WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE WHATAROA RATING DISTRICT
ON
Monday, 16 November 2026
11.00 AM
Whataroa Hall

AGENDA

1. **Welcome**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Minutes of last meeting** **1-6**
4. **Matters Arising/Actions** **7-8**
5. **Election of the Committee** **9-10**
6. **Signing of the Rating District Terms of Reference (if applicable)** **11-15**
7. **Reports**

7.1 Annual Asset Condition Report Summary 16-24

7.2 Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Engagement and Public Consultation Update 25-36

7.3 Annual Works Report 37-38

7.4 Finance Report 39-40

Please let WCRC know if there is anything you would like discussed at this meeting that is not on the agenda by Tuesday, 10 November 2026

Please contact Cloe Nieper (cloe.griffin-nieper@wcrc.govt.nz) or Michael Beagle (michael.beagle@wcrc.govt.nz) with your queries.

Item 3	**Whataroa Rating District Meeting Minutes – 05th December 2025**
Author	Cloe Griffin-Nieper Catchment Management Coordinator
Authoriser	
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to receive the minutes of the Whataroa Rating District Meeting of 05th December 2025

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council/the Committee resolve to:

1. *Confirm that the minutes of the Whataroa Rating District Meeting held on 05th December 2025 are a true and correct record.*

Attachments

Attachment 1: Minutes of the Whataroa Rating District Meeting held on 05th December 2025

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WHATAROA RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE WHATAROA HALL ON 5TH DECEMBER 2025, COMMENCING AT 1:30PM

PRESENT:
D. Friend, K. Kelly,

IN ATTENDANCE:
Cr C. Smith Cr A. Campbell, Cr A. Cassin (Councillors)
M. Beagle, W. Spencer, L. Crozier (Staff)

APOLOGIES:
No apologies were recorded.

Moved-D. Friend/K. Kelly-carried.

WELCOME AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:
Cr A. Campbell introduced himself and the council staff.

Namely, W. Spencer.

Moved: ***"That the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting held on 30th May 2024 be adopted as a true and correct record of that meeting."***

Moved-D. Friend/K. Kelly-carried.
With amendments all in favour.

MATTERS ARISING:

The meeting began with a discussion about resource consents for groynes (river protection structures). It was reported that a resource consent amendment has been lodged with the consent team, but additional information has been requested.

The original consent covered 23-24 groynes, but this needs to be updated to cover 27 groynes.

There was discussion about privately owned groynes at the bottom of the scheme that were built by a private landowner. These groynes are not currently maintained by the scheme as they were deemed not to provide benefit to the overall scheme when previously considered for adoption.

It was agreed that the privately owned groynes would remain private assets and would not be adopted into the scheme. However, they would be kept on the asset register and marked as private assets on asset plans.

The private groynes were determined to primarily benefit only the individual property rather than the wider scheme area. As one participant noted: *"It just seems to me that it's more stuff we've got to maintain without any real benefit to the downstream. It was only a benefit to that farm and just pushing the river harder over against deviation, stopping it from going down those bit channels."*

Rating Class Review:

There was brief discussion about a previously proposed rating class review. It was noted that a similar review had been done shortly after the scheme was established in 2009-10, resulting in adjustments to the rating structure.

The current review appears to have been driven primarily by one individual who was not present at the meeting. There was limited appetite among those present to proceed with another rating review.

No formal resolution was made, but there was consensus to pause the rating review, particularly in light of proposed legislative changes that might affect local government.

Insurance Coverage

The group discussed the insurance arrangements for scheme assets. The current situation includes:

- Asset value of approximately $1.1 million
- Replacement value of just under $1.3 million
- Annual insurance premium of $1,100

- Insurance excess of $1 million

There was discussion about the relationship between insurance coverage and NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) support. It was clarified that NEMA would cover 60% of damage costs above the excess amount, with insurance covering the remaining 40%, but only if insurance is in place.

The ownership of assets was discussed in relation to insurance coverage. There was some confusion about whether the assets are owned by the council or by landowners. It was explained that generally, the council considers the assets to be council-owned, though this has been contested by some landowners in other schemes.

No formal resolution was made, but it was agreed that further clarification on asset ownership would be sought.

The discussion highlighted the complexity of the insurance arrangements and the need for clarity on asset ownership to ensure appropriate coverage is maintained.

Asset Management and Maintenance

The meeting discussed the new Asset Management System (AMS) that has been implemented. This system allows for better tracking and management of assets, including condition assessments.

Assets are rated on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being excellent condition and 5 being poor/non-functional. The goal is to maintain assets in condition ratings 2-3. Currently, some assets are in condition 4-5, particularly related to vegetation management issues.

There was discussion about the approach to maintenance, with a proposal to move toward more proactive maintenance rather than reactive responses. A budget of approximately $20,000 was suggested for addressing condition 4-5 assets.

Concerns were raised about past experiences where the committee felt their input on maintenance decisions was not adequately considered. There was emphasis on the need for collaborative decision-making between council staff and the committee.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

W. Spencer presented the financial report for the 2024-2025 year:

- Revenue income of $51,876
- Expenditure of $48,957
- Reserves increased from $302,000 to $305,000

Major expenditure in the last financial year included a partial rebuild of the third spur down to the bridge, which cost $43,000. An additional $2,500 was spent on machine hire.

It was recommended to keep rates at the same level for the coming year, as the scheme is in a good financial position with no urgent works identified.

The scheme's healthy financial position and lack of urgent works were cited as reasons for maintaining the current rate level.

Moved-K. Kelly/D. Friend-carried.

ANNUAL WORKS REPORT:

There was discussion about vegetation management, particularly gorse growing around the groynes. It was noted that many of the condition 4-5 ratings across the region relate to vegetation issues.

Options for vegetation control were discussed, including spraying. It was noted that in the past, landowners had undertaken spraying themselves, and this approach was considered more cost-effective than hiring contractors.

RATES 2026/2027:

W. Spencer advised that the balance of the rating district account at the beginning of the 2025-2026 financial year was likely to approximately be $305,708.

He proposed rates strike of $55,548 which included $44,258 of rates maintenance, $1,092 for infrastructure insurance and $10,198 of engineering staff cost recovery.

Moved: ***"That the rate strike for Whataroa Rating District is $55,548.00 Excl GST for the 2025-2026 financial year.***

Moved-K. Kelly/B. Friend-carried.
All in favour.

The committee wants to have their say with the maintenance. W. Spencer had planned to be proactive and coming to the RD articulated from the asset management system. Cr C Smith advised it is about the conversations.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Moved: ***"That G. Styger, P. Carroll, K. Kelly, D. Bowater, T. McBride, D. Friend and G. Julian be the committee for the 2026/2027 financial year.***

Moved-D. Friend/K. Kelly-carried.

Moved: ***"That K. Kelly is re-elected as Spokesperson and D. Friend is to be Deputy spokesperson for the 2026/2027 financial year.***

Moved D. Friend/K. Kelly-carried.
All in favour.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Discussed past experiences where committee members felt their input was not adequately considered in maintenance decisions. WCRC to recognise the importance of improved communication and collaborative decision-making.

Meeting closed, 3:15pm.

Action Whataroa RD	Assigned To	Deadline
Provide additional information for the resource consent amendment to cover all groynes	W. Spencer	Not specified
Mark privately owned groynes as "private" on asset plans and register	W. Spencer	Not specified
Seek legal clarification on asset ownership	W. Spencer	Not specified
Develop a proactive maintenance program for condition 4-5 assets	W. Spencer	By end of the financial year

Item	**Actions List**
Author	Cloe Griffin-Nieper Catchment Management Coordinator
Authoriser	
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

This report is a summary of items that require actions. The responsible Area Engineer have updated the list and will address their respective action items.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council/the Committee resolve to:

1. Receive the actions list and the information noted.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Actions List Public – Update.

Attachment 1: Actions List Public – Update.

Whataroa

Item No.	Date of Meeting	Item	Assigned Person/s	Update
1.	5th December 2025	Provide additional information for the resource consent amendment to cover all groynes. Deadline: Not Specified	Wayne Spencer	Verbal update to be provided at meeting
2.		Mark privately owned groynes as "private" on asset plans and register. Deadline: Not Specified	Wayne Spencer	Verbal update to be provided at meeting
3.		Seek legal clarification on asset ownership. Deadline: Not Specified	Wayne Spencer	Verbal update to be provided at meeting
4.		Develop a proactive maintenance program for condition 4-5 assets. Deadline: By the end of the financial year	Wayne Spencer	Verbal update to be provided at meeting

5	**Whataroa Rating District Election of Committee**
Author	Cloe Nieper, Catchment Coordinator
Authoriser	Michael Beagle, Group Manager, Catchment Management
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

As per clause 1 of the Whataroa Rating District Agreement, the Rating District Committee shall be formed immediately after each triennial election. The purpose of this report is to receive verbal nominations for, and elect, the Spokesperson, Deputy Spokesperson and committee members.

The Chairperson will call for the above nominations and seek a mover and seconder. West Coast Regional Council Standing Orders shall apply.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Appoint the following to the Whataroa Rating District Committee:*
   a. *_____ as Spokesperson;*
   b. *_____as Deputy Spokesperson; and*
   c. *_____ as Committee Members.*

Attachments

Attachment 1: Whataroa Rating District Current Committee Membership (extract). Attachment 2: Whataroa Rating District Current Terms of Reference.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Moved: ***"That G. Styger, P. Carroll, K. Kelly, D. Bowater, T. McBride, D. Friend and G. Julian be the committee for the 2026/2027 financial year.***

Moved-D. Friend/K. Kelly-carried.

Moved: ***"That K. Kelly is re-elected as Spokesperson and D. Friend is to be Deputy spokesperson for the 2026/2027 financial year.***

Moved D. Friend/K. Kelly-carried.
All in favour.

DRAFT/UNCONFIRMED

THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Whataroa Rating District Agreement

Proposed– April 2024

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Reason for Submission	Revision Number	Revision Date	Approval
New Document		02 April 2024	
Version 2	2	11 July 2024	D.L (revision of use of funds outside of scheduled maintenance works)
Version 3	3	21 October 2024	

Rating District Committee Agreement

BACKGROUND

A. The WCRC is empowered by Section 126 of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941 to take such steps as are necessary for the prevention of damage by floods; and

B. Is empowered by the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to raise the funds necessary to carry out their respective function.

C. Any flood protection structure built because of this agreement is owned by the WCRC. The land the flood defense assets are on is under various ownership.

STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF THE RATING DISTRICT (RD) COMMITTEE

1. Once each triennium immediately following the election of the West Coast Regional Council councilors the RD Committee shall be formed including the appointment of a spokesperson/chairperson, by the ratepayers within the district. The number of committee members representing the rating district shall be decided by the ratepayers within the district.

2. The quorum of the Committee members required for decision making and meetings shall be decided by the RD committee and confirmed during its formation triennially.

3. Meetings shall be held annually or as otherwise agreed by the Rating District Committee.

4. Notification of meetings and the publication of agendas and reports shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Part 7 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and will be undertaken by the secretariat who is employed by the WCRC.

5. Minutes of all RD Committee meetings shall be provided to the next meeting of the RD.

TERMS OF REFERENCE & DELEGATIONS

6. Each year the RD committee shall consider any staff and/or expert reports and ascertain what work and budget requirements will be for the coming financial year to inform the WCRCs Annual Plan and Long-Term Plans.

7. The RD Committee shall not have any funding or rate-setting authority. But advises the wcrc on this matter at annual meetings.

8. WCRC as the Rating Body for the Rating District is the final decision maker on the annual work plan and setting the appropriate rate to fund the agreed works.

9. The RD committee must formally decide on whether they are a maintenance scheme, a capital scheme or both. This can be changed at any time with written consent of both parties.

10. The RD committee shall have the Spokesperson and 2 committee members endorse the use of the RD prudent reserve.

11. For significant decisions such as major scheme capital upgrades or maintenance and associated expenditure, dissolving the scheme, rating classification reviews etc., the spokesperson, committee or WCRC can call for a full voting procedure of all scheme ratepayers. A majority vote is set at a minimum of 75% of scheme ratepayers that have voted.

12. <Note 75% can be altered to a different majority percentage by each scheme but must be documented in the terms of reference>.

13. The WCRC shall administer an asset management system for all assets in the scheme and take this to the committee annually starting the 2025/2026 FY.

14. Any resource consents required for the scheme will be applied for, held and maintained by the WCRC, including adhering to conditions.

15. The RD committee's role is to review the annual work plan provided to it by the WCRC, receive and consider any independent expert advice, and make informed recommendations to WCRC for the final decision. The Committee may also make recommendations to the WCRC regarding:

    - Commissioning independent expert reports; and
    - Undertaking public consultation on rating classification classes, major capital works and other areas of significant public interest.

    WCRC will consider any recommendations of the RD committee in making any decisions on the above.

16. The WCRC has constituted a "Rating District" for the scheme and reserves the right to raise such funds as it may need to carry out its functions.

Variation of this Agreement

17. This agreement may be amended at any time, at the request of either the WCRC or the rating district committee, but such amendment will only take effect once both have formally received and adopted those changes sought.

SIGNATURES

SIGNED by

RATING DISTRICT SPOKESPERSON

In the presence of:

_____

by its authorised signatory

_____

Witness signature

_____

Witness name

_____

Witness Occupation

_____

Witness Town of Residence

SIGNED by

WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

In the presence of:

_____

by its authorised signatory

_____

Witness signature

_____

Witness name

_____

Witness Occupation

_____

Witness Town of Residence

REPORTS

7.1 (Report No. as per Index)	**Rating District Annual Asset Condition Report**
Author	Lillian Crozier, Asset Management Coordinator, Catchment Management
Authoriser	Michael Beagle, Group Manager, Catchment Management
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

To present the Whataroa Rating District Annual Asset Condition Report summary pamphlet for the 2025-2026 financial year and provide members with an opportunity to discuss the condition of scheme assets and matters requiring follow-up.

Report Summary

The Annual Asset Condition Report Summary Pamphlet brings together recorded asset information, inspection findings, condition ratings and identified defects for the scheme.

The summary pamphlet explains the key findings in plain language to support discussion. The information helps identify matters for engineering assessment, further inspection, maintenance planning and improvements to asset records. Proposed works, costs and funding are considered through the separate Annual Works Report and financial reporting process.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council/the Committee resolve to:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note the attached Annual Asset Condition Report summary pamphlet, including the findings and follow-up matters identified for the rating district.

Issues and Discussion

Background

West Coast Regional Council manages flood protection, drainage and erosion-control assets associated with its rating districts. Regular inspections and condition reporting help staff understand how these assets are performing and identify where further assessment or work may be required.

Current situation

Note: This report pamphlet is for information purposes only.

Considerations

Implications/risks

Condition and defect information supports prioritisation but must be considered alongside engineering judgement, the consequences of failure, scheme performance and available resources. A condition rating alone does not establish the level of protection provided. Follow-up may include further assessment, inspection, maintenance planning or correction of asset records. Any immediate safety or operational concerns should be addressed promptly through the appropriate Council processes.

Significance and Engagement Policy assessment

This paper presents information and does not seek approval for a change to levels of service, new expenditure or targeted rates. Any subsequent proposal arising from the findings will be assessed separately under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, as appropriate.

There are no issues within this report which trigger matters in this Policy.

Mana whenua views

No specific mana whenua views are recorded in this cover paper. Any matters relevant to mana whenua identified through the attached report or subsequent proposals should be considered through the appropriate Council engagement processes.

Staff are not aware of any issues within this report which would impact mana whenua.

Views of affected parties

Rating district members are invited to provide local knowledge, raise concerns and discuss the findings and follow-up priorities. Relevant feedback will be recorded for staff consideration. Further engagement may be needed for any subsequent proposal affecting the scheme or its community.

Staff are not aware of any views of affected parties which impact on matters discussed in this Annual Asset Condition Report pamphlet.

Financial implications

Current budget

Receiving this report does not approve expenditure or alter the rating district's budget. Works, costs, rates and account balances are addressed through the separate Annual Works Report and financial reporting process.

Future implications

The findings may inform future maintenance, renewal or investigation requirements. Any proposed work will require engineering assessment, costing and consideration through the applicable planning, budget and approval processes.

Not applicable

Legal implications

No specific legal decision is sought through this information paper. Any subsequent works or changes to the scheme will be considered under the applicable Council processes and statutory requirements.

Not applicable

Attachments

Attachment: Whataroa Rating District Summary Pamphlet – 2025-2026 FY

Thank you

Thank you to Whataroa Rating District members and landowners for supporting inspections, maintenance and local knowledge of these flood and erosion protection assets.

The key message

Whataroa has 28 listed assets – 22 rock spurs, about 750 m of stopbank and 2 riprap sections – along the true left bank below the highway bridge. Of the 34 results that could be graded, 32 are Fair or better (20 Good or Very Good and 12 Fair) and 2 are Poor (both stopbanks). The system records 20 defects, logged so they can be planned into the works programme; the main issue is erosion of the berm beside the spurs and in front of the stopbanks. No contractor work was charged in 2025/26. Next: look at the erosion sites, confirm the next round of checks, and agree a practical maintenance programme with the Rating District.

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Whataroa

Rating District

Our Flood & Erosion Protection Assets

Annual Report 2025/26

A simple summary for our community – a talking point for our meeting

Welcome

This is a short summary of how the flood and erosion protection along the Whataroa River is looking. It shows what we have, what condition it is in, what problems have been spotted and what might happen next. It is here to help us talk together.

What protects us from the Whataroa River?

The Whataroa Rating District was formed in November 2011 to fund unforeseen and urgent emergency river protection works. The works run for about 1.6 km downstream from the State Highway bridge on the true left bank. They protect mainly dairy and dry-stock farms, and the roads, power and telephone lines in the area also benefit.

Our assets in numbers

The Council's asset system lists these assets for Whataroa.

28	22	4	2
assets in total	groynes (rock spurs)	stopbank sections (about 750 m)	riprap sections

Important – the AMP is being updated

The Council's Asset Management Plan (AMP) for Whataroa (2023–2026) is the guidebook for looking after the scheme. It is being reviewed and updated right now, so some things in this pamphlet may change. This pamphlet is here to help start the conversation.

What happens next?

1. Look at the three erosion bays first
In front of stopbanks WHT-27600L and 27800L-SBK01, and upstream of spur WHT-28600L-SPU02.

2. Decide on the larger erosion near the highway
The notes on spurs WHT-28800L-SPU01 and SPU02 raise the idea of a riprap rockline between them. This would need discussion before any decision.

3. Top up rock and manage vegetation
Replace rock lost from spur noses, and deal with trees and gorse on the stopbanks and spurs.

4. Plan the next checks and tidy the records
Include drone checks where suggested, fix the map at WHT-28200L, and add or remove the 7 checked assets not on the list.

5. Plan the work proposed
Put together a programme of works for defects, which will be discussed and agreed with the Rating District.

6. Finish updating the Asset Management Plan
Review the Whataroa Asset Management Plan (AMP) (2023–2026), including who owns the assets and what level of service is expected.

How well does it protect? – from the AMP

The AMP does not set a flood size the scheme is built to hold. It says the structures will be maintained to the dimensions they were originally built to.

Questions we'd love to talk about

- ? Is there anything you would like more detail on?
- ? Are there local issues we should know about alongside this information?
- ? Do the maintenance and repair priorities make sense?
- ? What should we keep a close eye on?
- ? What would be useful to see in next year's report?

Where to find the rest

This booklet is about the **condition** of the assets and the **problems** that have been spotted.

The annual works report

Planned and proposed works, costs, rates and other money matters will be covered in the **annual works report**, which is written by the Area Engineers. It is a separate document, so none of those details are included here.

How the two fit together

This booklet: what we have, what condition it is in, what problems have been spotted and what we might look at next.

Annual works report: what work is planned and what it involves.

Your notes from the meeting

Where are our assets?



Asset map from the Whataroa plan, as supplied. The stopbank is shown in red and the 22 spurs as purple squares along the true left bank, downstream of the highway bridge.

How we keep an eye on them

Area Engineers carry out regular checks of the Whataroa assets, and extra checks can be done after significant weather events. At each check the Area Engineer gives the asset a **condition score** and records any **defects** (problems). The results are recorded in the asset system and followed up with the Rating District. How often each asset should be checked – including whether more critical assets are checked more often – is being confirmed across all of the Council's schemes.

What are these things?

Stopbank – an engineered earth embankment that holds floodwater back. **Groyne** – a rock structure built out from the bank to turn the river away from it. **Riprap** – large rock placed along the bank to protect it from erosion. **Berm** – the strip of land between the river and the stopbank.

How to read the results

Condition (0 to 5)

How worn or damaged an asset is. **1 = Very Good**, 2 = Good, 3 = Fair, 4 = Poor, **5 = Very Poor** (failed, or about to fail). A **0 means "unable to inspect"** – we could not do a proper check. That is not the same as poor.

Defect and severity

A **defect** is a problem an Area Engineer has spotted, like a crack in a path. **Severity** says how serious it looks, from 0 to 5 (1 = Low, 2 = Minor, 3 = Moderate, 4 = High, 5 = Severe; 0 = could not be determined). A defect is a flag to look closer – it does not mean the asset has failed.

Criticality (1 to 5)

How much it would matter if this asset failed. A higher number means bigger consequences.

Risk score = severity × criticality

To decide what to look at first, we multiply how serious the defect is (1–5) by how critical the asset is (1–5). That gives a score from 1 to 25, which sits in one of five groups: **Very Low, Low, Medium, High, Very High.**

Together, condition, severity and criticality help us decide what to look at first. Engineering judgement is used alongside the numbers.

The same approach across New Zealand

The asset management system and condition assessment approach used here is **prescribed nationally** across New Zealand for all flood schemes administered by regional councils. The Council's auditor, on behalf of the Auditor-General, also requires this system to be in place, with evidence that it is being applied.

What do they look like?

Stopbank WHT-27800L-SBK01 · graded Poor on 15 April 2025



Trees along the stopbank



Tracking on the crest

In plain English: trees are growing along the river side of the bank, and stock have made tracks on the land side, although it is well grassed. At the downstream end there is little berm and it is eroding. Defects: vegetation (Moderate) and berm erosion (High).

Groyne WHT-28600L-SPU02 · erosion defect, High (4) · logged 15 April 2025



Rock and gravel at the bank beside the spur



Looking upstream towards the highway bridge

The note records significant erosion of the berm just upstream of the spur, a risk to the access track and of the spur being outflanked. It suggests extending the spur or adding one about 30 m upstream.

Photos from the Council's asset system, cropped to fit.

Which problems come first?

We multiply how serious the defect is by how critical the asset is. Here is where Whataroa's 20 defects land (numbers = how many defects):



What this means

19 of the 20 defects can be scored: **3 Medium**, 13 Low and 3 Very Low. None is High or Very High. One is on a spur that is not on the asset list, so it has no criticality.

The Medium risk defects (severity 4 × criticality 3 = 12)

Asset	What
WHT-27600L-SBK01 Stopbank	Large erosion bay in the berm, risk to the toe
WHT-27800L-SBK01 Stopbank	Berm erosion where there is little berm
WHT-28600L-SPU02 Groyne	Significant berm erosion upstream of the spur

Something to check

Two larger erosion sites near the highway (WHT-28800L-SPU01 and SPU02) are rated Moderate, so they score Low. We will check the criticality and severity scores as part of the AMP review.

How are the assets doing?

The Council's asset system shows the latest condition for **35 records** at Whataroa. Here is what was found:

0 – UNABLE TO INSPECT	1 – VERY GOOD	2 – GOOD	3 – FAIR	4 – POOR	5 – VERY POOR
1	6	14	12	2	0
3%	17%	40%	34%	6%	0%

What this means

Of the 34 results that could be graded, 20 are **Good or Very Good** and 12 are **Fair**. 2 are **Poor**. None is Very Poor. Most of the rock spurs are sound.

The 2 Poor results – both stopbanks

WHT-27600L-SBK01 – a large erosion bay in the berm is putting the toe of the stopbank at risk; little berm along the upstream half; medium trees on the river side.

WHT-27800L-SBK01 – medium trees along the river side; little berm at the downstream end, where the berm is eroding.

Erosion beside the spurs

Several spurs are graded Very Good or Good themselves, but the notes record significant erosion of the berm just upstream or downstream of them.

1 could not be graded

At WHT-28200L-SBK01 the inspector found no stopbank, just high ground, so the asset map needs correcting.

When were the assets checked?

When were checks done? (number of check records)

15 April 2025 – before this financial year	36
1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026	0

Dates are in New Zealand time. The financial year ending 2026 runs from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

What this tells us

All 36 checks were done in one round on 15 April 2025, before this financial year. No check is recorded during the year. All 28 listed assets were checked in that round.

Hard to check safely

Several notes say a spur could not be inspected thoroughly or safely because of gorse or high flows, and suggest adding drone inspections.

Next step proposed

Plan the next round of checks, including drone checks where the notes suggest them.

To be checked before this is final

- ☐ 7 checked assets are not on the asset list (5 spurs, an extra spur and the "stopbank" that is high ground).
- ☐ The Whataroa plan says the Council claims no ownership of these assets and is responsible for maintenance only. The asset system records the Council as owner. Council to confirm.

Problems spotted

20 defects recorded

All **20 are "Logged"** – recorded so they can be assessed and planned into the works programme. All were logged on 15 April 2025.

How serious?

High (4)	3
Moderate (3)	6
Minor (2)	10
Low (1)	1

Which assets?

Groyne	13
Stopbank	7

Erosion is the main issue

Nine defects are about **erosion** – mostly of the berm beside the spurs and in front of the stopbank. The three High ones are erosion bays: in front of stopbanks WHT-27600L and 27800L-SBK01, and upstream of spur WHT-28600L-SPU02, where the note says the access track is at risk and the spur could be outflanked.

What are the others about?

Rock lost from the noses of spurs, trees and gorse on stopbanks and spurs, water ponding on a berm, and one map correction.

Some are "keep an eye on it"

For five defects the recommended action is to observe or monitor at future inspections, or correct the map, with no cost estimated.

7.2	**Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Update Report to Rating Districts**
Author	Darryl Lew, Chief Executive
Authorizer	Darryl Lew, Chief Executive
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

To seek Committee approval for a report to be provided to all rating districts at their respective annual meetings, updating them on Council's review of the flood and coastal protection and land drainage schemes and preparation of the draft 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

Report Summary

Council will shortly commence the next round of annual meetings with rating districts to discuss scheme activity. It is proposed that the meetings are provided with an update on the scheme review and the preparation of the draft 2027-37 Long Term Plan. A paper has been prepared for that purpose, for approval by the Committee.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Operations Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Approve the attached report being provided to all of the rating districts at their respective annual meetings and to landholders seeking an update on the scheme review.*
3. *Authorise the Chief Executive making changes to the attached report of a minor or editorial nature.*

Background

Council will shortly commence the next round of annual meetings with rating districts to discuss scheme activity. It is proposed that the meetings are provided with an update on the scheme review and the preparation of the draft 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

Discussion

A paper has been prepared for the purposes of updating the rating districts on progress with the scheme review and preparation of the draft 2027-37 Long Term

Plan. It is proposed that the paper is part of a formal agenda item on these matters. The proposed paper is attached, for approval by the Committee.

Considerations

Implications/Risks

The proposed paper helps reduce communications risks by providing a formal report to all rating district meetings.

Significance and Engagement Policy Assessment

This matter does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

Mana whenua views

Mana whenua views have not been sought.

Views of affected parties

Views have not been sought but an update paper is likely to be supported by rating district landholders.

Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications.

Legal implications

The proposed paper helps Council fulfil its consultation and engagement obligations.

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7.2	**Flood, Coastal and Drainage Schemes Review – Engagement and Public Consultation Update**
Author	Darryl Lew, Chief executive
Authorizer	Darryl Lew, Chief Executive
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

To update the rating district on Council's review of the region's flood and coastal protection and land drainage schemes and to describe how rating district members will have input to that review.

Report Summary

The West Coast has a relatively large number of schemes and rating districts. Many of the schemes have a small number of rateable properties. The way the schemes are presently arranged may not be the most effective or efficient way of doing things.

Council requested and approved a review of flood and coastal protection and drainage schemes during preparation of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. All 23 schemes are within the scope of the review. The review is being undertaken in conjunction with preparation of the 2027-37 Long Term Plan. Some of the review matters are to be incorporated into formal consultation topics, referred to as "significant change proposals". The topics and the exact wording of the topics is yet to be decided by Council but the draft topics and their wording are presently:

1. How Council will manage its coastal, flood and drainage schemes.
2. How Council will fund the schemes (rating model).

Rating district input to this process is important. In October/November 2026 Council will engage with rating districts via rating district spokespeople to seek input on the two topics. Council will use that feedback to develop options to be publicly consulted on in March/April 2027. All landholders will be able to make submissions on those options and to speak to their submission at a Council hearing if they wish to do so.

Decisions on which options to implement, including the option of leaving things the way they currently are (i.e. the status quo), would be made as part of decision-making by the full Council on the 2027-37 Long Term Plan and after the Councillors

have received and considered public submissions. Any changes to schemes and how they are funded would be gradually implemented over the next three years.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Rating District Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Note the Terms of Reference for the review of flood and coastal protection and drainage schemes, approved by the Operations Committee on 16 September 2025.*
3. *Note that the review of flood and coastal protection and drainage schemes is underway, in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference.*
4. *Note the two draft significant change proposals (consultation topics) that Council is developing as part of preparing the Draft 2027-37 Long Term Plan.*
5. *Note that engagement with rating district spokespeople seeking their input to development of options for the two draft significant change proposals will occur in October/November 2026.*
6. *Note that public consultation on the options for the two significant change proposals will occur in March/April 2027.*

Background

The West Coast has a relatively large number of schemes and rating districts (Figure 1). Many of the schemes have a small number of rateable properties (Figure 2).



Figure 1 – Flood and coastal protection schemes and land drainage schemes (2024-34 Long Term Plan, West Coast Regional Council)

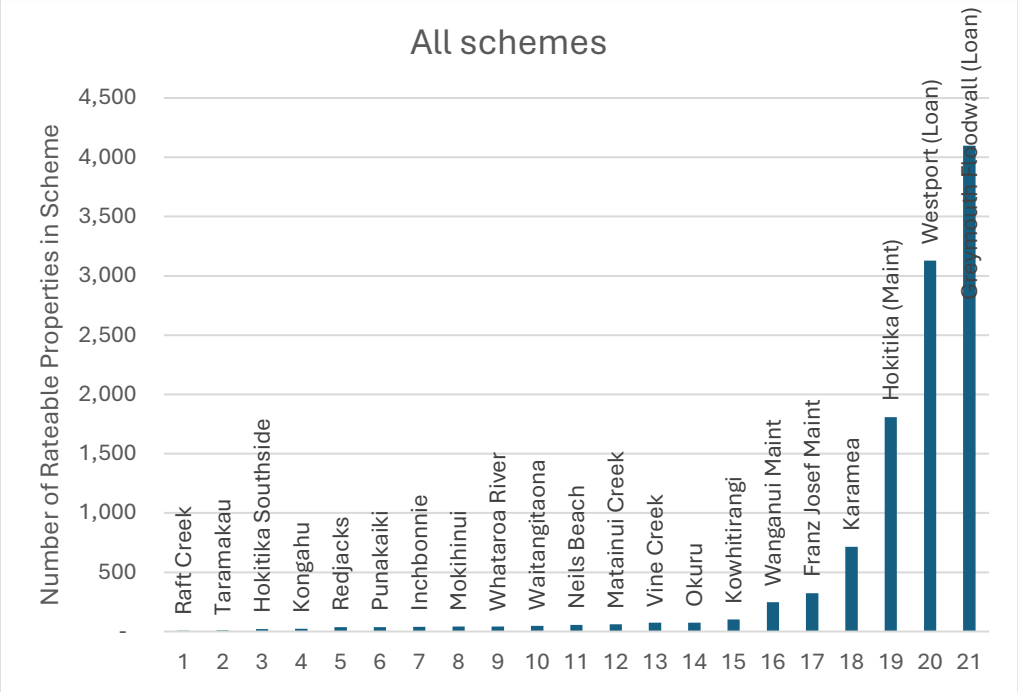


Figure 2 – Number of rateable properties within each flood and coastal protection and land drainage scheme

This arrangement of schemes enables Council to target flood, erosion and drainage works and services to specific parts of the region but is administratively complex and time consuming for councillors and staff. The lack of overarching principles has led to a variety of approaches to funding which no longer reflect the benefits or beneficiaries of the districts. Although each rating district has terms of reference, there is lack of clarity about the respective roles and responsibilities of landholders (the "rating district") and Council, especially for setting levels of service, and directing works programmes which are typically reactive and do not take a long-term view. For some rating districts it may be more efficient and effective for the community to take ownership and control, as has occurred at Raft Creek, or for Council to disband a scheme.

In response to these issues, Council requested and approved a review of flood and coastal protection and drainage schemes during preparation of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. A key objective is to ensure Council is maximising expenditure of the rateable income from each scheme on actual physical works to maintain the schemes whilst minimising the costs of administering the schemes.

Terms of Reference for the review were approved by the Operations Committee on 16 September 2025. The review is underway with the matters being reviewed listed in Appendix 1. All 23 schemes are within the scope of the review (Figure 1).

The current government is reorganising local government with the intention of abolishing regional councils by October 2028. Councillors consider it important to review the schemes and leave things well-placed for the entity or entities that will assume responsibility for the schemes. That new entity or entities may not have the same degree of governance or staff knowledge about flood hazards and flood schemes on the West Coast hence the desire to undertake the review now and enable a seamless transition to the new local government arrangements.

Discussion

Engagement

The review is being undertaken in conjunction with preparation of the 2027-37 Long Term Plan. Government proposals to reorganise local government across New Zealand have not changed the legal requirement for WCRC to prepare and adopt a Long-term Plan for 2027-37 by 30 June 2027. Council is using this requirement to formally progress some of the matters listed in Appendix 1 as part of formal consultation topics on the Draft 2027-37 Long Term Plan. These topics are referred to as "significant change proposals". The topics and exact wording of the topics is yet to be decided by Council but the topics and their draft wording are presently:

1. How Council will manage its coastal, flood and drainage schemes.
2. How Council will fund the schemes (rating model).

Some of the matters listed in Appendix 1 are operational and are being progressed as part of routine work programmes or through direct engagement with some individual rating districts on matters specific to their rating district. Some of the matters are the subject of separate papers to rating district meetings.

In October/November 2026 Council will engage with rating districts via rating district spokespeople to seek their input on the two topics. During that engagement information on the potential scheme amalgamation scenarios will be shared to support rating district discussion, and opinion sought on whether any schemes could potentially be transferred or disbanded. Council will also seek rating district input on possible approaches to how schemes could be funded.

Council will use feedback on the two topics to develop options that will be publicly consulted on in March/April 2027. All landholders will be able to make submissions on those options and to speak to their submission at a Council hearing should they wish. Councillors will consider submissions received and the full Council will make decisions in May/June 2027 as part of their decision-making on the 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

Implementation of any changes to schemes and how they are funded would be gradually implemented over the next three years. In the meantime, Council may make changes of an operational nature that do not require formal consultation through the 2027-37 Long Term Plan. Some of those proposed changes are described in other papers on this meeting agenda.

The two proposed consultation topics are discussed in more detail below, noting that the topics are yet to be finalised and approved by Council.

Managing schemes

The terms of reference for the review include the following:

1. The geographic boundaries of the rating districts and the opportunity to rationalise and amalgamate some districts.
2. The identification of which schemes or rating districts have sizable assets and need to be managed as systems, and those too small to be regarded as a system.

These matters arise because, as noted above, WCRC has a relatively large number of schemes, and many with few rateable properties (Figures 1 & 2). The issue is whether the arrangement is effective and efficient enough to justify continuing with the current arrangement. If the current situation with any scheme is not effective or efficient then the options are to transfer the scheme to the community, amalgamate it with one or more other schemes or disband it.

Currently, only West Coast rivers within scheme areas are managed through WCRC assets and works. Those works include maintaining and upgrading scheme assets as well as managing river channels through gravel management and vegetation control. The boundaries of scheme areas have been determined by the Westland Catchment Board and WCRC. Although there is a legislative process to follow to change the boundaries the boundaries themselves are not specified in legislation. WCRC may change the boundaries if it wishes to do so, provided it follows the correct process.

The terms of reference for the rating district are presented in Appendix 2. The terms of reference for all rating districts state:
"*For significant decisions such as major scheme capital upgrades or maintenance and associated expenditure, dissolving the scheme, rating classification reviews etc., the spokesperson, committee or WCRC can call for a full voting procedure of all scheme ratepayers. A majority vote is set at a minimum of 75% of scheme ratepayers that have voted.*"

The requirement referred to above for a minimum of 75% of scheme ratepayers relates to a recommendation to Council, and is not a referendum nor is it binding on Council. The decision on whether to leave things as-is or to make changes is a decision for Council to make.

To enable potential scheme rearrangement scenarios to be developed it is necessary to have some criteria on the characteristics of schemes that would make the scheme a potential candidate for transfer or amalgamation or being disbanded. The following criteria have been approved by Council for that purpose :

1. Whether there is community appetite or interest in a scheme being transferred, amalgamated or disbanded.
2. Whether schemes are within the same catchment.
3. Whether there is a transfer of effects and/or benefits between schemes.
4. Whether a scheme provides benefit to an area larger than the rating district area.
5. Whether there are fewer than 10 rateable properties or fewer than 10 people or entities owing rateable properties.
6. Whether WCRC has formally planned and rated for future enhancement works within a scheme.
7. The scale and complexity of the scheme assets.
8. The condition and criticality of the scheme assets.
9. The size of the scheme reserve balance.

It is important to note these are simply criteria for helping identify potential scenarios that will be part of engagement with rating district spokespeople. The engagement will then inform the development of options. Decisions about which options to implement, including the option of leaving things the way they currently are (i.e. the status quo), would be made as part of decision-making on the 2027-37 Long-term Plan, in June 2027, and after the full Council has received and considered public submissions.

Funding schemes

The terms of reference for the review include reviewing the targeted rating system for schemes based on benefit classes (Matter #18 listed in Appendix 1). All rating districts are targeted rate-funded, with the rating boundary matching the rating district boundary. The variety of approaches used to determine the targeted rate creates administrative complexity and the possibility of error in rates collection, such as undercharging or overcharging. This is exacerbated by the relatively large number of rating districts.

It is noted that approximately only 50% of the schemes are being fully funded through the targeted rate and there is a substantial amount of scheme activity funded by the general rate. This is inconsistent with the 100% targeted rate funding statement in the Revenue and Funding Policy formally consulted on by Council during preparation of the current Long Term Plan and adopted in 2024. This matter is discussed in more detail in a companion paper.

Some of the pros and cons of three of the many potential approaches available for rating schemes, are presented in Table 1, for information. These are not recommendations or framed as options for public consultation but are simply intended to show the approaches have trade-offs. They will be used to support engagement with rating district spokespeople in October/November 2026 and the subsequent development of options for public consultation.

Decisions on which options to implement, including the option of leaving things the way they currently are (i.e. the status quo), would be made by the full Council as part of decision-making on the 2027-37 Long-term Plan after they have received and considered public submissions. As noted above, implementation of any changes to schemes and how they are funded would be gradually implemented over the next three years.

Current Approach		Alternative 1 (of many)		Alternative 2 (of many)	
Differential rating for targeted rate within schemes - Multiple benefit classes within each scheme area, based on relative flood and coastal protection, erosion control and land drainage benefits. - no region-wide (i.e. regional) component.		**Nil or limited differential rating for targeted rate within schemes** - Rating for each scheme continues to be confined to each scheme area i.e. boundaries of rated areas do not change. - no region-wide (i.e. regional) component. - Current multiple classes are reduced to one or two within each scheme area i.e. elimination or simplification of differentials within each scheme.		**District-wide and region-wide rating split** - All rateable properties within region are rated regardless of whether they are within a scheme area. -Rating for each scheme covers the whole District the scheme lies within (e.g. 50%) along with a region-wide (i.e. regional) component (e.g. 50%). - Elimination of differentials (classes) within each scheme.	
Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
Equity : those receiving higher protection pay more	Complexity: rates process and calculation more involved	Simplicity: relatively easy to administer	Equity: benefit relative to cost can vary significantly between ratepayers	Equity: accounts for indirect benefits and non-rateable properties	Accountability: more difficult to match rates paid and benefits received between schemes, and allocation between schemes
Transparency: clearer connection between rates paid and benefit received	Information: requires robust technical information and detailed technical analysis	Consistency: less sensitive to changes in flood hazard over time and to new technical information	Communication: more difficult to explain connection between rates paid and benefit received	Simplicity: easier to account for indirect benefits of multiple schemes across a wider area	Value: indirect benefit and the value of services provided are less clear and less tangible for some properties
Incentives: promotes risk reduction by individuals	Relevance: sensitive to changes in flood hazard over time and to new information	Standardisation: better enables the same approach between schemes	Risks: potentially encourages higher-value activity within flood hazard areas	Services: enables provision of District-wide river management	Demand: Potentially increases demand for protection works outside current scheme areas

Table 1 – Examples of pros and cons of some alternative approaches to rating for flood and coastal protection, erosion control and land drainage

Appendix 1

The matters within the scope of the review are as follows.

1. How to take a long-term view of flood risk and erosion management, including planning for adaptation to future climate change.
2. Systematic monitoring and reporting of the levels of service being provided and residual risk.
3. Decision-making processes and the apportionment of liability for decisions made.

4. The Terms of Reference for each rating district including the respective roles and responsibilities of WCRC, ratepayers, territorial authorities and network utility operators (New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail, West Power).
5. The geographic boundaries of the rating districts and the opportunity to rationalise and amalgamate some districts.
6. Whether any rating districts should be extended to enable a whole-of-catchment approach and to incorporate broader catchment management activities.
7. The identification of which schemes or rating districts have sizable assets and need to be managed as systems, and those too small to be regarded as a system.
8. Whether the Wanganui scheme should continue to be defined as a maintenance scheme rather than a capital and maintenance scheme.
9. The interface between urban stormwater systems managed by the territorial authorities and the flood protection and land drainage schemes managed by WCRC.
10. Establishing a coherent asset and infrastructure plan framework (i.e. Infrastructure Strategy, Strategic Asset Management Plan, Asset Management Plans for individual schemes).
11. Resourcing requirements for servicing the current and future number of rating districts, especially the annual rating district meetings.
12. Improving responsiveness of WCRC and network utility operators NZTA Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail, West Power) to urgent maintenance and preventative actions such as riverbank erosion.
13. Confirmation of the operational activities required for effective management of a scheme (additional to maintenance activity).
14. Insurance arrangements.
15. The methodology for calculating the prudent reserve for each scheme.
16. Options for methods of engaging with landholders and ratepayers within rating district areas including alternatives to the annual rating district meetings.
17. How to best administer joint committee schemes on an operational basis.
18. Reviewing the targeted rating system for schemes based on benefit classes.
19. Mapping all WCRC assets and verifying ownership.
20. Potential approaches to managing the risk of a catastrophic event destroying scheme assets beyond local capacity to fund repairs.

Appendix 2

Rating District Terms of Reference

West Coast Regional Council –Whataroa Rating District

2026 Annual Works Report on Rating District Assets

Executive summary

This report outlines a summary of work undertaken as part of the Whataroa Rating Districts annual works program for the 2025/2026 financial year including any maintenance, capital works and surveys undertaken. Additionally, this report details scheduled work for the 2026/2027 financial year and proposes work required for the 2027/2028 financial year which includes consultation of the 2027/2028 maintenance rate, insurance premiums and engineer cost recovery.

Works carried out from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

1. Administration (other expenditure)

Advertising	$58.80
Venue Hire	$16.66
Total:	$75.46

2. Maintenance works summary 2025/2026

No works undertaken	_____
Total	$0

3. Whataroa Rating District financial balance

The balance in the rating district account at the beginning of the 2026 / 2027 financial year was $369,360

This target balance for the 'prudent reserve' for this rating district is $100,000 and this is currently available.

This prudent reserve is immediately accessible for urgent emergency works that may be required following a major flood event.

It is likely the current reserve may only cover a portion of the actual cost of the potential damage that could occur.

4. Maintenance works carried out during this financial year to date

No work undertaken to date	$0.0
	_____
Total	$0.0

5. Scheduled maintenance 2026/2027

Rock riprap renourishment		$20,000
Vegetation control		$5,000
Balance to action 4 & 5 defects		$25,028
Total	$	50,028

Considerable work has been undertaken in the past twelve months inspecting assets and recording condition rating and criticality in the Asset Management System. We now have a much clearer picture on the condition of the assets along with a methodology to determine a priority work programme. Ther is an estimated $163,000 of work required to bring the Rating District assets up to an acceptable standard. Plus, there is the opportunity to rock between the two top groynes near the bridge to provide better protection against erosion.

Currently the prudent reserve has a balance of $369,360 which is $269,360 above the target value of $100,000. It is recommended that this balance be used over the next year or two in a work programme to improve asset condition gradings.

6. Proposed rates for the 2027 / 2028 financial year

Rates Maintenance	$44,258
Prudent Reserve (achieved)	$0
Engineers Cost Recovery	$10,198
Infrastructure Insurance	$ 1,092
Total:	**$55,548**

Council recommends a <u>total rate strike</u> of $55,548 excluding GST.

General Business.

Asset Inspections

Engineering staff are undertaking regular inspection and condition gradings of flood protection assets in the district. Information collected from this survey is now being analyzed and collated against criticality criteria to develop future work programming requirements. Funding for much of this work will be in addition to the normal annual maintenance activities. Area Engineers will develop some funding options for future community discussions.

REPORTS

7.4 (Report No. as per Index) Author	**Whataroa River Rating District**
Authoriser	Tracy Fitzgerald, Senior Management Accountant Colin Weeks, Group Manager Corporate Services, CFO
Public Excluded	No

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the Whataroa Rating District with the Financial Accounts for 12 months to 30 June 2026.

Report Summary

Whataroa Financials shows total revenue of $69,249.77 less expenses of $5,597.98. This resulted in increasing the prudent reserve from $305,708.61 to $369,360.40. The targeted prudent reserve is $100,000.00. There is a surplus between targeted and actual reserves of $236,360.40.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee resolve to:

1. *Receive the report.*
2. *Accept the Financial Accounts for the 2025/26 financial year*

Attachments

Attachment 1: Whataroa Rating District Financial Accounts for 12 months to 30 June 2026.

West Coast Regional Council
Whataroa River Rating District Financial Accounts
For the 12 Months to 30 June 2026

	2025/26 YTD	2025/26 BUDGET	2024/25 YTD
OPENING RESERVES BALANCE 1 JULY 2025	**305,708.61**	**-**	**302,789.48**
REVENUE			
Internal Interest Earned	13,560.92	-	7,512.32
Rates	55,688.85	55,732.04	44,364.64
TOTAL REVENUE	**69,249.77**	**55,732.04**	**51,876.96**
EXPENDITURE			
Advertising	58.80	-	130.00
Contractors	-	50,031.00	45,828.00
Consultants	-	-	480.00
Insurance	1,017.96	1,261.04	1,171.16
Other Expenditure	-	-	24.00
Staff Time	4,504.56	4,440.00	1,308.00
Venue Hire	16.66	-	16.67
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**5,597.98**	**55,732.04**	**48,957.83**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**63,651.79**	**-**	**2,919.13**
CLOSING RESERVES AS AT 30 JUNE 2026	**369,360.40**	**-**	**305,708.61**

TB Fitzgerald.

Senior Management Accountant
14 September 2026