

### 3.1.1

## THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20 JULY 2020, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 2.00 P.M.**

#### **PRESENT:**

A. Birchfield (Chairman), S. Challenger, P. Ewen, D. Magner, B. Cummings, J. Hill (via Zoom), L. Coll McLaughlin

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Director), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk), A. Ching (GIS Analyst), J. Hawes (IT Technician)

#### **1. APOLOGY:**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

#### **3.1 COVID-19 RECOVERY RELATED FUNDING, PROCUREMENT & CONSULTATION**

R. Beal advised that the Crown funding arrangements are expected to be confirmed today and contracts to be out within 30 days. R. Beal advised that by 31 August contracts must be signed and kicked off by 30 October. The projects that have been applied for were discussed and include the Hokitika Seawall, Franz Josef infrastructure, Greymouth Floodwall, and flood protection options for Westport. M. Meehan advised that there will be a focus on projects in Franz Josef, Greymouth, Hokitika and Westport.

R. Beal displayed maps of each area and answered questions from Councillors. It was noted that currently there is no rating district in place for Westport and therefore there is some uncertainty for co-funding projects in this area. There are also no resource consents in place for Westport.

R. Mallinson answered questions relating to funding and loans. It was agreed that with interest rates low, and with the funding becoming available it is a great opportunity for rating districts to take out a low interest loan. M. Meehan confirmed that any decisions on projects will come back to council as Councillors as the decision makers, but consultation with communities will be required. He stated that Westport has been less impacted by Covid-19 than other districts of the West Coast.

Boundaries and rating classifications for Franz Josef and Hokitika were discussed. R. Beal advised that the Lower Waiho and Franz Josef rating districts could be merged and areas which are not currently in a rating district could be included. R. Beal advised that the loan for the Lower Waiho rating district could be ring fenced, and funds in the Franz Josef account could be redistributed to landowners. R. Beal suggested a one classification rating district, for maintenance. M. Meehan advised that a joint committee approach could be taken. He explained how this would work to the meeting. It was noted that joint committees have legal status. R. Mallinson explained loan structures. M. Meehan advised that the one rating district option for Franz Josef has the support of the Mayor of Westland.

#### **Hokitika**

R. Beal advised that the Hokitika rating district has four rating classifications and the Kaniere rating district has five rating classifications, both have existing loans.

R. Beal advised that he is recommending that the two rating districts are merged and existing debt is also merged. He stated that there could be two classes, or a single class option which is the same as the Greymouth Rating District. Cr Birchfield stated that he is in favour of one classification as he feels it is fair on

everyone. R. Mallinson advised that classification differentials are not well understood in an urban environment. R. Beal explained the proposed boundary changes for Hokitika and advised this would take in as far north as Richards Drive but would not include the sewage ponds. M. Meehan advised that Westland Milk Products are keen to engage with the proposed changes to the rating district. M. Meehan stated that the biggest challenge currently is what exactly is being funded. He stated that this is a very good opportunity to do river protection work as well. Discussion took place regarding the Hokitika Racecourse. Cr Challenger stated it is his understanding that the intention is to make this area a public reserve. Further discussion took place around consultation. R. Mallinson advised that consultation does not equal a poll. R. Beal advised the opinion surveys and drop in sessions would be arranged for Westport. It was agreed that consultation would be done via the LTP.

**Greymouth Rating District**

R. Beal advised that the Greymouth rating district has a simple boundary map and only one classification. He stated that a meeting of the Joint Committee needs to be arranged to discuss the budget, and resource consent variation. He outlined the prospect of advancing and lifting the stopbank on Blaketown side. He answered questions on the history and loan details for this rating district.

**Westport**

Discussion took place on options for flood evacuation modelling for Westport. He stated that as there is no rating district in place work could still be done without this, or work could be co-funded. R. Beal advised that additional flood warning sites could also be considered as this would make a massive improvement for Westport. Cr Coll McLaughlin stated that issues with BDC will need to be worked through before progress can be made.

It was agreed that meetings of the Operations teams for both WDC and BDC would be arranged.

M. Meehan advised that funding will be confirmed by 3 August and will be presented to the next council meeting on 8 August. It was agreed that draft documents will be circulated and a special meeting will be held on 4 August. Cr Ewen suggested that Council meetings could be hosted in Hokitika and Westport.

The meeting closed at 3.10 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date