



# THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**MEDIA RELEASE – 12 May 2023**

## **Council receives funding for freshwater reform implementation**

The West Coast Regional Council has been awarded \$1.5m in funding over a three-year period to assist with implementing the freshwater reforms under the Resource Management Act.

The funding allows for salaries and overheads for four new positions, including a Maturanga (Maori knowledge) Advisor, Regional Catchment Coordinator and two Poutini Ngāi Tahu Internships.

Fiona Thomson, Planning and Science Manager for the West Coast Regional Council, said that the new roles will assist the Council to meet its requirements under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, as well as helping landowners and communities to improve water quality throughout the region.

“Receiving the financial support to create these specific roles in a region with such a small rating base and such an abundance of freshwater bodies is extremely helpful.”

The State of Environment Summary 2022 highlighted that while the West Coast is generally in good shape compared to other regions, there are areas that need improvement.

“This funding will help us do this, and go a long way to being able to meet our freshwater quality targets and commitments,” said Ms Thomson. “We will also be able to better support our communities with their freshwater requirements such as the upcoming Freshwater Farm Plans.”

Recruitment for the new roles will be advertised in the next few weeks.

ENDS

---

Media contact

Fiona Thomson | Planning and Science Manager | West Coast Regional Council | 021 314 218