



# **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

## **THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** will be held in the Offices of the West Coast Regional Council, 388 Main South Road, Paroa, Greymouth on **Tuesday, 14 July 2009**

P. EWEN  
CHAIRPERSON

S. MORAN  
Planning and Environmental Manager  
C. DALL  
Consents and Compliance Manager

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<b><u>AGENDA NUMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE NUMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>BUSINESS</u></b>
<b>1.</b>		<b>APOLOGIES</b>
<b>2.</b>	1 – 3	<b>MINUTES</b> 2.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Resource Management Committee Meeting – 9 June 2009
<b>3.</b>		<b>PRESENTATION</b> Mary Molloy. Farmers Against Ten Eighty
<b>4.</b>		<b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b>
<b>5.</b>		<b>REPORTS</b>
		<b>5.1 Planning and Environmental Group</b>
	4 - 5	5.1.1 Planning & Environmental Manager's Monthly Report
	6 - 15	5.1.2 Land and Riverbed Plan – Proposed Variation 2 (Wetlands)
		<b>5.2 Consents and Compliance Group</b>
	16 – 18	5.2.1 Consents Monthly Report
	19 – 22	5.2.2 Compliance & Enforcement Monthly Report

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 9 JUNE 2009 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL,  
388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.30 A.M.**

**PRESENT:**

R. Scarlett (Chairman), D. Davidson, B. Chinn, A. Robb, A. Birchfield, T. Archer, T. Scott

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), S. Moran (Planning & Environmental Manager), C. Dall (Consents & Compliance Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk),  
The Media

**1. APOLOGIES**

**Moved** (Davidson / Robb) *that the apologies from P. Ewen and R. Barber be accepted.*

*Carried*

**2. MINUTES**

**Moved** (Robb / Davidson) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 12 May 2009, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

There was no Chairman's report due to Cr Ewen's absence.

**5. REPORTS**

**5.1. PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

**5.1.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**

S. Moran spoke to his report advising that the Plan Merge and Wetlands Variation are proceeding. S. Moran reported that hearings for the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management are due to start early in July. S. Moran advised that reports back to Parliament regarding the Resource Management Act reforms Phase 1 are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of June.

S. Moran reported that he and N. Costley attending the Canterbury Regional Land Transport Programme hearing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. He stated that they were given a fair hearing, they spoke for approximately 25 minutes on the upgrade of Mingha Bluff to Rough Creek. Cr Scarlett asked when is a decision is likely. S. Moran stated he is expecting a decision this week.

S. Moran reported that Mr Chris Manuel of Hokitika is arranging the West Coast Shakeout project for Exercise Ru Whenua which is planned for the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Mr Manuel is working on a Californian model which will involve the wider local community, which will include schools as part of the drop, cover and hold earthquake drill response.

S. Moran advised that there have been six exceedences of the National Environmental Standard for the Reefton Air Shed.

S. Moran advised that there is \$5000 worth of funds available from the Honda Tree fund, applications close on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. S. Moran reported that he has received an email from Sharon Haarsma and Alex Ray from Buller High School thanking Council for the opportunity to attend the Youth Environment Forum. He stated that pupils found the forum very useful.

**Moved** (Archer / Chinn) *that this report is received.*

*Carried*

### **5.1.2 STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT ON GROUNDWATER QUALITY**

S. Moran spoke to this report. He stated that this work was undertaken by Geological and Nuclear Science (GNS). S. Moran advised that groundwater quality is comparatively good at present and in particular in relation to other regions in New Zealand. S. Moran reported that the level of iron likely to be due to natural factors and the levels of manganese is likely to be related to well casing itself rather than wider environmental factors. Cr Scarlett asked if it could be said that human development is having no effect on our water at all. S. Moran responded that there is an affect but it is at the lower end of the scale. Cr Scarlett asked how long does monitoring go back. S. Moran responded that monitoring dates back to 1998. T. Scott asked what affect does manganese have on health. S. Moran responded that manganese is an aesthetic guideline and it impacts on colour and taste. Cr Birchfield stated that manganese is put into steel to make it stronger. It is also mixed into drill casings to make them stronger. S. Moran stated that manganese levels are not necessarily a health issue. Cr Birchfield stated that it is good to hear that water quality is good and that it is not going backwards. He added that when you look at the results, Council is doing its job. Cr Scarlett asked if wells in the Buller area are monitored. C. Ingle responded that the Regional Council monitors wells in the Buller area but they are not monitored as intensively as the GNS sampling.

**Moved** (Robb / Birchfield) *That the Groundwater Quality State of the Environment Report is received.*  
*Carried*

### **5.1.3 WEST COAST REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME 2009 – 12**

S. Moran spoke to this report. He advised that Council need to adopt this programme prior to it being submitted to the New Zealand Transport Agency. Cr Archer commended staff and management and all those involved in putting this document together as it is a huge project. Cr Birchfield stated that they need to get on the with projects as they have been pathetically slow especially with areas such as McKendries Corner.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *That the Regional Council adopt the Regional Land Transport Programme.*  
*Carried*

## **5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP**

### **5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

C. Dall spoke to this report. He advised that he has been involved in various mediations meetings relating to the Trustpower Ltd for the proposed Arnold Valley Hydroelectricity Power Scheme consent. Cr Scarlett asked what is the timeframe for completing the appeal process. C. Dall responded that a number of the appeals should be able to resolved within the next couple of months but one or possibly two of the appeals may proceed to the Environment Court. Cr Archer confirmed that this can be a very tenuous process.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Archer) *that the June 2009 report of the Consents Group be received.*

*Carried*

### **5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

C. Dall reported that there has been a recent water turbidity exceedance at the Globe Progress Mine. C. Dall advised this is the first non-compliance in some 21 weeks and was attributed to a heavy rainfall event. He stated that this non-compliance emphasizes how important water management is during heavy rainfall events.

C. Dall reported that Council was notified of a sulphuric acid spill at the Pike River Coal site. He stated that the majority of the acid was contained on site but a small amount entered an adjacent settling pond. The acid eventually discharged to the river and to date there have been no substantial adverse affects.

C. Dall reported that there have been a number of incidents at the Stockton Mine site during the reporting period. He stated that a lot of these were the result of accumulative effects following heavy rainfall events. C. Dall reported that infringement notices would be issued for some of these incidents as some were avoidable.

C. Dall reported that the sentencing hearing for the former sharemilkers of a dairy farm in Whataroa has been held. The Judge sentenced the sharemilkers to 200 hours community service, which was in place of a monetary fine as both sharemilkers are insolvent.

Discussion took place regarding water management at the Stockton Mine. Cr Birchfield stated that it was a major rain event that caused these problems. He stated that during heavy rain events it is very hard to contain water and that Council needs to show common sense when administering this. C. Dall stated that he is aware of this and that is why no formal action has been taken. C. Ingle queried what would be classed as a heavy rainfall event and that guidelines need to be in place for this purpose. C. Dall stated that Solid Energy has continuous gauges at the Stockton Mine Site. Cr Scarlett spoke of guidelines from the Met Service. C. Dall responded that generally rain events are based on storm frequencies such as a one in two year event or a one in five year event. Cr Birchfield stated it was a big dump of rain and that a pit at Giles Creek proved troublesome to de-water. Cr Birchfield stated that the sewage ponds at Blackball were scoured out and washed down the river. He noted there was no mention of prosecution over this and that at the same time the Mangatini sump at the Stockton Mine was flooded. Cr Scarlett noted that the Blackball sewage issue was not included in the Council report. C. Ingle responded that Council was advised of this and that it may have been an oversight that this incident was not included in the report. C. Ingle confirmed that this would be followed up.

Cr Davidson spoke of the request from Buller District Council for a \$2000 bond for the revegetation of a mine. He asked if this Council sets bonds. C. Dall responded that WCRC only sets bonds for our consents but we do not govern what Buller District Council bonds for its land use consent. Cr Archer advised that whenever there is a joint hearing for a joint consent the tendency is that there is a joint bond issued. Cr Archer stated that in recent times issues with bonds have been well canvassed and that consenting authorities and the Department of Conservation and others agencies who have the ability to release bonds have strategies in place where the double and triple bonding can be done away with. Cr Birchfield disagreed. Cr Scarlett noted that it is up to the miner to discuss with the local authority if he feels that bonds have been set unjustly.

**Moved** (Chinn / Birchfield) *That the June 2009 report of the Compliance Group be received.*

*Carried*

**5.2. GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.08 a.m.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Prepared for: Resource Management Committee Meeting – 14 July 2009  
 Prepared by: S. Moran – Planning & Environmental Manager  
 Date: 3 July 2009

Subject: **PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**

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**PLANNING**National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management

We are making a submission to the Board of Inquiry on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Board is made up of Judge Shepherd, Jenni Vernon, John Harding, and Kevin Prime.

Wetlands Variation

We are expecting the Environment Court to set a mediation date for either August or September.

**CIVIL DEFENCE**Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Meeting

The CDEM Group met on 8 June. John Hamilton, Director of MCDEM, updated the Group on activities being undertaken at a national level and the support that MCDEM can offer in the case of a major event. S. Moran also updated the Group on the recent CEG meeting including the review of the Group Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with the Red Cross.

Weather Radar

A Department of Conservation concession application is being prepared for the power line route through reserve land from Lake Kaniere Road. The target operational date remains April 2011.

**TRANSPORT**Regional Land Transport Programme (RLTP)

The RLTP was submitted to the NZ Transport Agency on 18 June. The National Land Transport Programme is due out at the end of August, which will set out whether the projects that sought National Funding were successful in their bid.

Community Road Safety Programme

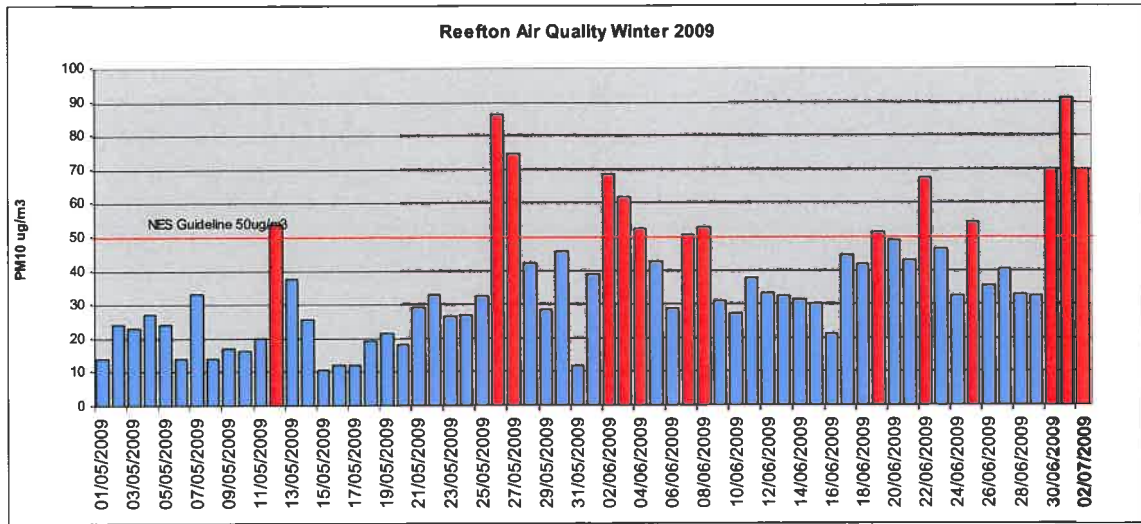
The Road Safety Coordinator (Tai Poutini Polytechnic) have agreed to continue with the provision of road safety services on the West Coast. Following confirmation of funding from each council through the LTCCP process, the Coordinator will be offered an expanded contract to encompass the Actions from the West Coast Walking and Cycling Strategy.

**RESOURCE SCIENCE**Hydrology / floodwarning

There were no flood events for the period at the time of writing this report.

Air Quality

Cold stable winter conditions have produced exceedences of PM<sub>10</sub> in the Reefton airshed. There have now been 12 exceedences of the National Environmental Standard for PM<sub>10</sub> of an average of 50 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> over a 24 hour period. The highest of these was July 1<sup>st</sup> where 91 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> was recorded in a 24 hour period.



**Exceedance values (values from red bars above) 1 May – 2 July 2009**

Date	24 hour pm10 average
12/05/2009	54
26/05/2009	86
27/05/2009	74
02/06/2009	69
03/06/2009	61
04/06/2009	52

Date	24 hour pm10 average
19/06/2009	51
22/06/2009	67
25/06/2009	54
30/06/2009	70
1/07/2009	91
2/07/2009	70

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That this report is received.*

Simon Moran  
 Planning and Environmental Manger



**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Prepared For: Resource Management Committee  
Prepared By: Chris Ingle, Chief Executive  
Date: 4 July 2009

Subject: **Land and Riverbed Plan – Proposed Variation 2 (Wetlands)**

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**Purpose of report**

This report recommends notifying Proposed Variation 2 (wetlands) to the Land and Riverbed Plan to amend Schedule 1 of the Plan to include 2 new wetlands and extend the area in 2 existing scheduled areas. There are no policy changes.

**Background**

In November 2002 the Council notified the Proposed Regional Land and Riverbed Management Plan. One of the key points that arose at the hearings in May 2004 was the lack of certainty in relation to wetlands. There were no maps in the Plan that identified wetlands. Council decided to commence a study into where the significant wetlands of the region, outside of DoC land, are located.

In November 2004 Council decided on an approach that involved mapping the more significant 'Type A' wetlands in the region that had less than 30% of their type remaining, plus any that are known to support threatened species. In 2005 the Council withdrew the old wetlands provisions from the Plan and notified Variation 1 which added the new chapter on wetlands, with new policies and methods, a schedule of 22 significant wetlands, and several amendments to the earthworks and humping and hollowing rules to protect those scheduled areas.

**Notifying a Proposed Variation to the Land and Riverbed Plan**

The Council can now publicly notify the Proposed Variation 2 (Wetlands) to the Land and Riverbed Plan (attached), in accordance with Clause 5 of the RMA First Schedule. The RMA Section 32 report is also attached.

With Council approval, a public notice inviting submissions will be placed in the three main West Coast newspapers and the Christchurch Press later this week. A copy of the public notice, the Proposed Variation, and details about making a submission will be sent to those directly affected. A letter will inform others interested in this issue. The variation will also be sent to every public library in the region.

The submission period will close on 5pm on 14 August 2009. The variation and associated material will also be made available on the council website.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. That the Council approve the Proposed Variation 2 (Wetlands) to the Proposed Land and Riverbed Plan for public notification, in accordance with Clause 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act.*

Chris Ingle  
Chief Executive

## **Proposed Variation 2 (wetlands)**

**The following Plan Variation to the Regional Land and Riverbed Management Plan (December 2008 version), was made pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991.**

**Variation 2 (wetlands) was formally notified by the West Coast Regional Council on Friday 17 July 2009.**

The proposed changes are attached. They include five pages to be included in Schedule 1 of the Proposed Plan.

1. The first two pages replace existing pages 84 and 92 of the Plan, being Kongahu Swamp Northern Remnant and Lake Haupiri Southern Shore.

In these cases the new text proposed to be included in the Schedule entry is depicted in underlined text, whereas other text reflects the wording already in the Plan. The new wetland areas to be depicted in the plan are shown in orange, whereas pink areas reflect those wetland areas already identified.

2. The remaining pages are entirely new additions to the Schedule, being Orangipuku Lakeshore Wetland and Totara Lagoon.

Please note that the maps are based on the national topographical map series. Some of the base maps date back to the 1980s and therefore some topo map base information may no longer be entirely accurate. The wetland shape is mapped onto these sheets in orange, with the thin pink lines showing cadastral (legal) boundaries.

### 3. Kongahu Swamp Northern Remnant

#### Location

One km south of the southern end of the Otumahana Estuary, east of the Karamea Highway.

#### Description

Riparian flaxland within a kahikatea wetland forest remnant.

#### Representativeness

The best remaining example of indigenous vegetation on peat soil (87a: 11%ER, 64%WCR) of the northern Eco-region. This remnant is representative of fertile kahikatea swamp forest and flax swamp wetland previously common in the Kongahu area.

#### Rarity/Distinctiveness

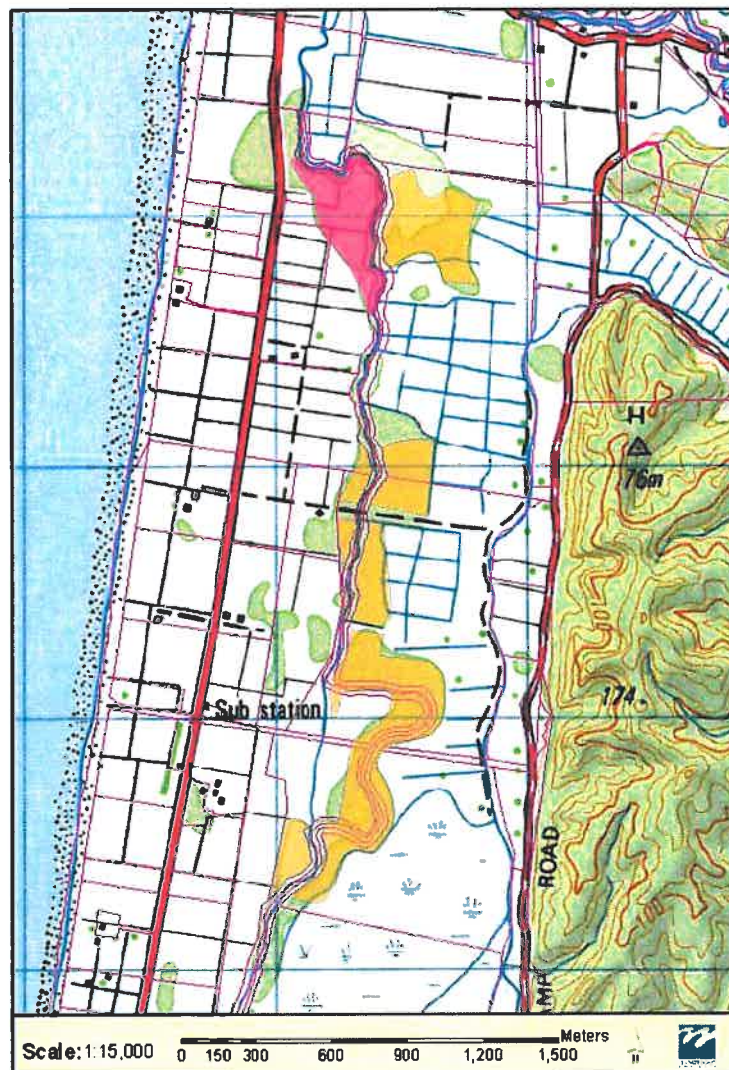
Kereru and fernbird use the site, and Bittern are thought to be occasionally present. Brown mudfish are present and there are records of *Myriophyllum robustum* from Blackwater Creek.

#### Hydrology

Some draining has occurred.

#### Sustainability

The site is large enough to be sustainable in the long-term.



Note that maintaining water flow in Blackwater Creek is critical for the effectiveness of the Kongahu drainage scheme. This wetland does not include the creek itself, so creek maintenance works are unaffected.

## 11. Lake Haupiri Southern Margin and Peat Dome

### Location

On the southern shore of Lake Haupiri, and extending inland 2km alongside Muddy Creek.

### Description

This large area is comprised of flax dominated and rush/sedge dominated wetland, on the lake margins with high quality habitat for numerous native bird and fish species. The lake margin is conservation land, with a neighbouring private wetland to the south used for moss harvesting.

### Representativeness

The general soil survey indicates that the majority of the wetland occurs on 91a (33%ER, 45%WCR).

### Rarity/Distinctiveness

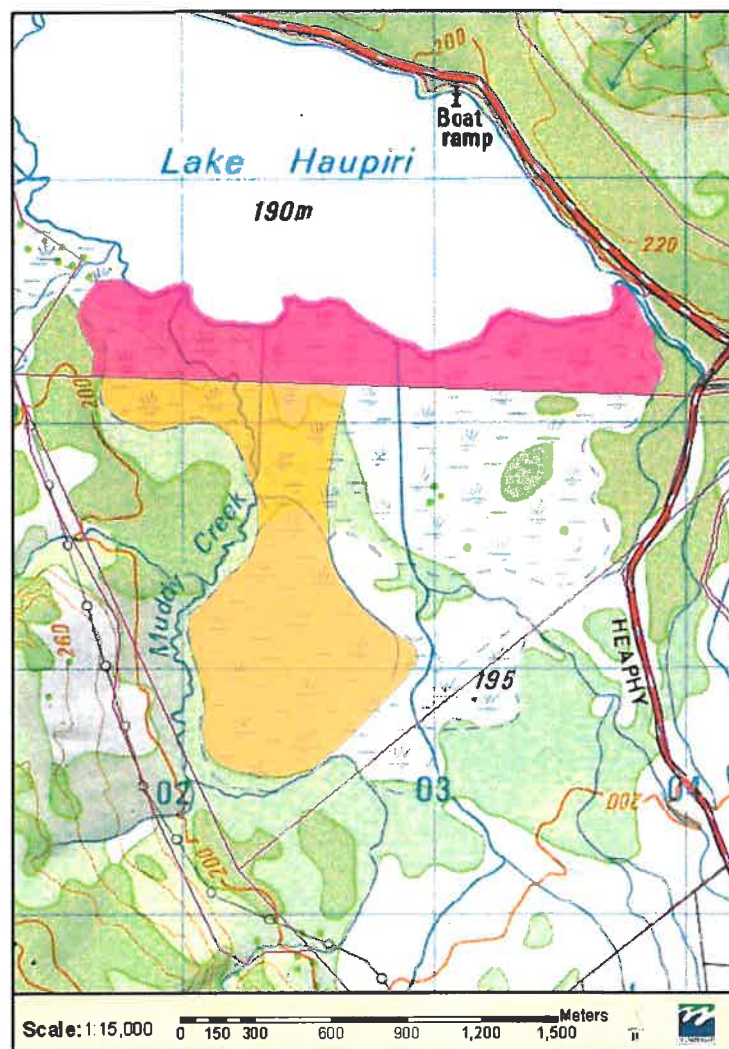
Bittern, giant kokopu, and threatened plants *Carex tenuiculmis* and *Deschampsia cespitosa*. The large domed bog within the site is a unique and distinctive feature, as is the mosaic of infertile and fertile vegetation types.

### Hydrology

There are two major drains crossing through the wetland. The peat dome adjacent to Muddy Creek is intact.

### Sustainability

The site is large enough to be sustainable in the long-term, and is well buffered by the moss harvesting wetland adjacent.



Note that moss harvesting activities in the wetland do not require a resource consent

## **Orangipuku Lakeshore Wetland**

### **Location**

From the Orangipuku rivermouth reaching over 2km of lakeshore east to Uncle Bay.

### **Description**

This fertile flax and sedge wetland has a strong kahikatea element similar to the other wetlands along the shoreline of Lake Brunner. Located mainly on road reserve and conservation land the wetland also includes also some private land.

### **Representativeness**

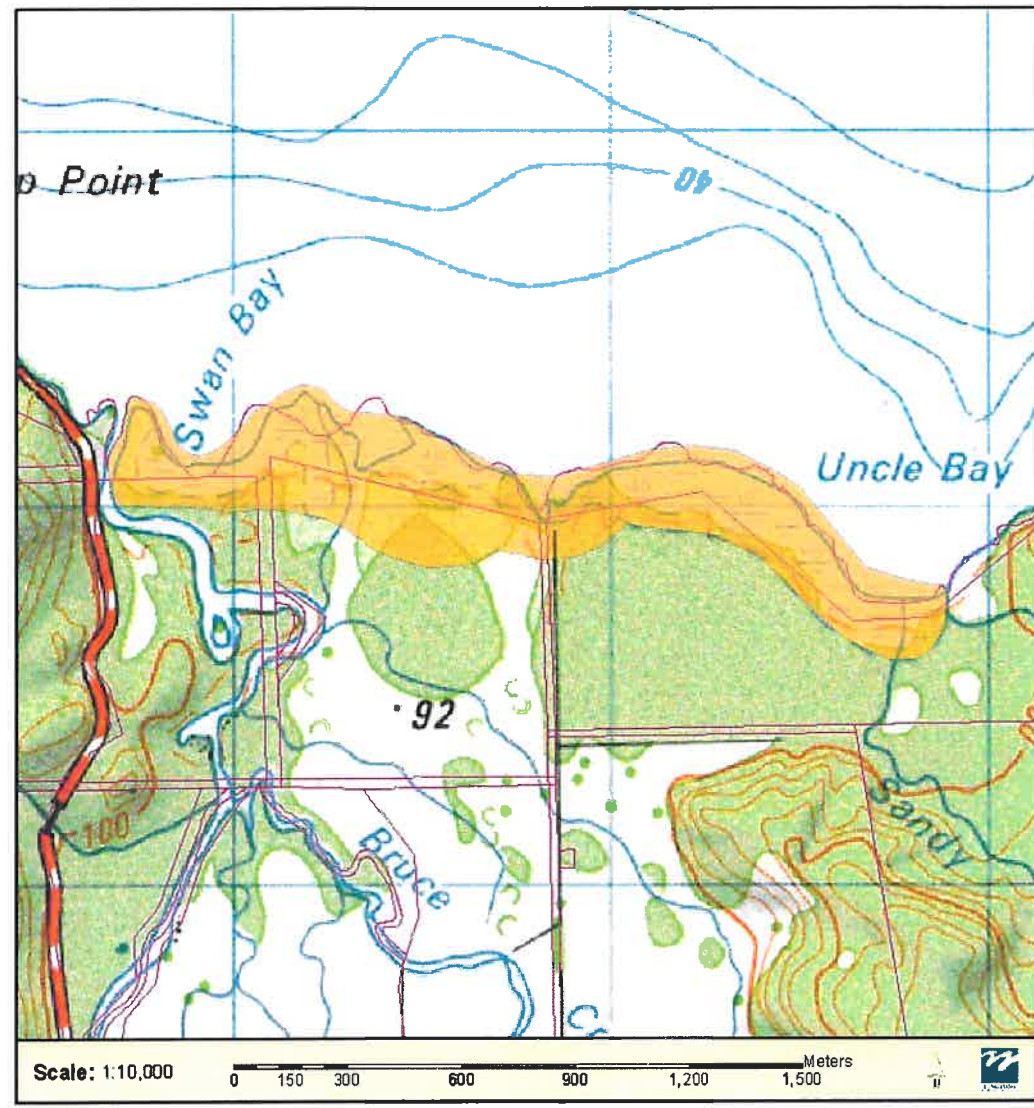
The wetland is understood to reside on soil type 91a (33%ER, 45%WCR).

### **Rarity/Distinctiveness**

A variety of wetland birds are expected to use this wetland. Bittern are likely to be present at times.

### **Sustainability**

The site is large enough to be sustainable in the long-term, and is well buffered by the forested areas adjacent.



### **Totara Lagoon (2 sites, adjacent to a 10km Wildlife Management Reserve)**

#### **Location (note both of the 2 maps make up this wetland)**

Three km north of Ross, to the west of the old rail formation, this coastal lagoon wetland complex occurs over ten kilometres of coastline, almost as far as Ruatapu.

#### **Description**

The lagoon channels in the wider estuarine wetland complex are mostly managed by the Conservation Department, as wildlife management reserve, but adjacent privately owned areas appear to be equally significant for their habitat values for threatened species.

#### **Representativeness**

The wetland occurs on soil type 70c (71% ER, 71% WCR). This means that the majority of vegetation types are well represented in the eco-region.

#### **Rarity/Distinctiveness**

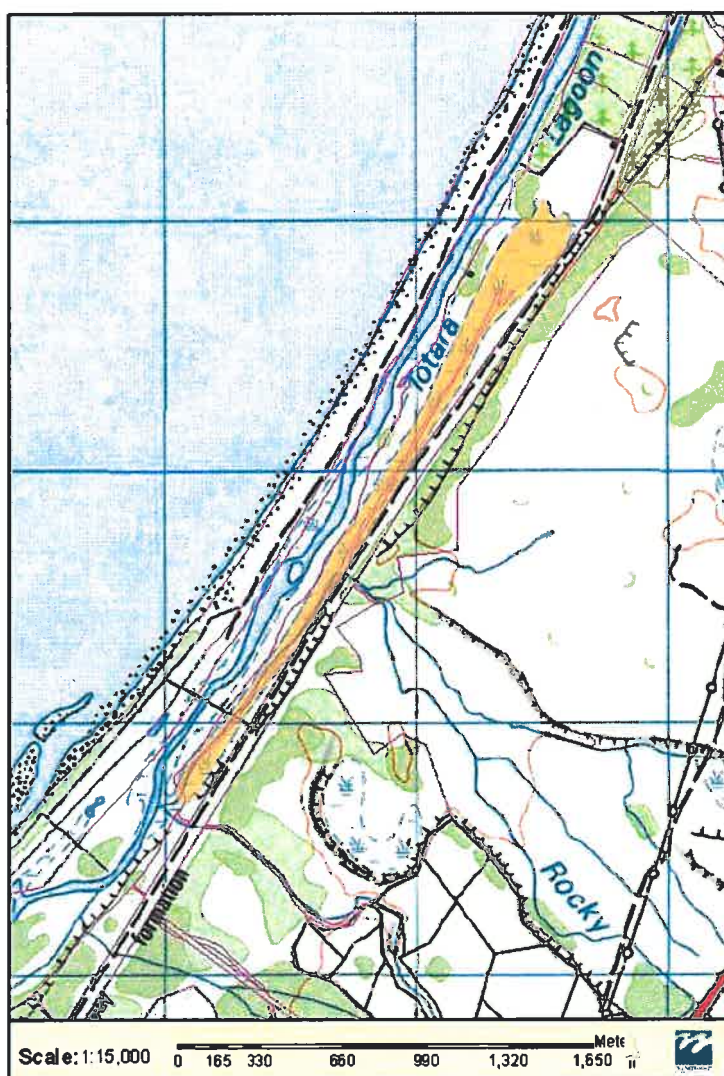
The wetland complex is of particular importance as breeding habitat for Australasian Bittern. Numerous other native species use the wider wetland complex, including 13 threatened bird species, four threatened plants and 2 threatened freshwater fish.

#### **Hydrology**

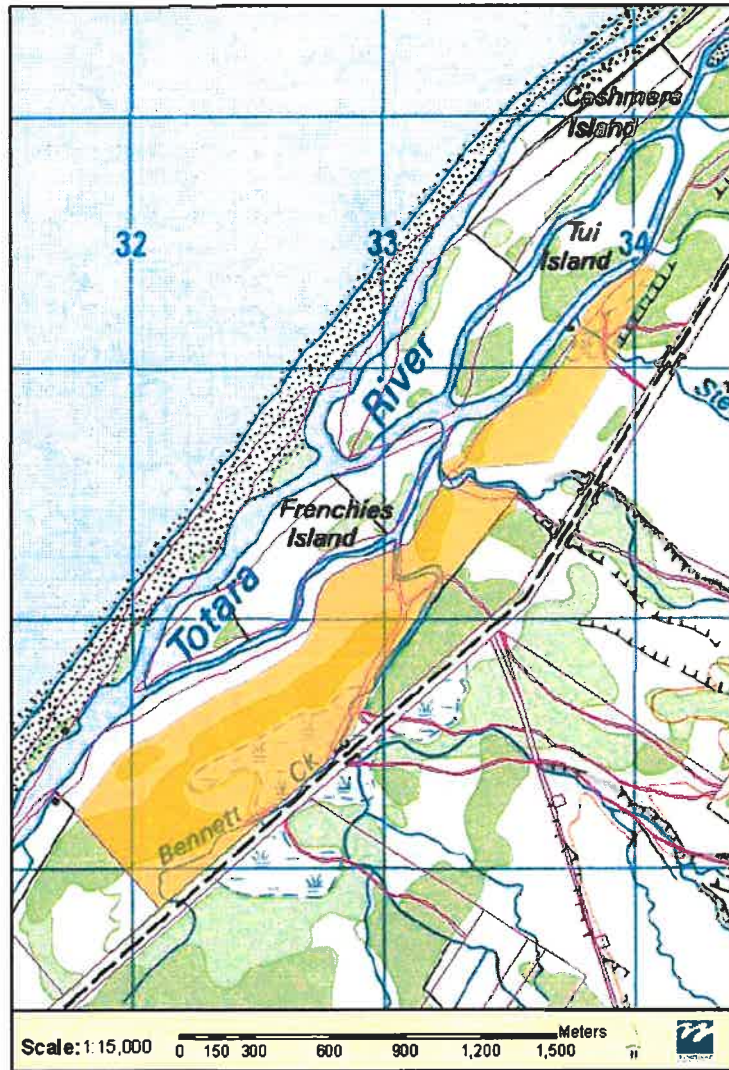
The rail formation has modified drainage patterns to the east of the rail and the wet areas to the east are not included. Most of the area on the west is very low lying and permanently wet.

#### **Sustainability**

This site is well buffered and is large enough to be sustainable in the long-term.



**Totara Lagoon Map 2**



## **RMA Section 32 Report on Proposed Variation 2 (wetlands) to the Proposed Land and Riverbed Plan for the West Coast**

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Section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires an evaluation of the objectives, policies, rules and other methods in a proposed regional plan before it is publicly notified for submissions. This report is the Section 32 evaluation of Variation 2 (wetlands) to the Proposed Land and Riverbed Plan for the West Coast.

Variation 2 (wetlands) proposes to add 2 new additional wetland areas in Schedule 1 of the Proposed Land and Riverbed Plan plus extend 2 areas already in Schedule 1.

### **Background to Proposed Variation 2 (wetlands)**

In November 2002 the Council notified the Proposed Land and Riverbed Management Plan and invited the community to make submissions on the Plan. There were 95 submissions received from a cross section of the community. Following the hearing of submitters the Council hearings panel released their decisions on all submissions except for those on Appendix 2 (wetlands). The Appendix 2 decisions were released in April 2005.

Preliminary rules that controlled land use in wetlands were considered to lack certainty. The main problem was the lack of maps to define the boundaries of significant wetland areas. Additionally, the plan rules referred to "any wetland" which as defined in the RMA could include many areas of the West Coast that have no biodiversity value and little natural character. Council decided to withdraw these wetland provisions from the Proposed Land and Riverbed Plan in June 2005 to enable a Variation to be developed.

The first Wetland Variation added 22 significant wetlands in a new schedule in the plan and added Chapter 5A Wetland Management with an objective, 3 policies and 5 methods, and amended various rules relating to earthworks and humping and hollowing, in order to protect the scheduled areas.

After the first Wetland Variation was notified, and submissions and further submissions received, Council's ecologists undertook field assessments of five 'type B' wetlands that had not been included in the schedule. This assessment confirmed three wetlands were excluded for appropriate reasons, while the other two wetlands were found to meet the criteria in the Plan, which meant they should be included in Schedule 1. These two wetlands can only be included in the Plan by going through a second Variation, in order that the landowners of those wetlands are given a proper opportunity to make submissions and be included in the formal RMA planning process.

During decision making on the first Variation, Council added a new Method 5A.4.6. This method identified there were wetlands potentially missing from the schedule. This second variation satisfies the new method by working with the Department of Conservation to include other wetlands in Schedule 1 that are demonstrated to meet the criteria in the Plan. The Variation was undertaken in a timely manner thereby reducing any risk of loss of wetland areas prior to them being included in the Plan.

Additionally, the Department of Conservation has taken the opportunity in the past 12 months to complete their own stocktake of wetlands on conservation land as well as on private land. This process has resulted in many wet areas being re-assessed by a team of Conservation staff and Council staff. In two cases decisions were made to include wetlands areas in the Plan that, given this new information, appear to meet the criteria for significance. Many other areas were discussed but no others were confirmed to meet the criteria set in Policy 5A.3.1.



## Section 32 Tests

The following is an assessment of the RMA Section 32 requirements

1. *Section 32(3)(a): Are the objectives the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act?*

The chapter 5A objective 5A.2.1 for managing wetlands is not being amended by Proposed Variation 2 (wetlands).

2. *Section 32(3)(b): Are the policies, rules or other methods the most appropriate (having regard to their efficiency and effectiveness) for achieving the objectives?*

The policies, rules and other methods are not being amended by Proposed Variation 2 (wetlands).

3. *Section 32(4)(a) & (b): The evaluation must take into account the benefits and costs of policies, rules or other methods, and the risk of acting or not acting where there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the policies, rules, or other methods.*

Scheduling wetlands provides more certainty to land owners. Completing the mapped schedule of significant wetlands in the Plan helps make consent processes more efficient and targets management to where the wetland values are of most importance.

With respect to the costs of the Variation's preparation, the Council considers the benefits of the Variation, over time, outweigh the cost of preparing the Variation.

4. *Risks of acting, or not acting, where there is uncertain or insufficient information about the subject matter of the Plan provisions*

Method 5A.4.6 was added to the Plan after hearings for the first Variation identified there may be wetlands missing from the schedule. This second Variation satisfies the method. The Variation was undertaken in a timely manner thereby reducing any risk of loss of a significant wetland or parts of such wetlands, prior to their inclusion in the Plan.

Because the Department of Conservation now have more comprehensive information on wetlands on the West Coast, the Council can be more confident that wetlands have not been incorrectly classified. The Department is still doing more research on some wetlands and this may result in further work in due course.

## Conclusion

It is considered that the Proposed Variation 2 (wetlands), to include 2 additional wetland areas in Schedule 1 of the Proposed Land and Riverbed Plan plus extending a further 2 areas already in schedule 1, satisfies the requirements of Section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Variation's provisions are subject to further change as a result of statutory public submissions and appeals under the RMA.

[WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL LOGO]

**PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

**Proposed Variation 2 (wetlands) to the Proposed Land and Riverbed Management Plan for the West Coast**

The Proposed Variation 2 (Wetlands) to the Land and Riverbed Plan for the West Coast has been prepared by the West Coast Regional Council under Clause 5 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Copies of the Proposed Wetland Variation are available for inspection at:

- Public libraries in Westport, Hokitika and Greymouth
- Community libraries throughout the region
- Council website at [www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz)
- The West Coast Regional Council, 388 Main South Road, Paroa.

Any person may make a submission on the Proposed Wetland Variation, in the prescribed form. Copies of the Variation and submission forms are available from the West Coast Regional Council. Submissions must be received by the West Coast Regional Council no later than **5.00pm on Friday 14 August 2009**. Submissions may be hand delivered directly to the West Coast Regional Council; posted to PO Box 66, Greymouth; faxed to 03 768 7133; or scanned and emailed to [info@wcrc.govt.nz](mailto:info@wcrc.govt.nz).

Once submissions have closed:

- A summary of submissions will be prepared and publicly notified and further submissions will be invited;
- The Council will hold public hearings;
- The Council's decisions on the submissions will be released to submitters;
- Appeals (if any) will be heard by the Environment Court.

Chris Ingle  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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**PLEASE ARRANGE INSERTION AND QUOTE ORDER NO. WHEN CHARGING**

**Double column - Public notices**

**Greymouth Evening Star**  
**Hokitika Guardian**  
**Westport News**  
**Christchurch Press**

**Friday, 17 July 2009**  
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**Friday, 17 July 2009**

Prepared for: Resource Management Committee  
 Prepared by: Colin Dall - Consents & Compliance Manager  
 Date: 3 July 2009  
**Subject: CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT**

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**CONSENTS**Consents Site Visits from 27 May - 30 June 2009

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY, NAME &amp; LOCATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
4/06/09	RC09062 – Robert Reedy, Gravel extraction, Fox River	To investigate the sites to assess the availability of the gravel resources and gain a better understanding of the proposed gravel extraction operations.
4/06/09	RC09064 – Westroads Ltd, Gravel extraction, Canoe Creek	To investigate the sites to assess the availability of the gravel resources and gain a better understanding of the proposed gravel extraction operations.
4/06/09	RC09064 – Westroads Ltd, Gravel extraction, Granite Creek	To investigate the sites to assess the availability of the gravel resources and gain a better understanding of the proposed gravel extraction operations.
9/06/09	Public Enquiry – L Barnes, Kumara	To view the site of the proposed site development works to assess if resource consents are required.
9/06/09	Public Enquiry – A Bradley, Kawhaka Creek	To view the site of the proposed erosion protection works to assess if resource consents are required.
25/06/09	RC09081 – OnTrack, Rail bridge replacements, Kokiri & Otira	To view the bridges and to discuss the best method of recording prior to removal with the Historic Places Trust.
26/06/09	RC09046 – Meridian Energy Ltd, Coastal/River Protection, Mokihinui	To attend a pre-hearing meeting at Mokihinui involving Meridian, DoC and the Ratepayers Association.
26/06/09	RC09082 – David Williams, Earthworks, Greymouth	To investigate the site to gain a better understanding of the proposed earthworks.

Non-Notified Resource Consents Granted From 27 May – 30 June 2009

<b>CONSENT NO. &amp; HOLDER</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF CONSENT</b>
RC07193 Mitchells Lifestyle Company Ltd	To permanently divert a stormwater overflow path of Gulch Creek.
RC07212 D & R Shaffrey	To discharge dairy effluent to land and water (Jims Creek Catchment) near DS339, Inchbonnie.
RC08025 West Stone	To undertake earthworks associated with clean fill operations on LINZ licence 17240, upstream of Cobden Rail Bridge. To deposit (discharge) clean fill to land on LINZ licence 17240, upstream of Cobden Rail Bridge.
RC08068 West Coast Regional Council	To undertake earthworks associated with quarrying activities, Inchbonnie.
RC08182 Chartwell Energy	To discharge stormwater to land associated with exploratory drilling, Dobson. To discharge contaminants (muds, cuttings, fluids and

	wastes) to land from exploratory drilling, Dobson.
RC09019 Kagal Farm Ltd	To discharge dairy effluent to land and water (Oparara River) near DS871, Karamea.  To discharge dairy effluent from a stand-off pad to land where it may enter water (Oparara River) near DS871, Karamea.
RC09030 Crescent Creations Ltd	To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining activities at Waimea.  To take and use surface water within MP51479 for alluvial gold mining activities at Waimea.  To discharge sediment-laden water to land in circumstances where it may enter water at Waimea.
RC09039 Brian Blacktopp Contracting Ltd	To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining activities, Takutai.  To take and use ground water associated with alluvial gold mining activities, Takutai.  To discharge water containing sediment to land where it may enter water associated with alluvial gold mining activities, Takutai.
RC09041 B Hamilton	To discharge dairy effluent to land and water (an unnamed tributary of Martins Creek) near DS767, Westport.
RC09043 NZ Transport Agency	To place structures on the beds of the Mahitahi, Paringa and Haast Rivers.
RC09047 AY Mining Ltd	To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining activities, Boatmans Road.  To take and use ground water associated with alluvial gold mining activities, Boatmans Road.  To discharge mine pond water to ground water via seepage, Boatmans Road.
RC09051 West Coast Regional Council	To extend, alter and undertake maintenance of the Inchbonnie's Rating District flood protection wall.  To extract gravel from the dry bed of the Taramakau River for the purpose of extending, altering and maintaining the Inchbonnie's Rating District flood protection wall.  To temporarily divert the Taramakau River associated with dry bed gravel extraction for the purposes of extending, altering and maintaining the Inchbonnie's Rating District flood protection wall.
RC09054 Ferguson Farms Ltd	To disturb the bed of the Mikonui River for the purpose of constructing rock protection works (rock spurs).
RC09060 Cranley Farms Ltd	To undertake land disturbance associated with the humping and hollowing of 600 hectares of farmland in the Arahura Valley.  To discharge water containing sediment to land where it may enter water as a result of humping and hollowing of farmland in the Arahura Valley.
RC09061 Holcim NZ Ltd	To discharge solid waste that may contain contaminants to land in circumstances where they may enter water, Cape Foulwind.
RC09062 R Reedy	To disturb the dry bed of the Fox River upstream of the Coastal Marine Area for the purpose of extracting gravel.
RC09064 Westroads Ltd	To disturb the dry bed of the following sites for the purpose of extracting gravel: Canoe Creek, Grey River at St Kildas, Grey River at Kiwi Point, Haupiri River, Crooked River,

	Taramakau River downstream of the William Stewart Bridge, Hokitika River upstream of the SH6 Bridge, Hokitika River at Kaniere, Kokatahi River, Donnelly Creek, Kakapotahi River, Wanganui River, Poerua River, Whataroa River, Waitangitoana River, Waiho River, Docherty Creek, Cook River, Bullock Creek, Turnbull River, Arawhata River, Jacksons River, Taramakau River downstream of the SH6 Bridge, Crooked River downstream of the Moana-Rotomanu Road bridge, Granite Creek, Grey River at Taylorville and Haast River.
RC09070 Fulton Hogan	To disturb the dry bed of the Buller River at Organs Island for the purpose of extracting gravel.
RC09071 Barry Foster Contracting	To disturb the bed of an unnamed tributary of Fox Creek associated with alluvial gold mining activities and a creek diversion, Waimea Forest.  To divert the unnamed tributary of Fox Creek associated with alluvial gold mining activities at Waimea Forest.
RC09072 B Church	To discharge treated domestic sewage effluent to land at Lot 2 DP 302381, 2014D Arnold Valley Road, Moana from a sewage treatment and disposal system.
RC09075 Westland Excavation	To disturb the dry bed of the Taramakau River at Inchbonnie for the purpose of extracting gravel.
RC09076 Landcorp Estates Ltd	To undertake earthworks associated with the road formation for a subdivision at Lake Brunner Road, Moana.
RC09078 R Barcock	To discharge treated domestic sewage effluent to land at 171 Hans Bay Road, Kaniere, from a sewage treatment and disposal system.

#### Changes to Resource Consents Granted During the Reporting Period

<b>CONSENT NO. &amp; HOLDER</b>	<b>CHANGE TO CONSENT CONDITION(S)</b>
RC04284 Department of Conservation (Oparara River)	To include an additional gravel extraction area and to increase the amount of gravel that can be extracted.

No limited notified or notified consents were granted during the reporting period.

#### Notified Consents Updates & Other Matters

The Consents & Compliance Manager attended two mediation meetings during the reporting period for the appeals on the consents granted to TrustPower for its proposed Arnold Valley Hydroelectric Power Scheme. Further mediation has been deferred in relation to Mr Groome's appeal until TrustPower's application to strikeout his appeal on the consents granted by the West Coast Regional Council is determined. An agreement was reached between the parties in relation to Mr Miles appeal and TrustPower has prepared a draft Consent Order based on the agreement that it will file with the Environment Court.

A pre-hearing meeting for Meridian Energy's consent application to construct erosion protection works at Mokihinui Township was held at Mokihinui on 26 June 2009. It was agreed at the meeting that the experts used by Meridian and the Department of Conservation in relation to the matter would meet to try to sort out their differing opinions on the proposed protection works. Should they fail to do so, the matter will then proceed to a formal hearing.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That the July 2009 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Colin Dall  
**Consents & Compliance Manager**

Prepared for: Resource Management Committee  
 Prepared by: Colin Dall – Consents & Compliance Manager and Phil McKinnel, Senior Compliance Officer  
 Date: 3 July 2009  
 Subject: **COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

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### **Site Visits**

A total of 35 site visits were undertaken during the reporting period, which consisted of:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Number of Visits</b>	<b>Fully Compliant (%)</b>
Resource consent monitoring	9	100
Dairy shed inspections	5	60
Complaint response	7	86
Mining compliance & bond release	14	79

### **Specific Issues**

**Dairy Effluent Discharges:** Several farmers, consultants and engineers contacted Compliance staff during the reporting period seeking information on installing new effluent systems on farms.

At least three new bridges or culverts are currently being constructed to prevent stock crossing through water.

**Westroads Beach Gravel Mining Licence – Blaketown:** As at 27 June 2009, Westroads had taken a nett of 3,571m<sup>3</sup> of gravel from the mining licence site so far this year.

**Ahaura Aerial 1080 Operations:** Council staff monitored the recent 1080 drops in the Ahaura area. All operations were found to be operating within their consent conditions.

**Jackson Bay Mussels Limited:** The JBML site was inspected on 5 June 2009. JBML has begun to catch spat on ropes and is pleased with the recruitment as all spat for the mussel farm must originate from Jackson Bay and there was some uncertainty about how successful this would be.

The Company uses a local fisherman to monitor the farm daily, who can also make immediate repairs and inform the Company of any incidents.

Recently there were some minor issues, including some tangled lines which was resolved this by replacing the lines with heavier ones.

All anchor points have been checked by a diver and were reported to be working properly.

**Globe Progress Mine – Oceana Gold:** Water quality monitoring provided to the Council by the Company indicate that discharges to Devils Creek have been within compliance limits at the time of sampling.

Since the non-compliant discharge reported in the last Monthly Report, the Council has issued a formal warning to the Company in regard to water management and the importance of operating within the resource consent limits and the abatement notice pertaining to the site.

Oceana Gold has notified the Council if improvements that it is currently making to the Devils Creek Silt Pond (DCSP), which include:

- Redirecting the "Empress Under Drain" so it discharges directly to Devils Creek. It is expected that the removal of this clean water source will improve the treatment of sediment-laden water in the DCSP, and reduce the 'stirring up' effect that this water inflow has been causing.
- Installation of a flocculant pipeline further up Union Creek to improve treatment of this water before it reaches the DCSP. Union Creek has been identified as a major source of sediment-laden water into DCSP.

**Pike River Underground Coal Mine:** Compliance staff visited the mine site was on 2 June 2009 to attend a site induction and to discuss the emergency response plans that the Company had in place in regard to the sulphuric acid spill that occurred on 19 May 2009.

Pike River Coal now believes less than 50 litres was lost in the spill. It has checked the acid dosing fittings and connections, and reiterated to "Pond 1" operators that the acid tank bund needs to be kept free of water. The Company has also updated its "Emergency Response Plan" to include a general spill procedure and action plan.

The Council received 5 "Environmental Non Compliance Reports" from Pike River Coal for June 2009, including the one for the 19 May acid spill. Compliance staff are still considering what action to take in relation to these non-compliance, although none of them appear to have resulted in any significant adverse environmental effects. The number of such incidents may be due to increased activity at the site as the coal slurry pipeline is expected to be operational mid-July. Compliance staff will be visiting the site in July to inspect the mining operations.

### **Solid Energy Consent and Licence Monitoring:**

Compliance staff carried out the following visits to Solid Energy sites during the last reporting period:

- Spring Creek	1
- Rapahoe Coal Handling Facility	1
- Rocky Creek Coal Handling Facility	1
- Strongman Mine	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

#### Spring Creek Underground Mine, Rapahoe & Rocky Creek Coal Handling Facilities

The sites were visited on 3 June 2009 to inspect the current mining operations and to discuss an application by SENZ to vary monitoring and water quality limit consent conditions.

Water quality monitoring results for June show that the discharges from the Spring Creek and Rocky Creek operations were within compliance limits at the time of sampling. However, water quality monitoring results for the Rapahoe Coal Handling Facility showed discharges were outside compliance limits at the time of sampling. This also constitutes a breach of the abatement notice that the Council served on SENZ in relation to this site in October 2008. Compliance staff are currently reviewing the explanation provided by the Company and will make a decision on the appropriate course of action in the near future.

#### Strongman Mine

The mine site was visited on 3 June 2009 to check the progress of the Harrisons Ridge cutback project. SENZ estimates that the works will be finished by early August.

Dohertys Creek, below Harrisons Ridge, was inspected on 22 June 2009 to ensure compliance with resource consent conditions.

### **Complaints/Incidents between 28 May to 30 June 2009**

The following 9 complaints/incidents were received during the reporting period:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Action/Outcome</b>
Humping & hollowing earthworks	Complainant concerned about the possible effects of the earthworks on the nearby creek	Chesterfield	Operating within permitted activity rule at the time of site visit
River works	A side channel of the river had been blocked off to improve whitebait fishing	Jacobs River	Abatement Notice issued
Unknown	Waimea Creek being affected by unknown source of sediment	Waimea Creek	Still under investigation

Discharge to air	Greymouth Aquatic Centre boiler discharge	Greymouth	Complying with resource consent conditions
Discharge to air	Greymouth Aquatic Centre boiler discharge	Greymouth	Teething problems causing some smoke, which was subsequently rectified
1080 aerial drop	Complainant concerned that flight path of helicopter dropping 1080 differed from the path he was advised of	Nelson Creek	GPS flight lines show discharge occurred within the consent area.
Flood debris blocking creek	Complainant wanted to clean out Racecourse Creek of flood debris	Kaiata	Complaint given copy of relevant regional rules
Fishing boat grounded	Fishing boat "Karen" beached near Westport	Westport	Boat re-floated on 29/6/09 - no loss of oil/diesel
Rock fall	Rock fall in the vicinity of the old Cobden Quarry	Cobden	NZTA notified

### **Formal Enforcement Action**

The following abatement and infringement notices were issued during the reporting period:

Action	Activity	Location
Abatement Notice	Unauthorised river works	Jacobs River
Infringement Notice	Unauthorised discharge from coal mine	Mangatini Stream
Infringement Notice	Unauthorised discharge from coal mine	Mangatini Stream

## **MINING**

### **Work Programmes**

The Council received the following three mining work programmes over the reporting period, all 3 of which were accepted:

Date	Mining Authorisation	Holder	Location
5/6/09	MP41942, RC09039	B Blacktopp/Paramount Mining	Takutai
12/6/09	MP41870, RC05172	Peter Fielding	Hart Creek
23/6/09	MP41942, RC07104	Brian Blacktopp Contracting	Adairs Road

### **Bonds Received**

The following bond was received in the reporting period:

Mining Authorisation	Holder	Location	Amount
RC09039	Paramount Mining Ltd	Takutai	\$5,000



## **Bond Releases**

It is recommended that the Council release the following bond:

<b>Mining Authorisation</b>	<b>Holder</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
RC02217	Philip Ross Hampton	Card Creek, Marsden	\$5,000

All relevant rehabilitation conditions have been met and landowner signoff has been received.

## **OIL SPILL RESPONSE**

At 3.30 am on 27 June 2009 the Council was notified that the fishing boat "Karen", based out of Golden Bay, had drifted onto Carters Beach at Westport. The crew was asleep at the time and the boat had drifted further than they had anticipated.

The Karen is a 16 metre 50 tonne steel boat. There was no fuel spilled or adverse effect on the environment as a result of the incident. The boat was successfully re-floated on 29 June.

A Maritime New Zealand desktop exercise was held on 5 June 2009. Representatives from Maritime New Zealand were involved along with the local oil spill management team.

The exercise was based on a discharge of diesel from a fishing vessel in the Okarito Lagoon. It was an excellent opportunity to further develop management skills for staff and to familiarize themselves with the relevant plans.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. *That the July 2009 report of the Compliance Group be received.*
2. *That the Council releases the bond for Resource Consent RC02217.*

**Colin Dall**  
**Consents & Compliance Manager**

# **COUNCIL MEETING**

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that an **ORDINARY MEETING** of the West Coast Regional Council will be held in the Offices of the West Coast Regional Council, 388 Main South Road, Greymouth on **Tuesday, 14 July 2009** commencing on completion of the Resource Management Committee Meeting.

A.R. SCARLETT  
CHAIRPERSON

C. INGLE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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<u>AGENDA NUMBERS</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBERS</u>	<u>BUSINESS</u>
<b>1.</b>		<b>APOLOGIES</b>
<b>2.</b>		<b>PUBLIC FORUM</b>
<b>3.</b>		<b>MINUTES</b>
	1 – 6	3.1 Minutes of Council Meeting 9 June 2009
	7	3.1.2 Minutes of Special Council Meeting 23 June 2009
<b>4.</b>		<b>REPORTS</b>
	8 – 9	4.1 Planning and Environmental Manager's Report on Engineering Operations
	10 - 13	4.2 Corporate Services Manager's Report
<b>5.</b>		<b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (VERBAL)</b>
<b>6.</b>	14	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT</b>
	15 – 17	6.1.1 Report on Energy Demand and Supply
<b>7.</b>		<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 9 JUNE 2009,  
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH,  
COMMENCING AT 11.08 A.M.**

**PRESENT:**

R. Scarlett (Chairman), A. Robb, T. Archer, D. Davidson, B. Chinn, A. Birchfield

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), C. Dall (Consents and Compliance Manager), S. Moran (Planning and Environmental Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), The Media

**1. APOLOGIES:**

**Moved** (Robb / Davidson) *that the apology from P. Ewen be accepted.*

*Carried*

**2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no presentation.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved** (Davidson / Robb) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting 12 May 2009, be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**REPORTS:**

**4.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S REPORT ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS**

S. Moran spoke to his report and took it as read.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Archer) *That the report be received.*

*Carried*

**4.1.2 DRAFT COMMUNITY OUTCOMES REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to this report. He stated that this report is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 and relates to LTCCP's, accountability to our communities and measuring progress towards community outcomes. C. Ingle reported that this report is a combined effort by L. Sadler, Policy Analyst, West Coast Regional Council and staff from the district councils who worked together to put one report together for the West Coast. C. Ingle advised that this draft report is going out to all councils and asked that Council give approval for the completion of the report. Cr Archer expressed his amazement that councils are required to report on police and health matters. He stated they are of no relevance and also that no funding is received from central government for this purpose. Cr Archer stated that he appreciates that the legislation says we have to do this and he acknowledged the effort staff have made. Discussion took place on aspects of the health component of the report. C. Ingle explained that there are aspects of the report that require more input from District Councils before final completion.

C. Ingle stated that the only part of the report that he can speak on with any authority is the environmental outcomes, which our council staff prepared.

1. That the "Draft Progress Report on Community Outcomes 2006 – 2009" be received.
2. That the Council delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve completion of the report, in conjunction with the three District Councils.

Carried

#### 4.1.3 GREYMOUTH FLOODWALL SURVEY

S. Moran spoke to this report. He advised that this information was put to the members of the Joint Greymouth Floodwall committee. S. Moran stated that there was a fairly even mix of comments received from those who returned the survey. S. Moran reported that he went through all the returns with the two major concerns being rating matters and alternative options. There were comments around how much would their rates be affected, the ability to pay and also alternative options such as dredging the river. S. Moran reported that 49% went for option 1 and 43% were in favour of either option 2 or option 3. Discussion took place regarding the floodwall and the various options and engineering reports that have been done over the years. C. Ingle confirmed that engineering reports have been completed and experts involved with the design of the floodwall over the years are happy with it. C. Ingle advised Cr Birchfield that engineers' reports are available if he wishes to see them. Cr Archer stated that councillors are not engineers; Council's role is to establish a special rating district and to grant a consent for the process. He added that those on the committee who have reviewed the design, lodged the consent application and are satisfied that the floodwall design is adequate to meet its intended purpose are fulfilling a separate role. C. Ingle clarified that the recommendations from the Joint Floodwall committee are that the Regional Council be asked to adopt option 2 (the \$4M option), that the Regional Council staff be asked to put some information out in the newspaper, questions and answers about some of the rumours and myths relating to the floodwall. The Regional Council were also asked to look at longer term loans to make it more affordable and to write to Mawhera Incorporation to seek additional funding from them. Cr Scarlett suggested that some constructive information could be sent out to the public via the media informing the public that sound engineering advice, the best available, has been sought with regard to the floodwall.

**Moved** (Robb / Davidson) *That the report be received.*

Carried

#### 4.2 CORPORATE SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to this report advising that results are similar to those he has been reporting over previous months. R. Mallinson reported that the investment portfolio improved by \$269,000 during March. He advised that pursuant to the risk management policy adopted by Council we have now renewed our public liability cover at a much less cost of \$18,000. He stated that several years ago Council was paying almost \$50,000 per year for this cover. R. Mallinson advised that Council has changed insurance brokers to Willis NZ and they are attending to the 2009 / 10 renewals. Cr Davidson asked if the investment improvement is caused by the increase in valuation of the shares. R. Mallinson responded that this is correct. R. Mallinson responded to questions regarding the risk management policy from Cr Archer.

**Moved** (Archer / Davidson) *that this report be received.*

Carried

#### 4.2.3 DECISIONS ON SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT 2009 / 19 LTCCP

C. Ingle spoke to this report stating that it was drafted after Friday's hearing of submissions. C. Ingle advised that 83 submissions were received from the public. He advised that Councillors discussed the submissions at the workshop following the hearing and they talked about the reasons for accepting or rejecting each submission. C. Ingle advised that today the decisions need to be formally made. C. Ingle suggested that time is allowed for Councillors to read the minutes from the special meeting.

Councillors took ten minutes to read the minutes of the LTCCP hearings meeting and the decisions recommending report for the LTCCP.

**Moved** (Robb / Chinn)

*That the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 5 June 2009 to hear submissions on the Draft 2009/19 LTCCP be confirmed as correct.*

*Carried*

Discussion took place regarding whether or not the LTCCP internal borrowing policy should be amended. Cr Scarlett asked all councillors for their opinions on what the upper limit of the loan should be and whether or not the loan should borrowing should be external or internal.

**Moved** (Robb / Birchfield)

*That Council adopt Option 2 (\$4M) for upgrading the Greymouth Floodwall and authorise any consequential amendments to the LTCCP, and change the internal borrowing policy to enable \$2M internal loan, if needed.*

*Carried  
Cr Chinn against*

Submitters no. 1 – 14 submitted on the **World Heritage Drive** (Haast-Hollyford road link). Councillors felt the correct forum for this discussion would be the Land Transport Programme for Southland and West Coast regions. They support the concept in principle.

There were no changes to the LTCCP requested; and there are no changes recommended by staff.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *Support in principle with no amendment to the LTCCP.*

*Carried*

Submitters no. 15 – 20 submitted on aspects of the **Greymouth Floodwall upgrade**. Several of these submitters spoke at the hearing and detailed responses to these submitters will be made in letters to submitters, answering their individual concerns and suggestions. However, there were no specific requests to amend the LTCCP.

Many were heritage and amenity concerns, some were flood management concerns or scheme re-design suggestions, and one suggests a redesign of the rating scheme. It is not recommended Council redesign anything. The floodwall upgrade proposal raises the height of the existing flood scheme. Altering the overall design, funding or other fundamentals would be an entirely different prospect involving many more costs and risks.

There were no specific changes to the LTCCP requested; and there are no changes recommended by staff. Amenity concerns will be relayed to the floodwall committee.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Archer) *No amendment to the LTCCP*

*Carried*

Submitter 21 supported the part of the LTCCP to 'develop new policy approaches that address the long term sustainability of **Lake Brunner**' Staff recommend this be retained. The submitter also suggested Council develop new Annual Plan projects and time bound performance targets specifically designed to give effect to 8.5.2 and 8.5.3 of the Water Plan. Staff recommend that Lake Brunner matters be given consideration at the workshop after the meeting. There may be a need for new targets for next year's annual plan.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Robb) *No changes to the current LTCCP.*

*Carried*

Submitter 22 submitted on **heritage issues** and requested \$5,000 toward a heritage inventory process, and suggested Council budget an unidentified amount to gain access to NZ Archaeological Association site record information.

Council discussed the submission at the workshop and noted that archaeological sites are identified in district plans.

**Moved** (Robb / Birchfield) *No amendment to the LTCCP*

*Carried*

Submitter 23 submitted on various **public health matters** and made several specific recommendations and requests, which will be discussed further at staff level. There were no specific requests for amendments to the LTCCP.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb) *No amendment to the LTCCP*

*Carried*

Submitters 24 to 28 raised the implementation of the **Walking and Cycling** strategy. Many of the points made by these submitters appeared more directed at the district councils and road controlling authorities. It is noted that the Regional Council is not identified as a funding organisation in terms of this strategy.

**Moved** (Archer / Birchfield) *No amendment to the LTCCP*

Cr Archer stated that one submitter wanted a lot of amendments made to the LTCCP, Cr Archer feels that from an explanation point of view it would be helpful to point submitters to the transport programme that has already been adopted as most of the concerns are addressed in the transport programme. C. Ingle confirmed that more detailed letters would be provided to each submitter.

*Carried*

Submitter 29 commented on inconsistencies in **fees for dairy farm inspections**. Staff note this long standing difference in charging for land application (permitted activity) discharges vs. consented discharge to water via ponds.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Robb) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

Councillors signaled that a more consistent approach will be promoted in the next Annual Plan so that other farmers can comment.

Cr Archer stated that he supports that we indicate that we will give this matter further consideration for single inspections fees in the next annual plan.

*Carried*

Submitter 30 raised a number of issues to do with RMA, SNAs, and ethical investments. These issues were discussed at the workshop. The submitter made specific requests to (i) monitor land development to ensure riparian margins are retained. (ii) The LTCCP fund identification of outstanding landscapes, significant vegetation and habitat by June 2011. (iii) That all overseas investments be required to comply with ethical investment standards.

**Moved** (Archer / Davidson) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

*Carried*

Submitter 31 wished Council to change to a **land value rating for the TB special rate**. Robert Mallinson advised that he had looked into what difference that would make for other ratepayers and concluded that some ratepayers with large unimproved land areas would be significantly impacted. The submitter would only benefit to a small extent.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Davidson) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

*Carried*

Submitter 32 (DoC) supported the LTCCP in particular areas but did not request any amendments.

**Moved** (Archer / Davidson) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

*Carried*

Submitter 33 (QEII Trust) asked for **rates relief for land covenanted** under the QEII Act, and asked Council to explicitly state in the LTCCP **targets for biodiversity protection**. Council has debated the matter of rates relief in that past and has decided not to award this, for reasons of revaluation costs among other things. The Council has not seen biodiversity as a core function or high priority in past

LTCCP or annual plan processes. It may be a function under the RMA, but Council has discretion to exercise or not exercise that function.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Chinn) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

Cr Archer commented that he wants to be sure that councillors understand that rates relief for land covenanted can potentially make the decisions of District Councils harder because one of those tools or providing incentive to protect areas of significant vegetation on private land is being subsequently eroded. He stated that by saying no, Council is totally deleting one of those tools.

Cr Birchfield disagreed and stated that there is enough land locked up on the West Coast and they should be rated. Cr Archer stated that law says that Councils will protect areas of significant vegetation but the process is how to provide for protection.

*Carried*

Submitter 34 was a 'thinkpiece' from "sustainable future institute" which is not specific to the Council LTCCP and was received prior to our LTCCP being notified. There is no request for any amendment.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Robb) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

*Carried*

Submitters 35 and 36 asked for additional funding for the Animal Health Board's TB Free programme for the West Coast. The letter we had from William McCook in December requested \$705,000 for the coming year, whereas they now ask for another \$115,000. Every dollar attracts another nine from Crown and levy payers. Council debated this in terms of community affordability.

**Moved** (Chinn / Archer) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

*Carried*

Submitters 37 to 82 submitted **against the use of aerial 1080**. One submitter asked verbally during his presentation that the VCS business unit be asked to cease aerial 1080 operations, while 2 others indicated similar sentiments in written submissions. Another submitter opposed the Council secondment arrangement with AHB. Most of these submitters also asked for stronger enforcement of controls for poor dairy farming practices, but did not specify further how this was to be done.

None of the submitters requested any specific wording be included in the LTCCP. 80% were in a form submission. The chairman heard some of these submitters and advised them that their submissions needed to address specific parts of the LTCCP to be valid submissions on the LTCCP and that the Council are not a management agency for TB possum control, so their concerns are better directed to the AHB. The LTCCP cannot set environmental policy for RMA consenting processes.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Archer) *No amendment to the LTCCP.*

*Carried*

Submitter 83 asked that Hari Hari be renamed as Harihari throughout the Plan and that the Transport section be amended to acknowledge that the Regional Council are seeking government agreement on more regional flexibility in total mobility criteria. The submitter also mentioned aerial 1080 in water supply catchments and requested Council delete the final sentence under 'significant negative effects of activities' on p 50 of the LTCCP.

**Moved** (Archer / Robb)

*Amend all mentions of the word Harihari in the LTCCP. Add the following to page 34 just before the final sentence: "Note that Council is currently seeking flexibility in this criteria"*

*Retain the last sentence under 'significant negative effects of activities' on p 50 of the LTCCP. Add the following: "The level of community concern about aerial 1080 operations is acknowledged, but community concern of itself is not considered to be a significant adverse effect."*

*Carried*



**5.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT**

C. Ingle spoke to his report. He spoke of the various meetings he attended during the reporting period including the Mayors and Chairs Forum which was held yesterday. C. Ingle reported the cycleway that the Prime Minister wishes to put up and down the country was discussed at this meeting. A Civil Defence Group meeting was held following the Mayors and Chairs Forum. This was attended by Mr John Hamilton, CEO of Ministry of Civil Defence who discussed priorities and direction into the future.

C. Ingle drew attention to the attachment to his report from Mayor Pugh relating to her visit to Thailand when she attended a conference on Pyrolysis. He advised Mayor Pugh spoke of new technology coming on board, which supersedes Pyrolysis and is called Plasma Technology. Cr Archer stated that there has been a lot of debate on waste management and discussions on Pyrolysis and that we can now lay this matter at rest as the West Coast does not have the volumes of waste to justify this.

**Moved** (Archer / Davidson) *that the Chief Executive's Report be received.*

*Carried*

**4.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)**

The Chairman reported that he attended the meeting of the Regional Transport Committee. He chaired the meeting of the Greymouth Joint Floodwall Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, the Special Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June to hear submissions on the LTCCP and yesterday's forum for the Mayors and Chair.

**Moved** (Scarlett / Archer) *that this report be received.*

*Carried*

**5.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date

**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 23 JUNE 2009,  
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD,  
GREYMOOUTH, COMMENCING AT 2.10 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

R. Scarlett (Chairman), B. Chinn, D. Davidson, A. Birchfield

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He stated that the purpose of today's meeting is to adopt Council's Long Term Council Community plan.

**1. APOLOGIES**

**Moved** (Davidson / Birchfield) *that the apologies from Crs Ewen, Robb and Archer be accepted.*

*Carried*

**2.1 ADOPTION OF AUDITED LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2009 TO 30 JUNE 2019**

R. Mallinson spoke briefly to this report. He read the motion to the meeting. Cr Scarlett asked if there was any response to the report from Council. There was no response.

**Moved** (Birchfield / Chinn)

*That Council adopt the audited Long Term Council Community Plan for the ten years July 2009 to June 2019*

*Carried*

**2.2 AUDIT NEW ZEALAND REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL**

R. Mallinson spoke to the report from Audit New Zealand. He advised that this report is without qualification, which is what Council was seeking. C. Ingle advised that this report sits at the front of the LTCCP document and the LTCCP process for 2009 is now complete.

**Moved** (Davidson / Chinn)

*That the report by Audit New Zealand regarding the Audit of the LTCCP Statement of Proposal be received.*

*Carried*

**3. GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 2.13 p.m.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date

**4.1**  
**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Prepared for: Council Meeting – 14 July 2009  
Prepared by: S. Moran – Planning & Environmental Manager  
Date: 3 July 2009

Subject: **PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT  
ON ENGINEERING OPERATIONS**

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**1. Works**

- a) Vine Creek Rating District – Contract R 2009 / 5  
This work involves the extending of 4 culverts and placing approximately 310 tonnes of rubble. Henry Adams Contracting Ltd was the successful tenderer at \$5,115.00 (G.S.T. Exclusive)
- b) Karamea Rating District – Contract R 2009 / 4  
This urgent work involved the placing of 500 tonnes of rock in the Little Wanganui River. It was negotiated with the incumbent contractor S.M. Lowe Contracting Ltd. at a cost of \$13,500.00 (G.S.T. Exclusive).
- c) Inchbonnie Rating District – Contract R 2009 / 8  
This work involved the placing of approximately 500 tonnes of rock. There were 3 tendered prices with MBD Contracting Ltd the successful tenderer at \$9,350.00 (G.S.T. Exclusive). The work has been completed.

**2. Future Potential Works**

- a) Inchbonnie Rating District – Upgrade  
This work was advertised in June 2009 and closes on 8 July 2009
- b) Greymouth Flood protection Scheme – Upgrade Design  
This design contract was advertised on 20 June and closes on 31 July 2009

**3. Quarry Rock Movements For The Period 1 May To 31 May 2009**

Quarry	Rock In Quarry 30/04/09	Rock Used	Rock Quarried	Rock In Quarry 31/05/09
Blackball	1,000	0	0	1,000
Camelback	0	0	0	0
Inchbonnie	9,340*	0	0	9340
Kiwi	1470	860	0	610
Miedema	0	0	0	0
Okuru	1,840	0	0	1840
Taramakau	0	0	0	0
Wanganui	600	346	0	254
Wanganui Stockpile	3,648	3213#	0	0
Whataroa	256	144	0	112
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18,154</b>	<b>4,563</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,156</b>

Note: \* Inchbonnie rock to be verified.

Note: # Wanganui stockpile adjusted to reflect reality.

#### 4. Quarry Work Permitted Since 31 May 2009

Quarry	Contractor	Tonnage Requested	Permit Start	Permit Finish
Whataroa	Arnold Contracting	500	2-6-09	9-6-09
Wanganui	Westland Schist	50	27-5-09	12-6-09
Blackball	Fergusons	150 rubble	5-6-09	6-6-09
Camelback	Henry Adams	500 rubble	8-6-09	12-6-09
Kiwi	Coastal Constructors	50 rubble	18-6-09	19-6-09

- a) Inchbonnie Quarry has been shot and approximately 1500 tonnes has been stockpiled.
- b) Kiwi Quarry has been shot and approximately 1500 tonnes has been stockpiled.
- c) Blackball Quarry is to be shot, developed and a stockpile created.
- d) Wanganui Quarry is to undergo an exploratory blast to ascertain future rock availability.

#### 5. Local Authority Protection Programme (LAPP)

There are ongoing negotiations over the costs and cover provided by this scheme. If negotiations are unsuccessful we may wish to withdraw from the scheme and in order to do that we are required to give them one financial years notice of withdrawal. Due to this clause we advised the insurers in June that the Council was giving notice of its withdrawal from the scheme. Should negotiations be successful we can retract our notice of withdrawal at any time prior to the end of the 09/10 financial year.

#### RECOMMENDATION

*That this report is received.*

Simon Moran  
Planning and Environmental Manger

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Council Meeting  
 Prepared by: Robert Mallinson – Corporate Services Manager  
 Date: 1 July 2009

FOR THE ELEVEN MONTHS ENDED 31 MAY 2009	ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	ACTUAL % ANNUAL BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>REVENUES</b>				
General Rates	1,740,117	1,727,917	92%	1,885,000
Rates Penalties	60,302	68,750	80%	75,000
Investment Income	-425,226	916,667	-43%	1,000,000
Regulatory	1,269,113	844,683	139%	915,500
Planning Processes	144,749	107,820	123%	117,622
Environmental Monitoring	0	0	0%	0
Emergency Management	32,210	22,917	129%	25,000
River, Drainage, Coastal Protection	1,151,375	758,432	139%	827,380
Vector Mgmt	601,247	600,417	92%	655,000
Regional % Share Controls	337,244	334,583	92%	365,000
VCS Business Unit	3,461,338	1,940,681	163%	2,117,106
	8,372,469	7,322,866	105%	7,982,608
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Representation	321,192	383,034	77%	417,855
Regulatory Activities	1,996,930	1,524,213	120%	1,662,778
Planning Processes	416,399	532,202	72%	580,584
Environmental Monitoring	581,882	657,751	81%	717,547
Emergency Management	79,402	115,594	63%	126,103
River, Drainage, Coastal Protection	1,248,857	2,037,626	56%	2,222,865
Vector Mgmt	387,570	453,925	78%	495,191
Regional % Share Controls	776,333	796,351	89%	868,746
VCS Business Unit	2,790,167	1,664,251	154%	1,815,547
Portfolio Management	56,135	0		0
	8,654,867	8,164,948	97%	8,907,216
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	-282,398	-842,082		-924,608
Transfer Rating District Interest	-103,737			
To Transfer to Balance Sheet	-386,135			

BREAKDOWN OF SURPLUS (-DEFICIT)	Variance Actual V Budgeted YTD	ACTUAL	BUDGET Year to date	ANNUAL BUDGET
Rating Districts	900,215	-93,399	-993,614	-1,083,942
Quarries	186,543	163,930	-22,613	-24,669
Regional % Share of AHB Programmes	22,678	-439,089	-461,767	-503,746
Investment Income	-1,398,028	-481,361	916,667	1,000,000
VCS Business Unit	394,742	671,171	276,429	301,559
Vector Mgmt	67,185	213,677	146,492	159,809
Other	0	0	0	0
General Rates Funded Activities	386,349	-317,327	-703,676	-773,619
<b>TOTAL</b>	559,684	-282,398	-842,082	-924,608

Net Contributors to General Rates Funded	Surplus (-Deficit)	Actual	Budet ytd	Annual Plan
	Net Variance Actual V YTD			
Rates	12,200	1,740,117	1,727,917	1,885,000
Rates Penalties	-8,448	60,302	68,750	75,000
Representation	61,842	-321,192	-383,034	-417,855
Regulatory Activities	-48,287	-727,817	-679,530	-747,278
Planning Activities	152,732	-271,650	-424,382	-462,962
River, Drainage, Coastal Protection (excl.	94,955	-168,013	-262,968	-286,874
Environmental Monitoring	75,869	-581,882	-657,751	-717,547
Emergency Management	45,486	-47,192	-92,678	-101,103
	386,349	-317,327	-703,676	-773,619

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MAY 2009

11

	@ 31/05/2009	@ 30/06/2008
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	258,885	153,868
Short term Deposit - Westpac	1,701,250	1,704,438
Accounts Receivable - Rates	267,993	263,628
Accounts Receivable - General Debtors	312,057	562,347
Prepayments	84,287	51,691
Sundry Receivables	350,857	682,810
Stock - explosives	716	716
Stock - VCS	295,183	225,612
Stock - Rock	42,758	61,680
Stock - Office Supplies	12,493	12,493
Unbilled Revenue	132,587	
	<u>3,459,066</u>	<u>3,719,283</u>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Investments	10,374,570	11,035,324
Fixed Assets	3,780,202	3,247,070
Infrastructural Assets	39,403,645	39,403,645
	<u>53,558,417</u>	<u>53,686,039</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>57,017,483</u>	<u>57,405,322</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Bank OD		0
Accounts Payable	986,942	1,772,660
GST	95,386	91,603
Deposits and Bonds	403,887	338,486
Sundry Payables	191,477	450,424
Accrued Annual Leave, Payroll	191,151	193,522
Other Revenue in Advance	802,059	491,250
Rates Revenue in Advance	245,134	60,015
	<u>2,916,036</u>	<u>3,397,960</u>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Future Quarry restoration	85,800	85,800
Punakaiki Loan	286,265	316,217
Lower Waiho Loan	48,360	0
Office Equipment and IT Leases	106,632	136,819
	<u>527,057</u>	<u>538,836</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>3,443,093</u>	<u>3,936,796</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Ratepayers Equity	19,975,239	19,987,141
Surplus Tsfrd.	-386,135	
Rating District Equity Mvmts	19,672	
Rating Districts Equity	2,393,347	2,413,020
Tb Special Rate Balance	274,787	262,885
Revaluation	22,714,725	22,222,725
Quarry Account	-17,245	-17,245
Investment Growth Reserve	8,600,000	8,600,000
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<u>53,574,390</u>	<u>53,468,526</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u>57,017,483</u>	<u>57,405,322</u>

PORTFOLIO @ 31 May 2009 Summary & Reconciliation		Cash	Bonds	Australasian Equities	International Equities	Property Equities	Alternative Asset Classes	Total
Portfolio Value @ Start	01 July 2008	2733073	3421783	1381877	1812269	724252	939971	11013225
Contributions	}	649029	195686	33644	256576	9571	346229	1490735
Withdrawals	}	-1038934	-133272	-79897	-378392	-41004	-27566	-1699065
Realised Gains/(Losses)								
Price		-47607	44757	-21036	-172060	6619	-216503	-405830
FX				11935	-220450	-1734	-206	-210456
adj.		919						919
Unrealised Gains/(Losses)								
Price		14962	59404	-296847	-330880	-179199	-20759	-753319
FX				-5986	139186	559	-211813	-78054
Mgmt Fee								
Interest Income		205002	280295	6219		4484	25307	521307
Changes Accrued Interest		6441	-826					5615
Dividends				50132	63357	35688	36015	185192
reversal Hedges 30.6.08				21045	59398	5362	22860	108665
Current Hedges				4794	60968	917	105006	171685
Portfolio Value @ End Period	31 May 2009	2522885	3867827	1105880	1289972	565515	998541	10350619

Cash	0
Structured credit	22804
Emerging market debt	870731
Hedge positions	105006
	<u>998541</u>

Asset Allocation %'s @ 31 May 2009	Benchmarks	Tactical asset allocation range	
Cash	24%	25%	10% - 50%
Bonds	37%	25%	10% - 50%
Australasian Equities	11%	15%	0% - 20%
International Equities	12%	15%	0% - 20%
Property Equities	5%	5%	0% - 10%
Alternative Asset Classes	10%	15%	0% - 20%
	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## 1. General Comment

Total operating expenditure for the eleven month period was \$8.654 million.

Total revenues for the period amounted to \$8.372 million.

The total deficit was (\$282,000)

### Highlights:

- Investment portfolio loss of \$425,000 for the eleven month period.
- Greymouth floodwall upgrade expenditure will not be incurred until 2009/10.
- Quarries and VCS business unit are trading profitably.
- There are positive budget variances in the general rate funded area amounting to \$386,000. In particular spending in the Planning; Rivers etc., and Environmental Monitoring areas is running below budgeted.

## 2. Risk Management

I reported to the previous meeting that the public liability cover with Riskpool had been renewed for 2009/10.

The negotiations regarding the renewal of our other insurance covers were successfully completed and I can confirm that the following cover was renewed with effect from 4.00 pm on 30 June 2009;

- Materials damage/Business Interruption.
- Motor Vehicle.
- Fidelity Guarantee.
- Electronic Equipment.
- Personal Accident.
- Statutory Liability.
- Employers Liability.
- Punitive and Exemplary Damages.

There are no significant uninsured risks.

### 3. Vehicle Replacements

For the last twelve years Council has leased its vehicle fleet rather than acquiring by purchase. The policy decision by Council in 1997 worked well for Council over several years.

However, over the last nine months the attractiveness of vehicle leasing has diminished considerably, with upward pressure being put on quoted lease terms by the global credit crisis and the large volumes of unsold lease expired stock that the lease firms have been unable to dispose of.

A comparison of the cost of lease versus purchase now shows a clear advantage for the purchase option. (Depreciation + Interest cost of capital) v (Lease Payments).

There are three vehicles due for replacement during 2009/10.

We have negotiated the purchase of these replacement vehicles at very competitive purchase terms.

The LTCCP/Annual Plan approved operating budgets for 2009/10 more than cover the depreciation and cost of capital of the three vehicles, compared to the lease payments budgeted for.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

*That this report be received.*

Robert Mallinson  
Corporate Services Manager



**THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Prepared for: Council Meeting 14 July 2009  
 Prepared by: Chris Ingle – Chief Executive  
 Date: 1 July 2009

Subject: **CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT**

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**Meetings Attended**

The meetings I have attended since the 9 June Council meeting include:

- Hosted a meeting with the three District Council Chief Executives to discuss the National Cycleways project and options for the West Coast.
- Attended a meeting with Westpower and DWC to discuss long term energy issues and options for the West Coast.
- Attended the Special Council Meeting on 23 June to adopt the LTCCP.
- Met with Kevin Rose, Councillor, Hawkes Bay Regional Council, topics of discussion included didymo, possum control and water management.
- Attending Pyrolysis presentation on Wednesday 8 July at Westland District Council.

**LTCCP complete**

The LTCCP process is now complete following the adoption of the LTCCP at the Special Council meeting held on 23 June 2009. The document is available on the Council website.

The monitoring report for community outcomes is also now complete and has been placed on the Council's website. Only very minor amendments were made by the district councils and only relating to the functions of those councils, not the regional council.

**Remits to Local Government NZ unsuccessful**

Council lodged two remits at the last zone 5 & 6 meeting on 7 May. These related to the audit costs of LTCCPs, and the criteria for total mobility funding. They were both supported by the South Island Mayors and Chairs and the remits went forward to the Remit Screening Committee, which met on 19 June to discuss all remits to the 2009 AGM. The remit Committee decided not to move either remit forward to the AGM for consideration.

The Remit Screening Committee resolved that the LTCCP audit costs remit need not proceed to the AGM because it reflects existing policy and is already under active implementation. For the total mobility remit they considered that in terms of the broad spectrum of issues facing local government at present total mobility is likely to be of medium to low significance. It is also likely to be of low significance to the Government and our ability influence a positive outcome is not high. They felt that at this time the best course of action is to encourage the Minister of Transport to make a commitment to the Stage Two review of the Total Mobility Scheme which would provide information to better inform the debate and develop more robust solutions to address the problems and would also be an opportunity for consensus to be reached in defining the term "transport disadvantaged".

**Council Seal**

I fixed Council seal to a follow-up contract with the Ministry for the Environment where they and Crown Public Health are funding a further \$2,000 to undertake further testing of samples taken from Totara Lagoon waterways.

**RECOMMENDATION**

*That this report be received.*

Chris Ingle  
 Chief Executive

Prepared for: Council Meeting – 14 August 2009  
Prepared by: Chris Ingle – Chief Executive  
Date: 1 July 2009

Subject: **REPORT ON ENERGY DEMAND AND SUPPLY**

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### **Purpose**

This report follows an earlier study funded by EECA and the West Coast Regional Council that established that hydro power generation is the only realistic renewable energy option for the West Coast region. The Government's Energy Strategy has set a target for 90 per cent of New Zealand's electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2025.

This report reviews the likely regional demand for energy over coming years, compared to the current renewable energy proposals that are proceeding through RMA consenting process. It provides a background context for the upcoming review of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS), specifically the Energy chapter.

### **Background**

Security of electricity supply is among the most critical factors for new businesses wanting to locate on the West Coast. Westpower and Transpower have transmission upgrades planned which addresses the most critical security of supply issues. A \$20M upgrade of the West Coast transmission network has been approved by the Electricity Commission which includes a new 110 kV transmission line between Dobson and Reefton and additional voltage support equipment to be installed at Hokitika. The Hokitika voltage support project is expected to be commissioned in March 2010, with the line upgrade following in December 2011.

The cost of electricity is also a major issue on the West Coast, with significant transmission losses from power generated on the east coast, meaning West Coast business and domestic consumers pay substantially more for their electricity. Electricity prices on the West Coast are among the highest in the country.

Estimates for electricity demand for the region predict a doubling of demand over the next ten years, mainly due to new mining industry needs. Peak demand on the West Coast is currently 65MW. The 2009 Transpower annual planning document predicts 110MW demand by 2019. By 2040 demand may exceed 200MW.

Existing West Coast generation totals only 18MW, which is why most of our electricity is imported from outside the region. The additional cost to consumers, due to transmission losses, will become more pronounced in coming years as this increased demand eventuates.

New renewable energy generation would also assist New Zealand to meet its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol without increasing the use of thermal generation, whose greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change.

### **The need for Local Generation**

Greater local generation will assist security of supply, and will also assist in bringing down relative prices for consumers as transmission losses are reduced.

Although there have been several new hydro scheme proposals going through land access and RMA consenting processes in recent months, no new schemes have been confirmed as proceeding at this time.

Based on a ten year prediction of electricity peak demand:

- Trustpower's proposed scheme on the Arnold (46MW), should it proceed, will satisfy local demand in the Grey District.

- The proposed Amethyst (6MW) and Waitaha (20MW) schemes will satisfy Westland demand and if Waitaha also goes ahead Westland District will become a net exporter of electricity.
- Buller District demand will be satisfied by the Mohikinui scheme (85MW) assuming it goes ahead, with much of that scheme's production being surplus for export.
- The HDL Stockton Plateau proposal (25MW) and Lake Rochfort (4MW) proposals, if they are built, will largely satisfy demand in the Buller District even if the Mohikinui hydro scheme does not go ahead.

However, a ten year demand profile is not considered appropriate for energy planning because these projects often take longer than 10 years, from the initial planning stages to final commissioning. It would be prudent to plan toward a thirty year timeframe given the lead in time inherent in building a new hydro scheme

There is no accurate information that predicts energy demand longer than a five - ten year horizon. If past energy demand rates continue (on average 5 – 10% annually) in thirty years we could see West Coast demand nearing 300MW. However, recent growth is due to specific new industries establishing (stepwise growth), and it is less likely this growth pattern will continue long term. Generally 2 – 3% is used in the industry for annual baseline demand growth.

If 3% were used, as a more conservative growth rate beyond 2019, West Coast demand at 2040 would be around 200MW.

### **The Conclusions of the August 2008 Renewable Energy Report**

The report on renewable energy options for the West Coast noted that greater uptake of renewable energy could allow the West Coast to:

- Improve the availability and stability of its power supply
- Support and stimulate local economic activity
- In part, address concerns over rising power prices.

The report suggested a number of changes be made to the Council's planning documents:

1. Making policy changes to the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) to encourage renewable energy and energy efficiency consistent with national policies
2. Identifying areas within the region suitable for renewable energy development.
3. Including in the RPS a series of objectives and policies outlining how to balance localised effects with the benefits of renewable energy.
4. Amending the RPS to recognise the potential future renewable energy technologies and make high level policy provision for such developments.
5. Amending Regional Plan rules to:
  - give a proper weight and priority to energy needs for the region
  - review consent thresholds for energy generation using renewable resources with a view to reducing thresholds where appropriate
  - consider adopting restricted discretionary or controlled activity rules for medium scale renewable energy projects; and permitted rules for small domestic scale projects
  - provide longer consent periods for renewable energy projects
  - recognise the potential of and make high level policy provision for future renewable energy technologies
  - develop tools to prioritise projects that will meet community needs

### **What are the RMA Policy Implications?**

The 2004 RMA Amendment Act introduced three new matters into Part II of the RMA, requiring persons exercising functions and powers under the Act to have particular regard to:

*(ba) the efficiency of the end use of energy*

*(i) the effects of climate change*

*(j) the benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy*

The law relating to these matters has been refined to some extent by the Environment Court, who identified the benefits to be derived from renewable energy to include:

- Security of supply
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduction in dependence on the national grid
- Reduction in transmission losses
- Reliability
- Development benefits
- Contribution to the renewable energy target.

In 2005, the Act was further amended by giving additional powers to regional councils:

*"the strategic integration of infrastructure with land use through objectives, policies, and methods:"*

These powers mean Regional Policy Statements (RPSs) can provide greater direction as to the locations and co-ordination of infrastructure. The 2005 amendment to the Act also changed the status of RPSs. Previously District Plans were required to be not inconsistent with an RPS. The 2005 amendment altered this so that District Plans are now required to 'give effect' to an RPS. This gives RPSs additional powers to direct what provisions are included within District Plans.

This effectively gives broad scope to the Council in terms of setting an RPS policy for the region that seeks to:

1. Better encourage local renewable generation projects, thereby assisting Government to meet their target of 90% renewable generation by 2025; and
2. Encourage the Government to amend the Conservation Act to facilitate renewable energy projects in conservation land; and
3. Co-ordinate District Plan provisions to ensure they are "renewable-friendly" to assist further with encouraging investment in energy projects; and
4. Aim to be a self sufficient energy region, with supply at least matching demand; or
5. Potentially adopt a longer term goal of being a net exporter of electricity to the rest of NZ over a 20-30 year timeframe.

### **The West Coast is an ideal location for an Electricity Generation Centre**

The current electricity generation proposals total just over 200MW. If all proposals are built, the West Coast could become a net exporter of electricity, at least until the demand again outstrips supply.

Council needs to consider whether the Energy Chapter in the Regional Policy Statement needs to explicitly promote the West Coast as the ideal region to export hydro power to the rest of NZ due to our position under the climate change scenario of getting wetter, compared to east coast hydro areas forecast to become drier over time.

The Government would have to look at reviewing the main barrier to developing new hydroelectricity proposals on the West Coast - the current approach to enabling the use of Conservation land.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. *That Council agree to begin revising the Energy Chapter of the RPS to better enable Renewable Energy projects in the region.*
2. *That Council seek to meet with the Energy Minister and the Conservation Minister to discuss the concept of the West Coast as the location for hydro power generation in the future, and to discuss addressing barriers for new renewable energy projects.*

Chris Ingle  
Chief Executive

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

To: Chairperson  
West Coast Regional Council

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, -

Agenda Item No. 8.			
18 - 19	8.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes 9 June 2009	
20	8.2	Overdue Debtors Report	
21 – 39	8.3	Enforcement Matters	
40 – 55	8.3 .1	Enforcement Matters	

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>General Subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution.</b>
8.			
8.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes 9 June 2009		Section 48(1)(a) and in particular Section 9 of 2nd Schedule Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
8.2	Overdue Debtors Report		
8.3	Enforcement Matters		

I also move that:

- Chris Ingle
- Robert Mallinson
- Simon Moran
- Colin Dall

be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge on the subject. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed.

The Minutes Clerk also be permitted to remain at the meeting.