



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE – 16 September 2020

Co-funding sought for flood warning project

The West Coast Regional Council is seeking \$155,000 in co-funding from the Westport community to secure \$400,000 from Central Government to progress an advanced flood warning system to assist with the evacuation of Westport in the case of flood.

The funding from central Government comes from the economic stimulus package for 'shovel ready' projects announced during the COVID-19 lockdown. The Regional Council submitted a package of projects worth a total \$45.1M and have been successful in obtaining \$24M provided the relevant co-funding contributions are able to be secured from the communities for whom the resilience projects are targeted for.

The advanced flood warning system was the number one short term priority recommended by the Westport 2100 Working Group to provide up to 8 hours advanced warning for the evacuation of Westport.

Randal Beal, Director of Operations at the West Coast Regional Council, said that this was a great opportunity for the community to fast track this project.

"Every \$1 invested by the community will attract \$2.58 from central government," said Mr Beal. "It is unlikely the community would be able to access this sort of funding again."

To raise the co-funding, the Regional Council is seeking to establish a Rating District which will incorporate properties from Carters Beach to Beach Road at Fairdown Road, and up to Te Kuha. The financial impact on the Rating District is a cost of \$7.90 (GST incl) per \$100,000 of Capital Value over a three year term.

Councillors and staff from the Regional Council will be holding drop-in sessions for those who want to find out more about this project, the rating district and how it will affect them. These will be held at the Green Room in the NBS Building on Palmerston Street, Westport on 1 October between 10.00am and 6.00pm and on 2 October between 9.00am and 2.00pm.

"The Rating District is only being set up to secure the co-funding for the flood warning project," said Mr Beal. Any future projects, such as a flood protection scheme, or further recommendations from the Westport 2100 Working Group, would be consulted on with the community at the time of the proposal. Such infrastructure is not being considered at this time."

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