



# THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Media Release

10 August 2023

### Experts on site to view Waiho River threats

Experts in hydrology, engineering and river modelling were on the banks of the Waiho yesterday to assess the ongoing threats of the river. Today they are back in the Council office workshopping draft options to address both old and new issues to feed into a report for the future.

West Coast Regional Council Chief Executive, Darryl Lew, acknowledged what may appear to some as a repeat of past activity.

“There has been a huge number of reports prepared about the Waiho in the past. What we are doing now is assessing the new threats that have presented themselves in recent months. These may require a new approach for the future.”

Some of the best minds in New Zealand are working together to come up with a 10-year river management strategy for the Council to deliver. It will not cover infrastructure such as the road, heli-pad, oxidation ponds or the town itself.

“Decisions around those assets will need to be made but that comes next.”

The report will be drafted over the coming month and presented to the Regional Council and the Westland District Council, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, before being taken to the community in 6-8 weeks’ time.

Mr Lew accepted that a Rating District meeting for Franz Josef was well overdue.

“One of the reasons for the delay is the change in issues and not having a plan to address these. This river management strategy will give us much clearer direction for managing the Waiho into the future, and working with the Rating District and wider community to enact it.”

Media articles stating infrastructure works were on hold for the Waiho are incorrect.

“I want to be very clear, while there is additional planning work required for the future management of this river, infrastructure works underway now will continue to progress.”

ENDS

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Media Contact

Darryl Lew | Chief Executive | West Coast Regional Council | 027 217 9306



From left to right:

Rose Beagley and Matthew Gardner (Land River Sea Consulting Ltd), Tim Davies (University of Canterbury), Gary Williams (GE Williams Consultants), Mark Healey (WSP representing Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency)

Absent but at the workshop Ian Fuller (Massey University)