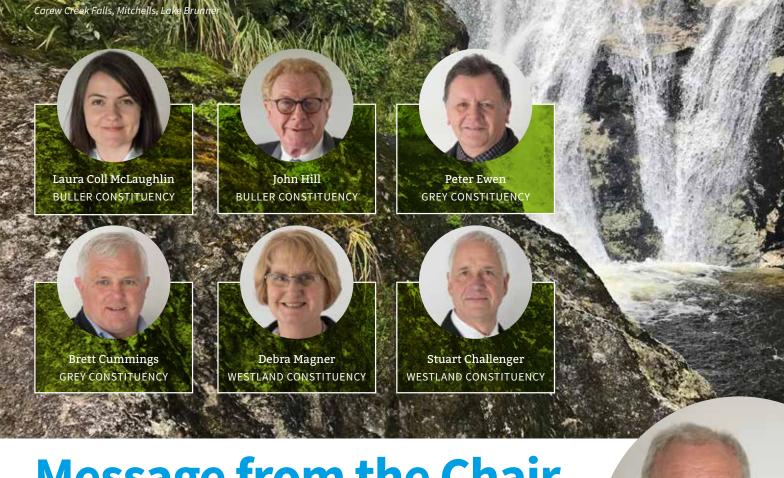


West Coast Regional Council

news

MARCH 2020



Message from the Chair

Following the local election in October 2019 I would like to welcome our four new Councillors around the table.

We are expecting a significant amount of new legislation to be released during our term. Central Government is trying to address issues across New Zealand, however, these generally aren't issues here. Freshwater and biodiversity are two of the key ones. We are pushing back, standing up for our communities and offering practical solutions that won't penalise the West Coast. Working with other stakeholders we will fight for outcomes we can work with.

Our Draft Annual Plan will be out for submission soon. We want to hold the line on the general rate. This will require consideration of how we deliver on our levels of service. Our focus is ensuring that the Regional Council is a truly 'user pays' organisation. This means that there will be changes so that those people who benefit, or use, our services (for example rating districts) are the ones who pay for these as opposed to it coming from the general rate.

Providing feedback on the Draft Annual Plan is the time that you can have a say on what we are proposing for the next financial year. It's important to take the time, read through the proposals and give us your feedback.



Allan Birchfield
CHAIRMAN
GREY CONSTITUENCY







How do we manage the natural hazards facing the Westport Community? What do we need to do as we look towards the future? These are the questions the Westport 2100 Working Group have been considering as they look at the hazardscape of the wider Westport area.

The Working Group has done a tremendous job and have now developed a comprehensive set of recommendations for the short, medium and long term future of Westport. Both the Regional Council and Buller District Council have received the recommendations from the Group and planning has started to see how these can be progressed.

Recommendations proposed by the Working Group consider evacuation planning and community preparedness, forecasting and modelling of rainfall and river flows, flood protection structures and infrastructure, river and gravel management, critical infrastructure, protection of transport routes, planning provisions, hazard information and potentially relocation in the very long term.

We will be seeking feedback from the community on some of these recommendations shortly.

How can I find out more?

A complete list of the recommendations, and the report to the Councils, is available at wcrc.govt.nz/westport2100.



Draft Annual Plan 2020/21

We will soon be seeking your feedback on the Draft Annual Plan proposals for the 2020/21 financial year. Depending on where you live, and the services you receive from Council, then there may be a change to the rates that you pay.

How to have your say?

The consultation document will be released in early April. Copies of the Draft Annual Plan can be found at the libraries in Westport, have your say

Reefton, Greymouth and Hokitika, as well as being available on our website at – wcrc.govt.nz. You can complete a submission online or mail your feedback to us at Council.

Come see us at



Want to see some of the creepy crawlies that live in our waterways, find out how a rain gauge works, or even what sort of careers are available at a Regional Council? You're in luck!

We will be at AgFest on 27 and 28 March 2020.

It is shaping up to be an epic event recognising the importance of the agricultural sector on the West Coast, and so much more. Over the two days we will be hosting demonstrations of some of our water quality and hydrology work. Follow us on Facebook to find out when.



Paying Rates

Want to receive your rates invoice by email?

If this sounds like you, follow the links on our website to register your email against your properties www.wcrc.govt.nz

Freshwater Management **Update**

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) requires 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.

Freshwater Management Units have been identified across the West Coast region in order to effectively manage water resources in different areas where issues and community values may vary. An update on their progress is outlined below:



AWATIRI

Freshwater Management Unit

Established 2019

STATUS UPDATE

Have started exploration of water issue information, including:

- Values identification
- Water quantity and quality basics
- Issues in the FMU
- Cultural values

KEY ISSUES – to be identified

RECOMMENDATIONS – due by February 2021



GREY FMU

Freshwater Management Unit

Established 2018

STATUS UPDATE

Completed exploration of water issue information

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- E. Coli and turbidity (sediment in water)
- Water quantity in the upper Grey catchment
- How to include and monitor Maori cultural values
- Protecting values both recreational and economic

RECOMMENDATIONS

Currently being formed and will be presented to the Resource Management Committee in April 2020.



Established March 2020



To be established **December** 2020

HOKITIKA FMU

Freshwater Management Unit

Want to find out more?

All presentations and minutes are available on our website - wcrc.govt.nz. Just follow the prompts to the FMU Groups via the Community Groups page.



Get involved in the future of our districts

Coming to a town near you!

Te Tai o Poutini Plan will be the new District Plan for the Westland, Grey and Buller District Councils. It will replace the three current plans and set out how resources will be managed across the districts. Come to one of our drop-in sessions and tell us your ideas for supporting a vibrant and resilient community.

Buller District Itinerary

Monday 23rd March

Punakaiki (Punakaiki Tavern) 11.00am - 12.30pm Charleston (Underworld Adventures) 1.30 - 2.30pm Reefton (Plunket Rooms) Public Meeting 4.00 - 5.30pm

Tuesday 24th March

Carters Beach (near Domain toilet block) 3.30 - 4.30pm Westport (Buller District Council Chambers) Public Meeting 6.00 - 8.00pm

Wednesday 25th March

Karamea (Market Cross RSA) 10.30 - 11.30am Granity/Ngakawau/Hector (Lyric Theatre) 1.00 - 2.00pm Waimangaroa (War Memorial) 2.30 - 3.45pm

Grey District Itinerary

Thursday 19th March

Greymouth Town Square 11.45 - 1.15pm Paroa (Paroa Hotel) 1.45 - 2.45pm **Greymouth** (Grey District Council Chambers) Public Meeting 6.00 - 8.00pm

Friday 20th March

Dobson (Paparoa School) 11.45am - 12.45pm Ahaura (History Park) 1.30 - 2.30pm

Saturday 21st March

Moana (opposite Hotel Lake Brunner) 2.00 - 3.30pm

Monday 23rd March

Barrytown (Settler's Hall) 9.30 - 10.30am

Want to know more?

ttpp.westcoast.govt.nz

Westland District Itinerary

Monday 16th March

Ross (Goldfields and Info Centre) 10.30 - 11.30am Harihari (opposite Fire Station) 12.30 - 1.30pm

Whataroa (opposite White Heron Tea Rooms) 2.30 - 3.30pm

Franz Josef (by public playground) 4.30 - 6.00pm

Tuesday 17th March

Bruce Bay (Bruce Bay Hall) 10.00 - 11.00am Haast (Otoko Espresso) 12.30 - 2.00pm Hannah's Clearing (Haast School) 2.45 - 3.45pm

Wednesday 18th March

Fox Glacier (Community Centre) 10.00 - 11.00am Okarito (Memorial Obelisk) 11.30 - 12.30pm Kaniere (opposite Kaniere Hotel) 3.00 - 4.30pm Hokitika (Hokitika/Westland RSA) Public Meeting 6.00 - 8.00pm

Thursday 19th March

Hokitika Town Centre (corner outside the Council) 9.30 - 11.00am Arahura (Marae) 3.15 - 4.15pm

Saturday 21st March

Kumara (Memorial Hall) 10.00 - 11.00am Otira (opposite Stagecoach Hotel) 12.00 - 1.00pm

Missed us on the road?

We'll be at AgFest Friday 27th and Or email us your thoughts info@ttpp.nz

Saturday 28th March