WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

1 October 2025

Annual report shows success

WCRC’s report card for the 2024-25 financial year shows it’s had a successful year and is operating on a sound financial basis.

The draft annual report will be tabled at tomorrow’s meeting of the Risk and Assurance Committee, the last meeting for that committee before local elections on 11 October. The draft report has been independently audited by EY on behalf of the Office of the Auditor General.

The report confirms the sustained improvements Council has been making for the Coast community it serves over the past year, says Chair Peter Haddock.

"We've shifted the dial on our organisational and financial maturity, reflected in the significant change to our previous audit qualification against our asset valuation. This is due to significant effort by staff during the year."

“We’ve put considerable effort into rebuilding this Council. We’re here to enable a thriving economy and healthy natural environment, to protect people, property and livelihoods through reliable real-time river flow information and fit for purpose flood protection, and to be ready to act should there be a natural disaster.

“Our successes include securing co-funding to deliver essential upgrades to existing flood protection schemes at Franz Josef, Hokitika, Greymouth, and for Westport’s significant new flood protection scheme.

“This work isn’t fully funded by central government, the expectation from government is the community pays its fair share so targeted rates have had to increase to pay for these schemes.”

As part of its flood protection work WCRC has carried out an extensive asset management assessment over the past year meaning it now has a significantly greater level of detail about its flood assets which protect the community, says Peter Haddock.

“Disappointingly however, we’ve had to include a correction in our accounts for 2024/25 for funding received from NZTA in 2021-22, which was incorrectly recognised as income at that time. If we hadn't made this correction we would have recorded a small surplus in this report.

“If you look back at financial year 2021-22 you can see how it happened. That annual report shows significant loss of staff - 12% of total full-time equivalent jobs – meaning Council lost significant knowledge. It confirms why we needed to rebuild staff numbers and expertise.”

While Council staff numbers have increased over time, many of these positions have been in commercial business teams, he says.

“These teams are expected to return a surplus to Council to keep rate increases lower than they otherwise would be.”

Staff numbers will move depending on the services the government and community expects Council to deliver.

Whereas previous WCRC annual reports have generally shown contractor and consultant costs trending upwards the 2024-25 reports shows a reduction.

“We’re expecting that to reduce further as permanent staff replace the need for consultants where possible, such as within Corporate Services and with the wrap up of Te Tai o Poutini, the One District Plan.

“The TTPP is a very different aspect of work for WCRC, as compared with other regional councils. Central government tasked us with leading the delivery of a single district plan for the entire region but there was no funding provided by government to get the job done. This means the community has had to pick up the tab for that work.”

Peter Haddock thanked staff for their work on the report. “We can have full confidence in the quality of this Annual Report presented to us. Councillors want to acknowledge the hard work done by staff in getting us to this position.”

The annual report remains draft and subject to change until adopted by Council.

–Ends–

Contact:
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