



Great view for the hydro team as they complete annual maintenance on the rain gauge (right of picture) at Deelaw

## Message from your Chairman

*Never before have we been at the centre of so much potential change.*

No new mines on conservation land, the review of stewardship land, Provincial Growth Fund opportunities, Zero Carbon Bill, calls to halt the commercial fishing of whitebait, draft local bill for windblown timber and potentially using these for other regional issues, the list goes on.

You can be assured that we are, and will continue to, work closely with communities, businesses, elected members and our Iwi partners throughout the region, advocating to government to realise the very best outcomes for our future. This complements the grass roots movement happening out there now – the best example being the protest at the Taramakau Bridge opening. I was heartened to see the outpouring of support



on the day, appreciative of the efforts of everyone to make it a celebration of industry and proud to be a West Coaster.

Meanwhile we are continuing to work hard on our other core business areas. We had a record number of submissions on the Long Term Plan Consultative Document 2018/21 and I would like to thank those who took the time to consider what was being proposed and giving us some very valuable feedback. Council works on behalf of the community which makes getting your input into our future direction essential.

Andrew Robb,  
Chairman

## LTP Consultative Document 2018-28

*Key outcomes include:*

- ➔ Introduction of a Uniform Annual General Charge of \$72.50 + GST - includes an additional \$22.50 for emergency management.
- ➔ Establishment of a Whole of Waiho Rating District has been deferred.
- ➔ Quarries management to be outsourced and a true user pays approach adopted.
- ➔ \$25,000 earmarked for the One District Plan proposal.
- ➔ An extra engineer to help meet the needs of our communities - funded from changes to the quarry service model.
- ➔ Adjustment to the staff hourly rate offset by removal of the mileage charge.



# Freshwater Management Update

*The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) requires Regional Councils to work with their communities to understand how they value waterways and what goals should be set for the future, based on economic, social, cultural and environmental factors. A key requirement of the NPSFM is that the quality of our rivers, lakes, and groundwater must be maintained or improved.*

The NPSFM also requires Regional Councils to identify Freshwater Management Units (FMUs). Six FMU's have been identified across the West Coast region in order to effectively manage water resources in different areas where issues and Iwi/community values may vary. These include the Buller, Paparoa, Inangahua, Grey, Hokitika and South Westland FMU's. Selection of FMU boundaries also considered other matters such as, geology, geography, land use, and catchment hydrology.

The purpose of each FMU group is to represent their local community and help identify the values and issues relating to freshwater quality and quantity in their respective locations. The group will then make recommendations to Council's Resource Management Committee for future plan provisions and work programmes to manage the land and water resources within this FMU.

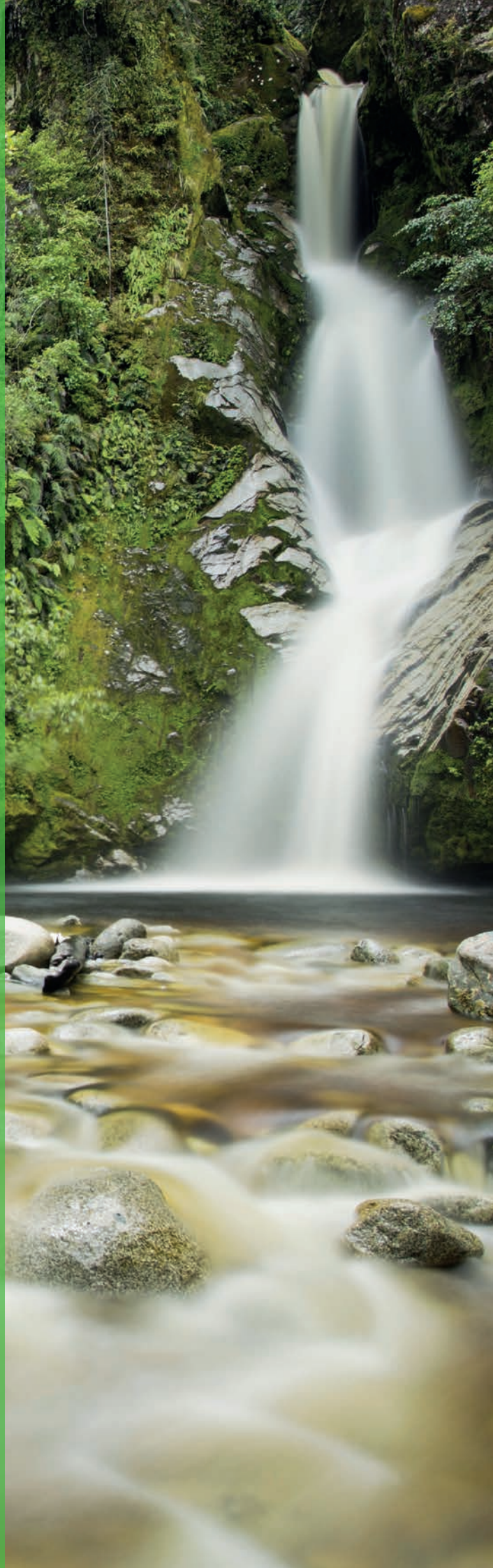
## Grey FMU Group We want you!

The Grey FMU Group is the first of these groups to be formed recognising the pressures in this river catchment. Having the community involved in the process right from the start, as Council looks at what future plan provisions and work programmes may be needed to manage the land and water resources, is critical.

Up to eight members from the community, with a range of backgrounds, are being sought for this group to work with Councillors from the Buller, Grey and Regional Councils as well as Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae. There is still time to apply as applications close on 1 October.



**For more information:**  
[www.wcrc.govt.nz/GreyFMU](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz/GreyFMU)





Leaving the Garibaldi rain gauge site

# West Coast Hydro

*Council's hydrology team is responsible for collecting, storing and processing data for a range of uses. Operating and maintaining a large network of hydrological instruments throughout the region, the network includes sensors such as rain gauges and river flow gauges that continuously collect data from our natural environment.*

Flow and rainfall data is transmitted back to the council via cellular, radio and satellite communication and is available from the 'River and Rainfall' tab on the website homepage. The team also do manual data collection for river flow rates and other river parameters.

One of the key outputs of this data is the flood monitoring system. Carried out on six rivers, including the Karamea, Mokihinui, Buller, Grey, Hokitika, and Waiho Rivers, this assists communities to assess the risk of impending floods. As well as flood warning, the data is used for planning, water accounting/allocation, resource consenting, drought management, and to inform communities of the current rain and flow conditions across the region. Hydrology data also contributes to State of the Environment Reports. These reports are produced three yearly for water quality and five yearly for hydrometric conditions.

## A Growing Network

The hydrology network continues to grow across the West Coast. Three new remote recorder sites have been installed this year alone to help monitor flow and rainfall in the Buller and Grey catchments. The continued growth in the network across the Buller, Grey and Hokitika catchments will provide data to eventually allow Council to develop better flow forecasting methods for flood warning and civil defence response.

## Twitter Flood Alert Service



The Council offers flood alerts via Twitter. The rivers linked to provide this information include the Karamea, Mokihinui, Buller, Grey, Hokitika and Waiho rivers. 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)

## NEW – 4R's Newsletter

The first 4R's newsletter came out in July. Keeping you up to date with what the Civil Defence team and volunteers have been up to, the newsletter also provides some great information to help get you better prepared.



If you are yet to check it out you can find a copy at: [www.westcoastemergency.govt.nz](http://www.westcoastemergency.govt.nz)

## Biosecurity awareness

Council takes its responsibility as a member of our community with the utmost seriousness. In response to the M. Bovis outbreak around the country, all Council staff, from those in our front of house to those out in the field, have undertaken training on how to prevent the spread of diseases, and M. Bovis in particular. We encourage everyone out there to do their part, whether it is aquatic pests such as Didymo, or on farm like M. Bovis, we cannot be too careful!



# Whitebait season

*The whitebait season is now upon us and Council compliance staff will be visiting rivers to ensure that consented stand holders are complying with their resource consents.*

There are 657 resource consented stands spread out over 23 rivers from the Little Wanganui River in the Buller region and as far south as the Cascade River in South Westland.

The role of compliance staff is to ensure that stands are constructed to the specifications outlined in the stand holders consent, resolve any disputes that may arise regarding stand locations on the rivers and to ensure that all stands and associated equipment are removed from the rivers at the conclusion of the fishing season.

Anything to do with how people fish in the rivers is managed by the Department of Conservation under the West Coast Whitebait Fishing Regulations.

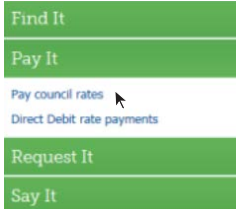


# PAYING RATES



Pay it Online

Want to pay your rates online? Visit our website and click on the 'Pay It' tab to find out more.



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.

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

# Dairy compliance

The dairy season is underway and our dairy compliance officers will soon be out and about undertaking annual farm visits. These visits don't just have to be about compliance or dairy effluent, but can be an opportunity for farmers to discuss any issues and options relating to the environment across the whole farm. We also encourage farmers to contact us in advance of any big infrastructure projects, so we can help advise on any consenting or compliance requirements.



# 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)



[wcr.govt.nz](http://wcr.govt.nz)