



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE – 25 October 2023

WCRC Rates Review Process Complete

The West Coast Regional Council and an external review team from PWC have now completed their inquiry into the latest Regional Council rates installment and identified the underlying variations that have affected a number of rates notices.

Capital Values (CVs) used to calculate the factors required in the rates strike for each special rating district area were based on now outdated CV figures.

An analysis of the estimated yield for each levy and the actual amount charged has been completed and the areas with the largest variations have been identified as Greymouth, Punakaiki, Westport, Karamea, Hokitika, Redjacks and Wanganui Special Rating Districts.

The review also found rates variations in the Grey Rating District have resulted from the Grey Floodwall Rating District Boundary extension and the capital value of property within this area.

After identifying the focus areas Council have reviewed the levies for the affected areas with the correct CVs and will be raising credit notes for each of the properties concerned.

West Coast Regional Council Chief Executive Darryl Lew said the Regional Council apologises for any inconvenience the rates corrections may have caused ratepayers and urges anyone unsure if their property has been rated correctly to contact the Council office.

“Now that we have established the cause of the issues, we are currently working through a process with our staff to efficiently create credit notes and process these through the system,”

“Ratepayers in the affected areas will receive a letter in due course stating what they have been charged for the first rates demand, a breakdown of their current rating assessment and advice on the correct amount to pay,”

“The second rates demand will only charge the difference between the first and second rates installment and will therefore be a lower amount to pay.”

“Ratepayers that have already paid the full rates installment can contact the Council office for a refund.”

“I am now initiating an audit to determine what went wrong in Council’s procedures to ensure future controls are put in place that will prevent this happening again.”

Mr Lew said repayment plan options were available for those affected by the rates variations and these could be discussed with our staff.

Council has granted a new extension date for the first rates installment to Thursday, 30 November 2023.

ENDS

Media contact

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