

# What an exciting few months we have had!

*Firstly, the launch of the Economic Development Action Plan in July, where investment of over \$40 million has been signalled for the region. We have already seen the benefits of this investment with projects and work commencing, and in some cases finishing, for various initiatives. More information on progress will be available soon, as we are keen to make sure our communities are aware of what is happening and when.*

And secondly, taking out the LGNZ EXCELLENCE Award for Best Practice Contribution to Local Economic Development with the Untamed Natural Wilderness branding. This brand is a truly polished piece of work with not only local businesses on the Coast picking it up and using it in conjunction with their own material, but tour operators and others around the world hungry for more. Our tourism figures continue to grow,

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and the growth is astounding those in the sector who have never seen anything like it. The challenge now is to make it work for us, and ensuring we do our very best to get the infrastructure needed to support this growth. We are working closely with the District Councils, Department of Conservation, NZ Transport Agency and other partners on securing this.

I feel that we are on the cusp of something really exciting for the West Coast, and are keen to see where it will lead us in the future. As a Council we have taken on a leadership role on behalf of the West Coast to make sure that we become, and stay, relevant to the rest of New Zealand, and the world, to celebrate and share our positive stories and to ensure that we become a region that is

well positioned for the future.

Meanwhile, our staff are continuing to deliver our core functions across the region. In all areas, including consent processing, compliance monitoring, water sampling or working with communities to protect against coastal erosion or flooding, our team is here to help.



**Andrew Robb**  
Chairman



## The Q-Boat

You'll be forgiven for thinking the Q-Boat is something from a James Bond movie. Instead this is a new piece of equipment the hydrology team has started using to help with recording river flows. The Q-Boat is a remote controlled, battery powered boat that uses an acoustic sensor to measure the depth and velocity (speed) of the river, and along with GPS information, produces a river cross-section.

What do we need this information for? Well the data gathered from the Q-Boat will help us with flood warning, water resource management, engineering design as well as providing our communities information about the hydrology in their area.

# Hydro upgrades continue

This unassuming piece of equipment may look unexciting, but the information collected from the new rain gauge built in Springs Junction, will be helping the flood warning team here at Council. It is part of an ongoing investment in rainfall and flow recorders throughout the region which will assist us to deliver better information to our communities. If you live in the Springs Junction area, and are keen to see how much rain is pelting down on you, check out the data at [www.wcrc.govt.nz/hydro-springsjunction](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz/hydro-springsjunction)



# Carters Beach coastal erosion

*A recent meeting with the Carters Beach community regarding the erosion along the domain is being considered a huge success. With approximately 140 people turning out, Council was able to have good discussion with locals about the options available with managing this somewhat tricky, and potentially expensive, issue.*



A range of 'soft engineering' management options have been identified for the immediate future. These include having a 30m 'no mow' zone, planting to assist with dune stabilisation, reducing or eliminating firewood collection from along the beach, and establishing car parking and 'no car' zones. Trigger points will be identified so if the erosion reaches these Council will convene another meeting to discuss further options.

The Buller High School Year 13 Geography Class has also come on board and will be undertaking regular monitoring of the erosion. We think this is a great idea, and a good opportunity for locals to be able to learn about, and be involved in managing, local issues.

# Westport flood protection

Council will be reconvening the working group to fine tune flood protection options for Westport. Community leaders with recognised local knowledge will be included as well as councillors and staff from both the Regional Council and Buller District Council. We will be sorting fact from fiction and ensuring that all the information provided to Council from the community earlier this year is considered.

The intention is to have another round of consultation with the Westport community later this year with the refined options. More information addressing the wider issues highlighted will be published in the local paper over the coming months.



## In brief...

### Follow us on Facebook

Some of you may have noticed that Council now has a Facebook page. We have found that the good stuff Council does, and is a part of, doesn't always get out to our community. There will also be stories about what our staff do in their day jobs. So follow us on Facebook to hear our positive stories as well as the other great things happening across the region.

### Planning for our future direction

The Long Term Plan sets out the Council's priorities over a ten year period. Requiring updating every three years, the planning process for this is starting shortly. We want our community to be more involved in setting our priorities, so this year Councillors will be 'having a cuppa' at a place near you, for you to come, sit down and have a natter about our future direction. More information on when and where will be on our Facebook page closer to the time.

### Rating District AGMs

AGM's will be held throughout October. Our engineers will be undertaking their annual inspections of the assets with the spokesperson for each rating district shortly. If you have any thoughts please contact Paulette Birchfield or Brendon Russ here at Council, or discuss with your spokesperson.

# PAYING RATES



Pay it Online

Want to pay your rates online? You can pay any West Coast Regional Rates invoice using our online service if you have a Visa or Mastercard.



For full details – as well as application charges, check out our website [www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz) and click on the 'pay it' tab.



Direct Debit Rate Payments

Council also offers the Direct Debit option for the payment of rates. This option means that your rates are paid on time ensuring that late payment is a thing of the past. An information sheet on how to set up a direct debit, and a direct debit form, are included with the newsletter.

Alternatively, check out our website [www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz) and click on the 'pay it' tab.

## Twitter Flood Alert Service



The Council is now offering flood alerts via Twitter. The rivers linked to provide this information are: Karamea, Mokihinui, Buller, Grey, Hokitika and Waiho. The flood alerts are another tool that will share updates with the public when a river goes through its alarm levels. This information does not replace the data currently provided on the Council's website or other flood warning procedures already in place.

To register to receive a Twitter flood alert visit [www.wcrc.govt.nz/floodalerts](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz/floodalerts)



Mark Crowe and Hadley Mills

## Meet the managers

*We are very pleased to be able to welcome Mark Crowe and Hadley Mills to the Regional Council.*

Mark has taken on the role of Regional Director Emergency Management and Natural Hazards. This is a new role leading the delivery of Civil Defence across the region. Coming to us from Timaru District, he has spent the past two years in a Planning Advisory role with the Timaru District Council as well as leading their Civil Defence Response Team toward gaining a UN based first responder accreditation. This was the first New Zealand team to complete this new format qualification.

Mark is very passionate about building an efficient and effective Civil Defence capability and looks forward to leading and supporting the regional emergency management officers to develop this essential community capability.

Hadley has been appointed as the Planning, Science and Innovation Manager. This new role will include leading four teams within Council.

A passionate West Coaster, having grown up in Nelson Creek in the

Grey Valley, he has come back to the region after ten years in Brisbane, Australia. Gaining valuable experience in a range of private businesses, including planning and architectural consultancies, he also worked in local government, spending the previous five years at Logan City Council where he developed his passion for leadership and management.

Hadley also brings with him a wealth of knowledge in the technology space where he has worked extensively with aerial drone technology. One of his standout projects was working with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CIRCO) to develop an aerial stock management model for Queensland Farmers.

Both Mark and Hadley have described the move to the West Coast as exciting for them and their families. "I believe the West Coast region is beginning to attract substantial outside interest, people are starting to pay attention," said Hadley. "We are excited about the opportunities the West Coast presents," said Mark. "The Coast is entering a new and exciting stage of opportunity and we are grateful to be a part of that".



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

388 Main South Road, Paroa  
PO Box 66  
Greymouth 7840

freephone: 0508 800 118  
phone: 03 768 0466  
email: [info@wcr.govt.nz](mailto:info@wcr.govt.nz)

[www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz)