



WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2026

Rates Snapshot

Chair's message

Greetings ratepayers

There's a lot of change in the air as this newsletter goes out. You'll no doubt be aware of the Government's call for local government reform. This didn't come as a surprise for us as Coasters as we've known of the need for change for some time.

While the Government has signalled regional councils won't exist past the end of this triennium in October 2028 it's not yet clear what future arrangements might look like. One thing for sure, though, the role WCRC plays, and functions it carries out for our region, must continue.

The West Coast Head Start Outline Proposal was submitted to Government for consideration by its 9 August deadline. This was not a decision to establish a new council. Rather it was a request for Government to support the independent work needed to determine whether a single unitary authority could deliver better long-term outcomes for the West Coast. The proposal is now being assessed.

In the meantime, we continue to carry out our essential functions of flood warning and protection, environmental monitoring and biosecurity, and emergency management. Your councillors are resolute about ensuring those functions are part of whatever new local government arrangements are put in place.

All four councils on the Coast will be affected by whatever decision is made about reform. Just as we are carrying on with our work programmes, for Westland, Grey and Buller district councils it's business as usual running services such as roads, water infrastructure, rubbish collection, libraries, parks, and land use planning.

Another change with significant financial and operational ramifications for future regional council work is the replacement legislation for the Resource Management Act. The Natural Environment and Planning bills are currently progressing through Parliament.

The rates we all pay play a vital role in supporting the services, and infrastructure, that keep our region running and help shape its future. We continue to balance growth, community



We hosted the NZ Hydrological Society's 2026 Technical Workshop in March. This brought over 170 technicians and industry representatives to the Coast. It included a gauging regatta at Hokitika Gorge so participants could test equipment, check data consistency and learn from each other.

expectations, and financial responsibility, while delivering value for money and making informed decisions of benefit for current and future generations.

Overall, WCRC has focused on staying the course for the 2026-27 financial year and the need to deliver the activities identified in our Long-Term Plan (LTP). We have minimised general rates impact and maintained existing levels of service. The fiscal challenge has been addressed, for the next year, by a drawdown from Council's investment fund. This financial buffer avoids an increase in the General Rate above the 7.5% forecast to you in the Long-Term Plan.

To support our region's resilience Council agreed to allocate \$4 million from its investment fund toward natural hazard management, including coastal, flood, and drainage works. This means \$1 million for each of the Franz Josef, Hokitika, Greymouth Floodwall, and Westport rating districts. The respective Joint Committees will oversee these funds with project proposals subject to Council approval.

Our focus areas are improving functionality of our financial and asset

management systems, progressing the Westport flood protection project, progressing a review of the regional coastal and flood protection schemes, including the funding regime, to inform the development of the 2027-2037 LTP. The Government has made it clear that, despite the context of reform, councils must continue with planning requirements as required by law.

Our ongoing work includes installing a network of continuous groundwater level monitoring in the Grey, Westport and Hokitika catchments, expanding remote camera networks with active feeds for community use, flood gauging, and emergency management use.

Thank you for your continued support. It is a privilege to be working for you all and our communities throughout this wonderful region of ours.



Colin Smith
Chair | Grey Constituency

Your new rates invoice

We've redesigned our invoice to make it easier for people to read. The example below highlights some of the key parts of the invoice. Any queries please contact rates@wrc.govt.nz or call us on 0508 800 118.

Total amount due

This is what you need to pay now – the balance from the previous financial year plus the first instalment for this financial year. If there is a minus sign beside the amount due you are in credit.

Capital value

This is the value of your land and buildings together.

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M-1111 \$30056001

Payment

\$263.01 now payable
Payment due 20 October 2026
A negative number indicates a credit, no payment is required.

Assessment number 123456

Property details

Valuation reference 12345/123.12	Legal description Lot 1 Sec 2 Greymouth	Property location State Highway 7 Greymouth 7840
Land value \$350,000	Capital value \$360,000	Area (m2) 78.0984ha

Statement of account

Brought forward from 30 June 2025
Previous instalments invoiced
Payments received
Remissions/adjustments
Penalties
Instalment one (includes GST of \$34.30)
Total due

Instalment 1 of 2

\$0.00
\$0.00
\$0.00
\$0.00
\$0.00
\$263.01
\$263.01

*An instalment penalty charge of 10% will be added to any portion of the current instalment not paid by the due date.
An additional annual penalty charge of 10% will be added to any rates outstanding as at 30 June, on 1 July.*

Due dates for instalments

Instalment one: Due 20 October 2026	\$263.01	Instalment two: Due 20 April 2027	\$263.01
2026/2027 Rates total (includes GST of \$68.03)	\$526.03		

SAMPLE ONLY

Assessment number

This is your property's unique account number for WCRC rates.

When you pay your rates, please use your assessment number as the reference.

Brought forward

Any money owed from previous financial year rates.



Do we have your email address?

Email provides a fast, efficient, cheaper and more environmentally friendly method for us to communicate with you. We now have the option to email rates invoices if requested in writing.

If you need to update your contact details, please call 0508 800 118 or email rates@wrc.govt.nz.

Paying by direct debit

Direct debit is a great way to pay your rates.

- ✓ You'll always pay on time, every time with no chance of late payment penalties
- ✓ Once you're set up you don't need to do anything else
- ✓ You're in control and can cancel anytime.

For more information visit our website or call us on 0508 800 118.



Scan here for more information on paying your rates

Heads up



As soon as rates invoices go out our front office starts getting lots of phone calls.

If you're calling us after your rates invoice arrives please bear with us as there may be a wait until we can answer your call. Rest assured we'll be working as hard as we can!

If your inquiry isn't urgent you can also contact us on: rates@wrc.govt.nz or, for more information about paying your rates, visit our website.

2026 General Election

We've invited candidates standing in the West Coast-Tasman electorate to briefings with WCRC. We want to ensure everyone has a chance to hear how each candidate responds to key issues affecting our region.



You can view these videos on our YouTube channel: [@westcoastregionalcouncil5171](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5171)

If you want to check your details or enrol to vote go to: <https://vote.nz/enrolling/>



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