



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

27 June 2023

Council adopts Annual Plan 2024

The West Coast Regional Council has adopted its Annual Plan 2024 at an extraordinary meeting on 27 June 2023.

Peter Haddock, West Coast Regional Council Chair commented on the rate increase confirmed by Council.

“We are very aware that year 3 of the Long-term Plan had signalled a rate increase of 10% plus the Local Government Cost Index (inflation) of 2.3%. Last year, Council held the increase to 10% and absorbed the inflation component. These actions are not sustainable for the work that is required.”

There are several reasons for the rating increase, and progressing Te Tai o Poutini Plan, the combined district plan for the West Coast, is one of these.

Council has reluctantly agreed to increase the rating from \$500,000 in the third year of the Long-term Plan to \$1,000,000 for continued work on the Plan. The work is to be funded by a rate across all rateable land on the West Coast.

“Council has been directed, through legislation, to prepare, notify, adopt, and in the future amend and review, this Plan.”

This year will see hearings on Te Tai o Poutini Plan get underway.

“Getting the Plan completed is now our focus, ensuring that the significant community input into the draft document is captured and that this will truly be a plan for West Coasters.”

The need to provide more services for communities for flood protection, total mobility, community resilience and other council functions contributes to the other parts of the rating increase.

What does the rate increase mean for the average \$300,000 property across the West Coast? For Greymouth and Hokitika, this will result in an estimated increase of \$68.20 and \$61.90 respectively from last year’s rates, with \$25.83 comprising the funding for Te Tai o Poutini Plan. For Westport, this will result in an estimated increase of \$38.13. Of that, \$25.83 relates to funding Te Tai o Poutini Plan.

This brings the total cost of Te Tai o Poutini Plan for a \$300,000 capital value property to \$45.66 across the region for 2023-24.

The differences in the rating increase between districts is due to the timing of property revaluations.

Chair Haddock acknowledged the hard work of Council staff in diversifying income streams and accessing external funding for many projects and services, particularly for flood protection.

“Funding from subsidies and grants has increased from \$19 million in 2022-23 to \$24 million for the coming year. A big part of this makes up the capital projects for Westport, Greymouth, Hokitika and Franz Josef and will assist us with delivering services to the community without relying on the ratepayer.”

“As we face more frequent and more intense weather events this is key to the ongoing protection of our communities.”

Council is mindful that these are challenging times for many ratepayers and is reminding residents of the [Rates Remission and Postponement Policy](#) for which ratepayers can apply to seek financial assistance for the payment of rates.

Categories include (conditions and criteria apply per policy):

1. Remissions for land 50% non-rateable
2. Remission of penalties on rates
3. Remission of rates on land protected for natural, historic, or cultural conservation purposes
4. Remission of rates on land subject to natural calamity
5. Postponement due to financial hardship (evidence required)
6. Remission and postponement for business and economic development.

For more information about applying for rates remission or postponement go to:

<https://www.wcrc.govt.nz/services/rates/rates-remissions-and-postponements> or call Council on 0508 800 118.

“With our new Chief Executive, Darryl Lew, at the helm, we will continue to work hard on behalf of the communities we serve.”

ENDS -

Media contact

Peter Haddock | Chairman | West Coast Regional Council | 027 247 9148