcome	INC/Comp
Dairy Farming	Routine inspection of a stock holding area found that the activity was discharging water contaminated with sediment and untreated dairy animal effluent into the Karamea River	Karamea	The farmer has received an infringement notice relating to the discharge.	Incident
Gold Mining	Self-notification from a gold miner that their mining operation had encountered a historic tunnel and was discharging sediment laden water into the creek.	Goldsborough	A compliance officer visited the site and observed the discharge. The miners had stopped the leak while the officer was onsite. Enforcement decision still to be decided.	Incident

Activity	Description	Location	Action/Outcome	INC/Comp
Gold Mining	During preparation prior to undertaking a mine site inspection it was found that the miner was not up to date with an approved annual work programme or a bond in place.	Dunganville	Not having a work programme or bond in place prior to commencing mining is a breach of resource consent conditions. This is still being followed up by a compliance officer at the time of writing this report.	Incident
Gold Mining	After Hours notification of a sediment laden discharge coming from a gold mining operations settling pond which was significantly discolouring Waimea Creek.	Goldsborough	Compliance officer visited the site and found that the mine ponds were overflowing in several locations. The miner arrived onsite and found a small creek that is used to top up the ponds had not been redirected to its normal flow path. Enforcement action is still pending at the time of writing this report.	Complaint
Gold Mining	While travelling on the state highway at Camerons a compliance officer observed that the New River was significantly discoloured with sediment laden water at the state highway bridge.	Nemona Forest Marsden	Upon further investigation it was found that a gold mining operation in the Marsden area was discharging sediment laden water from their settling ponds into a creek which then discharged into the New River. Samples of the discharge were obtained and at the time of writing this report the results of the analysis has not been received.	Incident
Gold Mining	Complaint received regarding Waimea Creek significantly discoloured with sediment laden water.	Goldsborough	A compliance officer visited the area and found that there was a leak from a mining operations settling pond which had significantly discoloured Waimea Creek. Samples were taken and sent for analysis. At the time of writing this report the results of the analysis has not been received.	Complaint

Activity	Description	Location	Action/Outcome	INC/Comp
Gold Mining	Complaint received regarding Waimea Creek significantly discoloured from sediment laden water.	Goldsborough	A compliance officer visited the area and found that a different mining operation from the one noted above had settling ponds discharging poorly treated sediment laden water into Shamrock Creek which flows into Waimea Creek. Samples were taken and sent for analysis. At the time of writing this report the results of the analysis has not been received.	Complaint
Gold Mining	Complaint received that sediment laden water from a gold mining operation was significantly discolouring Donnelly's Creek.	Ross	Two compliance officers visited the area and found that the mining pit was being dewatered by pumping sediment laden water out of the pit into two settling ponds. Because of the volume of water and the velocity of the flow the sediment was not treated prior to discharging into Donnelly's Creek. Samples were taken and sent for analysis. At the time of writing this report the results of the analysis has not been received.	Complaint

Other Complaints/Incidents

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

Activity	Description	Location	Action/Outcome	INC/Comp
River Works	Complaint received regarding work being carried out in the Little Totara River. The complainant believes they have stripped the riverbank of vegetation and hindered the access for Whitebaiter's.	Charleston	A compliance officer carried out a site visit and met with the landowner who carried out the work, it was established that the work carried out in the riverbed was consented. The landowner also said he has reinstated the riverbank no further than its original dimensions. Enquiries are still ongoing.	Complaint
Discharge to water	Complaint relating to Hauhau Creek being discoloured with sediment laden water.	Hokitika	A compliance officer visited the site and could not locate the source of the discharge.	Complaint

Activity	Description	Location	Action/Outcome	INC/Comp
Earthworks	Complaint received relating to gravel being extracted from a creek.	Milltown	A compliance officer carried out a site visit and found that a landowner was extracting the build-up of gravels from slip material. The creek is ephemeral, more like a stormwater pathway. No breach of the regional rules was found.	Complaint
Earthworks	Complaint received regarding a discharge of sediment from earthworks on a residential property.	Greymouth	Compliance officer visited the site and found that a house and section has been renovated, part of the guttering was discharging rain water into fresh earthworks, which was discharging beyond the property. Property owner said he would rectify immediately. No further action required.	Complaint
Discharge to water	Complaint received regarding the discharge of rubbish into a storm water drain at a waste transfer station.	South Westland	Enquiries are ongoing.	Complaint
Mining	Complaint relating to the dumping of offal into a mine pit.	Ikamatua	Compliance officer visited the site and found no breach of the regional rules had occurred.	Complaint
Discharge to water	Compliance staff observed that Hauhau Creek was significantly discoloured with sediment laden water at the state highway bridge.	Hokitika	Enquiries were unable to establish the source of the discharge.	Incident

Update on Previously Reported Ongoing Complaints/Incidents

No updates on previously reported incidents or complaints this reporting period

Formal Enforcement Action

Infringement notice: One infringement notice was issued during the reporting period.

Activity	Location
Dairy Farming: discharge of sediment laden water	Karamea

Mining Work Programmes and Bonds

The Council received three mining work programmes during the reporting period, The programmes have been approved.

Date	Mining Authorisation	Holder	Location	Approved
01/08/2022	RC-2017-0004	Westland Mining Limited	Fox Creek	Y
10/08/2022	RC12212	S,R,M& S Rothera, Marshall, Craw and Craw	Cameron's	Y
23/08/2022	RC-2018-0090	Murray Brian Clegg & Jacquelin Carol Palmer-Clegg	Marsden	Y

There are no bonds received or recommended for release this reporting period.

Considerations

Implications/Risks

There are no implications/risks associated with this report.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

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

Financial implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.