



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

26 June 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

Regional Council Chief Executive welcomed formally with pōwhiri

New Regional Council Chief Executive, Darryl Lew, was formally welcomed to the West Coast today with a pōwhiri at the Arahura Marae.

“Today is significant, not just for myself, but for Council too. While we have worked closely with Poutini Ngāi Tahu for many years this is a rejuvenation of the relationship with our Te Tiriti partner.”

Poutini Ngāi Tahu have a special relationship with the region’s natural and physical resources.

“While we already have iwi at the Council table with decision making ability at the Resource Management Committee to manage resources for Tai Poutini, there is opportunity to progress this further for the benefit of all West Coast communities.”

The Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Arrangement, signed by Council and Poutini Ngāi Tahu in 2020, is a blueprint for how Treaty partners can relate to each other in a meaningful way that respects both te ao Māori and the legislative framework of the Council.

“This year will see the Arrangement undergo its first review, building on the collaborative mahi between Council and Poutini Ngai Tahu, breathing renewed life into our ongoing relationship. Working closely together will be key to facing the challenges ahead of us.”

The pōwhiri was the first opportunity for many staff to visit the Arahura Marae.

“We have a number of new staff and Councillors, and it has been a brilliant opportunity for them to be involved as well as symbolising the commitment we are making to our ongoing partnership.”

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