



# THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

## **MEDIA RELEASE – 16 May 2022**

### **Temporary Council quarry closure**

Operations in the Council’s quarries have been temporarily halted.

Heather Mabin, Chief Executive of the West Coast Regional Council, said that there were two reasons for this decision to pause in operations.

“The contract we have with our current operator, MBD, is up for renewal which is an opportunity to reset the future,” said Ms Mabin. “Pausing operations now gives us the ability to reassess our internal processes, update and develop the information requirements before we go out to the market with a tender for an operations contract for each quarry individually.”

Ms Mabin said that the Council was working closely with the current contractors to ensure that any current commitments for rock could still be met.

“Work to fulfil commitments will be completed in the next fortnight with rock to be stockpiled for use. The quarry tender process is then likely to take until the end of June 2023.”

Council has managed quarries across the region to supply the rating districts with rock for maintaining river and coastal protection works for many years. Council also supplies rock to individual customers. Council had previously decided to consider the results from a tender process of the mining permits for the developed Blackball, Kiwi, Camelback and Okuru quarries but this decision is now on hold.

The demand for rock from quarries is driven by the need to maintain works or build new protection works, plus private sales. Some years see high demand for rock and therefore the quarries run a surplus, while in other years the quarries can run at a loss.

The Regional Council also currently administers rock quarries at the following locations: Miedema Rock Deposit (Karamea), Blackball (in abeyance), Cobden (being rehabilitated), Kiwi Point (in abeyance), Inchbonnie, Camelback and Okuru.

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