29 May 2025

Annual Plan shows Council delivering

WCRC's Annual Plan, to be tabled at next week's Council meeting, shows it is delivering on its commitments as set out in the Long-term Plan 2024-34.

Chair Peter Haddock says the Plan sets out the services Council will deliver for the community, the environment and the West Coast community over the next financial year.

"It shows the hard work of Councillors and staff in doing their best for our community and delivering on budget. We said last year the general rate increase would be 12% and it is. This is in line with Council's plan to be in an operating surplus in Year 4.

"Staffing levels have increased to enable Council to do its essential project work, particularly flood resilience, and fulfil its regulatory functions. This is within the budget set by Council in its Annual Plan."

The increased amount of central government contributions for flood schemes over the coming year is good news as it boosts local contributions, says Peter Haddock.

"This is due to more capital work planned for 2025-26 partly through new projects such as Franz Josef stage 2, and partly due to the change in timing of our major flood protection projects."

"This is part and parcel of one of our most important focuses of work - maintaining existing and building new future-proof flood protection schemes across the Coast, most notably in Hokitika, Westport, Greymouth and Franz Josef but also work across all our 23 rating districts."

WCRC website tracking shows how important river flow, rainfall and water quality information is for Coasters, says Peter Haddock.,

"That's the most visited part of the website. We've been able to add better data from more locations to help keep the community informed about water quality, and the amount of water flowing in our rivers."

The work of Vector Control Services has helped keep rates increases lower. The team provides a commercial surplus to Council, meaning some cost increases are not passed on to the community.

–Ends–

Background information
The Annual Plan outlines budget, funding, and financial statements for the year, as well as highlighting any deviations from the Long-term Plan (LTP) 2024-34. It serves as an update to the LTP, providing a more detailed look at Council's specific activities and financial projections for the current year.

What back to basics means for WCRC:
Enabling the economy

- achieved through creating policy settings that are right for our region, and processing consents applications efficiently consistent with those settings.

Ensuring a healthy natural environment

- working with our community to monitor the environment, including discharges to water and air
- keeping our community informed about the state of the natural environment
- monitoring for pest plants which affect the natural environment and impact on the community and businesses operating within the region.

Keeping our community safe

- monitoring 31 rainfall sites and 42 river monitoring sites – we publish data live to keep our community informed and safe
- maintaining 1700 flood protection assets, including 66 stopbanks totalling 66km in length, working to ensure these remain fit for purpose.