



WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

1 August 2025

DIA stats show WCRC delivering for Coasters

WCRC is topping the national table for regional council investment in flood protection just released data shows.

Yesterday the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) released the first set of council profiles. These draw on publicly available data to gauge financial performance.

“With 95.6% of our capital expenditure going on flood protection, we’re well above the 65% average across all regional councils,” says Chief Executive Darryl Lew.

“While our rates increase for this financial year is higher than other regional councils, the data shows last year we had the second lowest increase.

“We have a higher revenue to operating expenditure ratio than any other regional council. That’s because we’ve been working hard on behalf of the community to get central government money to deliver essential flood protection for Coasters. This was done in very close collaboration with rating districts and joint committees.

“It’s the first time we’ve managed to attract similar co-investment since Ministry of Works days. We’re focussed on delivering the basics for the community and delivering them well.”

WCRC had needed to redesign the way it operates, he says. “We’ve invested in good financial management and better reporting to rating districts, for example.

“Previously we were using others’ money to artificially keep rates low. Things simply had to change. In our LTP 2024-2034 we committed to returning to an operating surplus while delivering on the work that the community expects and needs.’

The West Coast is recognised as a region with significant potential economic growth that can contribute to New Zealand’s economic growth strategy. While it has one of the larger land areas of all regions it has by far the smallest rating base, says Darryl Lew.

“Even with recent staff increases our staffing is still only a third of the overall average for regional councils but we’re expected to deliver the same services as every other regional apart from public transport.”

He encouraged people to look at WCRC's 2025 pre-election report to get a fuller picture: [WCRC Pre-election Report 2025.pdf](#)

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