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West Coast environment report released

WCRC is releasing its State of the Environment Report today showing environmental trends across the region from June 2021 to June 2024.

Environmental Science Group Manager Shanti Morgan says over the past three years WCRC teams have been busy collecting and analysing data on the state of the Coast environment.

“The Coast is home to some of the most spectacular and intact natural environments in the country. At the same time, we face real challenges in balancing development, climate change, and long-term environmental resilience.

“This report is a snapshot of the current condition and long-term trends of two of our most important natural resources - air and water - and highlights two of our greatest challenges: the spread of invasive species and a changing climate.

“The information guides how our Council planners review regional plans, develop rules and thresholds for development, and how our regulatory teams ensure these are upheld.”

Over the coming weeks WCRC is taking the report to the road at seven locations from Karamea to Haast to present findings and invite feedback, she says.

“It's essential our work reflects the priorities of our communities: are you comfortable with the state of our environment, the rate of change, and its direction?

“We look forward to hearing how we can improve our work so we can make well-informed decisions about how we monitor and use the resources that support our West Coast communities and way of life.”

The report is part of the Council's statutory obligation under the Resource Management Act and is used to inform planning, policy decisions, and community awareness.

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Photo:
Kahikatea forest Te Kinga

