

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** will be held in the Offices of the West Coast Regional Council, 388 Main South Road, Paroa, Greymouth on **Monday, 7th November 2011**

B.CHINN
CHAIRPERSON

M. MEEHAN
Planning and Environmental Manager
C. DALL
Consents and Compliance Manager

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THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2011 AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL,
388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 10.32 A.M.****PRESENT:**

B. Chinn (Chairman), R. Scarlett, D. Davidson, A. Robb, A. Birchfield, I. Cummings, T. Scott

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), M. Meehan (Planning & Environmental Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *that the apologies from F. Tumahai and T. Archer be accepted.*

Carried

C. Ingle advised that C. Dall is unable to attend today's meetings as he is at the Environment Court in Christchurch.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. MINUTES

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *that the minutes of the previous Resource Management Committee meeting dated 13 September 2011, be confirmed as correct with the added correction as stated below.*

Carried

Cr Birchfield drew attention to his comment on page four of the minutes where it states that small hydro dams are a permitted activity in the Grey District Plan. Cr Birchfield advised that he said schemes, not dams, as many schemes do not have dams.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no Chairman's report.

5. REPORTS**5.1 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP****5.1.1 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to his report advising that the outcome of the Environment Court case relating to the provisions for wetlands are expected soon given the court proceedings conclude today. Once decision is handed they will be incorporated into the Plan. M. Meehan advised that a letter has been set to submitters advising them of the delay due to the court case and it is likely that hearings for the Land and Water Plan will be held in April / May 2012. He stated that this is a quieter time for year for farmers to attend the hearings.

M. Meehan reported that staff are continuing to work on the submission for Environmental Reporting discussion document that the Ministry for the Environment has put out. He is hopeful that the submission will be circulated to Councillors for their comments this week.

M. Meehan reported that the Freedom Camping Act 2011 came into force prior to the Rugby World Cup. He advised that this new Act allows local territorial authorities and the Department of Conservation to take regulatory action against people who are breaching this law by issuing infringement notices and instant fines.

M. Meehan reported that there have been two more alarms triggered on the Waiho River during the reporting period. M. Meehan stated that medium to large amounts of rain result in the Waiho being the first river to go through its alarms. He stated there has been a further alarm on this river today.

M. Meehan drew attention to the NIWA report relating to the Callery River, which is attached to his report. He stated that as a result of the information contained in this report Council has not installed any monitoring equipment at the site because the timeframe between the dam failure and the water reaching the bridge would not allow for any warning. M. Meehan advised that the NIWA report advises that the effects are a lot more minor than initially thought.

M. Meehan reported that the final results for air quality in Reefton are now to hand. He advised that in earlier years slight variations have been recorded but MfE have now put out some guidance for exceedences and this Council now reports the same way as every other council in the country.

Cr Robb asked if there is a trigger for evacuation in the Franz Josef catchment. M. Meehan advised that the Westland District Council has an evacuation plan in place for the Franz Josef and the south side area and this council advises Westland District Council on what is required. C. Ingle advised that the role of this council is floodwarning and we do not take this as far as the civil defence decision to evacuate, which is the responsibility of the district council. C. Ingle also advised that the diagram on page 21 of the agenda shows some old information, and the stopbank has since been upgraded and council is now more comfortable knowing that this stopbank would not overtop since the upgrade. T. Scott asked M. Meehan if anything has been done to protect the southern stopbanks should the dam fail. M. Meehan responded that there are different scenarios if the dam should burst, it could be gradual or a sudden burst. He advised that the information we have from NIWA advises that there should not be too much concern regarding rising of water but it should be kept a careful eye on. M. Meehan advised that other authorities such as NZTA and DoC have been alerted to this matter. M. Meehan stated that Council's River Engineer has looked at this area and he is comfortable with it and the information currently to hand advises that it is only a 0.6M rise. M. Meehan stated that there is anecdotal information from the 1990's that this has occurred before and it amounted to nothing and it was a similar sized lake. Cr Scarlett stated that to his knowledge there has never been a dam burst on the West Coast. He advised that there were concerns for the Buller River during the 1967 Inangahua earthquake and the dam formed at that time gradually degraded.

Cr Davidson commented on the new Freedom Camping Bylaw which allows camping anywhere in the West Coast district as long as there is not a sign saying no camping.

Moved (Cummings / Scarlett) *that this report is received.*

Carried

5.1.2 CIVIL DEFENCE AND REGIONAL TRANSPORT REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising the new Civil Defence and Emergency Management computer system (EMIS) has now gone live. He advised that a staff member from this council and one from Grey District Council have attended the training for this new system. C. Ingle advised that the new system is based on an Internet system and the theory is if everyone is using the same information on the Internet then there is no need for replication with writing situation reports.

C. Ingle advised that a positive response has been received from Z Energy relating to fuel storage on the West Coast. He stated that Z Energy believe that there is sufficient contingency in place to bring fuel into the region from several sources and several road routes but they are relying on road transport. C. Ingle advised that Z Energy have offered to have further discussions on how emergency fuel storage could be developed. C. Ingle stated that costs are high in this area and therefore council would need to discuss this prior to taking the matter further. C. Ingle advised that it is difficult to gauge how much fuel would be needed to store and it would depend on the type of event. Discussion ensued on the options for getting fuel to the West Coast during an emergency event.

Moved (Birchfield / Davidson) *that this report be received.*

Carried

5.1.3 WORKING TOGETHER AGREEMENT – ANNUAL REPORT 2011

C. Ingle spoke to this report advising that this report is Council’s annual assessment of where the Working Together Agreement has taken both Council and Westland Milk Products. C. Ingle advised that the agreement has been in place for five years and is essentially our own Fonterra Accord. C. Ingle stated that this agreement is working very well and particularly over the last 12 months where huge improvements have been made towards environmental goals within the dairy sector. C. Ingle drew attention to the bullet points in the report and stated that the partnership approach is working extremely well.

Moved (Robb / Birchfield) *that this report be received.*

Carried

5.2 CONSENTS AND COMPLIANCE GROUP

5.2.1 CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report in C. Dall’s absence advising that C. Dall had been asked by the Environment Court to attend the hearing for the appeals on the variation regarding Wetlands as he is the person that would be charged with implementing the Plan provisions.

C. Ingle asked to take the report as read and offered to answer any questions from Council. Cr Chinn asked if Mr G. Tripe, who has lodged a resource consent application to disturb the bed of the Waiho River associated with construction of a gravel bund and formation of diversion channels, lives in Franz Josef. M. Meehan advised that Mr Tripe is both a resident and a ratepayer in the Lower Waiho rating district. M. Meehan advised that these are small scale river works. T. Scott asked why is RC10217 a non-notified resource consent. C. Ingle advised that he would ask C. Dall to email T. Scott with the rationale behind that decision.

Moved (Scarlett / Birchfield) *that the October 2011 report of the Consents Group be received.*

Carried

5.2.2 COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to this report in C. Dall’s absence. He advised that the source of stormwater discharge into the Hokitika River has been identified. C. Ingle reported that council staff in conjunction with staff from Westland District Council found that this discharge relates to a stone carving operation in Hokitika. C. Ingle advised that steps have been taken to avoid further discharges and this matter has now been resolved. C. Ingle advised that although there were a lot of complaints during the reporting period most were easily resolved.

Cr Scarlett drew attention the infringement notice for earthworks causing dirty water at Reefton and a similar complaint for a waterway discharge relating to coal mining. Cr Scarlett asked why was a gold mining operation issued with an infringement notice where water was involved. Cr Scarlett asked why is an abatement notice issued and then an infringement notice. C. Ingle offered to follow this up with C. Dall and get back to Cr Scarlett as he is unsure of the background to these cases. Cr Birchfield is concerned at the number of complaints coming through and is worried that we are becoming a nation of whingers.

Moved (Scarlett / Birchfield) *that the October 2011 report for the Compliance Group be received.*

Carried

6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 10.56 a.m.

.....
Chairman
.....
Date

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Resource Management Committee Meeting 7 November
 Prepared by: Michael Meehan, Planning and Environment Manager
 Date: 29 October 2011
Subject: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT

Wetlands

The Environment Court resumed proceedings on 10 October 2011 to hear evidence from the final planning witness from Forest and Bird. The Court also asked Colin Dall to attend to provide further advice on the way in which the rules in the Proposed Land and Riverbed Management Plan would work for the management of wetlands on the West Coast.

The Court intends to release an interim decision later this year, followed by a final decision.

NES for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health

The National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NES) has been agreed to by Cabinet, with Regulations coming into effect on 12 January 2012. The purpose of the NES is to ensure that land affected by contaminants in soil is appropriately identified and assessed at the time of being developed, and, if necessary, remediated to make the land safe for human use. When a property being developed is potentially affected by contaminants in the soil, the NES will require that it be investigated and made safe from a human health perspective before allowing its intended use. The Regulations consists of planning rules and technical soil contaminant values for assessing and managing soil contaminants. Planning rules include:

- Permitted rules for removing underground petroleum storage tanks, and small scale, temporary soil disturbance and sampling;
- A controlled rule for land disturbance where the risk does not exceed the Soil Contamination Value (SCV) for the intended land use;
- A restricted discretionary rule for land disturbance where the risk to human health from soil contamination exceeds the relevant SCV.

Staff will further assess if changes need to be made to the Proposed Regional Land and Water Plan to give effect to the NES, and advise Council in due course.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Bill

On 5 October 2011 the Government introduced the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Bill to Parliament. The Bill is intended to replace the Historic Places Act 1993, and seeks to:

- Improve the Historic Places Trusts' governance structure and operation;
- Rebalance heritage values with private ownership values;
- Introduce emergency provisions to future-proof archaeological consenting in the event of natural disasters;
- Better align archaeological provisions with the RMA to be more efficient

Submission on Environmental Reporting Bill

Following the circulation of a draft among Councillors, Council lodged its submission on the Ministry for the Environment's (MFE) discussion document on the proposed Environmental Reporting Bill on 18 October 2011. Council is supportive of undertaking national environmental monitoring provided the government makes funding available to undertake the work. Council believe further analysis is required by the Ministry to identify a monitoring framework, potential costs for regional councils, and other possible tools to deliver national environmental monitoring. A copy of the submission is attached at the end of this report.

Natural Hazards

Council received the final two Envirolink funded reports concerning the establishment of a Fault Avoidance Zone (FAZ) along the length of the Alpine Fault.

The initial report mapped the alpine fault and advised on a FAZ for full length of the West Coast

region. This also identified the need for more detailed work at Franz Josef, being the only built-up /urban area the fault passes through. This was completed in March 2010 and meetings held with West Coast Lifelines Group, Buller, Grey and Westland District Councils, West Coast Regional Council and The Department of Conservation. Rob Langridge, GNS presented to these meetings.

The second report specifically looking at Franz Josef provides more detailed mapping for this area. Council has received this report and forwarded to Westland District Council who will use the report for planning purposes.

Both reports will be circulated among Councillors and made available on the Council website.

RECOMMENDATION

That this report is received.

Michael Meehan
Planning and Environment Manager



THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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17 October 2011

Submission on proposed
Environmental Reporting Bill
Ministry for the Environment
PO Box 10362
Wellington 6143

Our Reference: 06-230

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on "Measuring Up: Environmental Reporting - Discussion Document"

The West Coast Regional Council (the Council) appreciates the opportunity to submit on the "Measuring Up: Environmental Reporting – Discussion Document".

Council is supportive of improving national environmental reporting, provided funding is made available to undertake this additional work. Government assistance is not mentioned in the discussion document, which raises concerns over the cost implications to our ratepayers of undertaking additional environmental monitoring for the purposes of national reporting.

In addition, we do not agree with the views in the discussion document that there is a problem with inconsistency between regional councils' monitoring programmes, and that they require standardising.

Further work is needed by the Ministry to identify what monitoring for national reporting may be required from regional councils, along with the estimated cost impact of this, before any decision is made on regional monitoring tools.

This matter has significant implications for the Council. Therefore, we wish to be kept informed throughout the process to further participate in the development of any potential form of national reporting requirement.

Yours faithfully

Chris Ingle
Chief Executive Officer

WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON "MEASURING UP: ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING – A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT"

Background – the West Coast Environment

The West Coast is a mountainous region with steep catchments and a long narrow coastline spanning 600km. It is easily the wettest region in New Zealand with annual rainfall ranging from 2 - 12 metres per annum. The annual rainfall on the West Coast makes this region significantly different to that of the South Island's east coast, and virtually all other parts of New Zealand. There are numerous lakes and rivers in the region due to the regular and prolific rainfall.

The West Coast has a population of 32,000 sparsely scattered throughout the region. Of the 23,000km², or 2,300,000 hectares in the region, the Department of Conservation (DOC) manages 1,937,124 hectares (84.2 percent). There is limited resource use and environmental impact on land administered by DOC. The Council has a small rating base as a result of the quantity of land under the administration of DOC and does not receive rates from 84 percent of the region.

General Comments

Consistently good quality environmental monitoring is important for identifying trends. Good information assists councils to better target environmental management actions. However, good information comes at a cost, and the government needs to carefully consider the financial implication of any requirement for regional councils to undertake additional monitoring for national environmental reporting.

Council questions the need for regions to be consistent in all areas of their environmental monitoring. While there are similarities between regions where standardisation may be achievable, each region has vastly different environmental information needs, according to their particular environmental issues. Specific monitoring needs are influenced by each region's climate, topography, population, and types of resource use.

To expand on these comments, this submission focuses on matters relating to the Councils environmental monitoring programme, and is presented in four sections:

1. Outline of Councils' monitoring programme;
2. Rationale behind Councils' monitoring programme;
3. Concerns about cost implications of national information requirements; and,
4. Other comments on the discussion document, mostly on standardising regional council monitoring, and a brief comment on the role of national reporting.

1. West Coast Regional Council's monitoring programme

The Council has a raft of monitoring programmes developed in response to the resource management issues of the Region. These include:

Lake Brunner Water Quality

Lake Brunner is an iconic feature on the West Coast, popular for fishing, swimming, yachting, jet boating, and kayaking. In recognition of its significance to the Region, it is given priority in Council's monitoring programme. Additional water quality monitoring is undertaken in the Lake as past monitoring has shown that water quality is declining. It is also one of two lakes identified as being under pressure from dairy farming.

Monitoring has indicated that phosphorus is the limiting factor in the Lake. This is due in part to the depth of the Lake and its temperature layers. Monitoring has been increased to monthly intervals, and includes testing other variables to gain an understanding of the impacts on the Lake and how the Council's planning framework is managing adverse effects. Council has recently proposed new planning provisions to address declining water quality in the catchment.

State of the Environment (SOE) Surface Water Quality

Council monitors 41 sites for physical, chemical, and bacteriological water quality variables, as well as periphyton and macroinvertebrate communities. Sites are sampled four to six times per year. Eleven of these sites are reference sites, eight of which have a corresponding 'impact' site downstream. An additional five sites are sampled as part of NIWA's National River Water Quality Network. An SOE report is produced every three years summarising monitoring results. Attached is a copy of our 2011 SOE Surface Water Quality Monitoring Report.

Bathing Beach Monitoring

Twenty freshwater and coastal bathing beach sites are sampled for faecal coliforms and enterococci ten times over a three-month summer period, from November to February. This is incorporated into Council's SOE surface water quality monitoring programme.

SOE Groundwater Quality

Eight wells are monitored for water quality as part of the National Groundwater Monitoring Programme. Council also collects water level data from these eight wells, and 22 other wells.

Hydrological flows and levels

The five main rivers adjoining the largest populated towns are monitored for flow and rainfall. There are 17 hydrometric sites which transmit information to Council's office, where a flood alarm system is triggered to forewarn when river levels rise and pose a flooding threat to these communities.

SOE Air Quality

Air quality is intensively monitored in Reefton over winter. This town has the poorest air quality of any large town on the West Coast and has therefore been accorded the highest priority for monitoring. It has been identified as an Airshed under the National Environmental Standard (NES) for Air Quality, having recurring exceedances of the NES due to a combination of an inversion layer, predominantly older and poorly insulated housing stock, and open fires burning coal.

2. Rationale for our monitoring programme

The scale of the Council's environmental monitoring programme is primarily limited by financial resources. The current 2011/2012 Annual Plan sets out the Environmental Monitoring budget and the Council's prospective annual income from general rates. A copy of this information is attached. Council allocates approximately \$766,000 on environmental monitoring (excluding compliance monitoring and expenditure on monitoring equipment), out of an estimated ratepayer income of \$1,980,000. This means Council is spending approximately 39 percent of ratepayer's money on monitoring. If the Council had a higher income, it is likely that additional monitoring would be undertaken where appropriate. Other regional councils with more resources may have more comprehensive SOE monitoring programmes, for example, more frequent SOE surface water quality monitoring, and this is something that the Council would likely increase with additional resourcing.

Monitoring activities are prioritised according to where the greatest resource quality and quantity issues are. The Council has focused on freshwater quality monitoring because this resource experiences the most widespread environmental effect as a result of mining, dairy farming, forestry, and stormwater and sewage effluent discharges.

In terms of high flow monitoring for flood hazards, the Council has a function under the Civil Defence and Emergency Management legislation to be prepared and able to provide warning to communities in regards to natural hazards.

Each regional council has a range of reasons for what they do and do not monitor. While these rationales may not be explicit in regional SOE reporting, they are in most instances a legitimate basis for the management of local environmental issues. Any requirement to standardise regional

monitoring must have some flexibility that recognises and allows for regional variations. On the West Coast, there are several areas that Council does not undertake environmental monitoring in for a variety of reasons. These include:

Other freshwater quality

Large areas of the West Coast, mainly on land administered by DOC, have little or no human activity. As a result, the quality of the environment in these areas is high with none or few pressures and effects from resource use.

It is also more efficient to avoid the duplication of monitoring undertaken by other agencies. NIWA, for example, monitor water quality on the West Coast as part of their national monitoring programmes. This information is shared with the Council and Council integrate its own regional water quality monitoring with this work. It would be pointless duplicating this for regional monitoring purposes.

Coastal water quality

There is relatively little development in the West Coast coastal marine area to justify undertaking other coastal water quality monitoring. The small number of discharges in the coastal marine area are into open coastal water with a high dilution and assimilation rate. There are no heavy industry discharges into sheltered coastal water or estuaries that could potentially have serious environmental effects. The two West Coast ports are small, mainly fishing ports, and are located on large-flow rivers above the coastal marine area. As a result, any minor discharges are diluted by the time they enter the coastal marine area.

Air quality

Ambient air quality monitoring is not undertaken in any other towns besides Reefton over the winter months. This is because of the relatively small concentrations of population and there being no inversion layers in other towns. There is also no clear evidence of health effects from winter air emissions to justify giving further ambient air quality monitoring a higher priority.

Biodiversity

It would be inefficient for this Council to monitor biodiversity when other agencies have expertise in this area. DOC has a core function for protecting biodiversity and they monitor threatened species, habitat populations and locations. Although regional councils now have a function for maintaining indigenous biodiversity through Plan provisions, which must be monitored for their effectiveness, the Council simply does not have the staff expertise or resources to undertake this. If the government requires regional councils to monitor biodiversity maintenance, the Council would have to request the information from DOC and forward it to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, which amounts to double-handling.

Land use

SOE monitoring of land is difficult for this Council to justify as a priority. The 2007 National SOE Report identified that the main soil health issues were pasture compaction, nitrogen and phosphorus build-up, and soil intactness of erosion-prone hill country. Neither of the first two issues are a significant problem throughout the West Coast. Regarding the third issue, there is little hill country in pastoral land with the soil type referred to in the report on the West Coast.

Contaminated sites

For Sites Associated with Hazardous Substances (SAHS) on the West Coast, contaminants are not currently causing significant adverse environmental impact, so there are no serious problems to warrant regular monitoring. Any use or change to the site requires further assessment by a developer.

3. Concerns about cost implications of national monitoring requirements

The Council's primary concern with the requirement to undertake additional monitoring for national reporting is the potential additional cost. Regional councils have a mandate under section 35 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) to undertake environmental monitoring to assist with carrying out their functions effectively. This work is primarily funded by local ratepayers who may not see the benefit in funding greater amounts of monitoring to satisfy national and international information needs that have no benefit to the local populace. The cost implications cannot be imposed onto councils without removing the democratic rights of ratepayers to submit on the Annual Plan spending, which is a central tenet of the Local Government Act process. Additional cost for national reporting is a government cost, not a ratepayer cost.

Some of the Councils monitoring investigations are only able to be undertaken with the assistance of government Envirolink funding, however, Envirolink does not cover data collection deemed to be part of Council's core functions. The limiting factor for the Council to do further regional or national monitoring is clearly the amount and scope of government assistance available, because the Councils rateable income is so small.

The Council is happy to assist government with meeting its international reporting obligations, however any costs of that must not be unfairly imposed on the very small West Coast ratepayer base. If the government wants the Council to do other monitoring for national reporting, then this will require funding from government to do this.

The assessment criteria E on page 15, that the option chosen to improve monitoring for national reporting must be **cost efficient**, is supported. A further statement should be added to these criteria, that any additional monitoring that is required for national reporting, but is not needed for regional-level reporting, needs to be government funded. This is particularly relevant for less well resourced councils.

On page 19 of the document, the option to amend regulation-making powers under the RMA to require local authorities to monitor the same environmental aspects is ticked as meeting the cost efficient criteria. This is presumptuous and premature, as the document further states that the costs to local authorities have not yet been identified. There is no recognition of the cost implications for **less well resourced** councils, or that government will need to provide assistance to these councils. A more thorough assessment is needed to justify the claim of being cost-efficient to require regional councils to monitor the same environmental variables.

The Council agrees with the Waikato and Taranaki Regional Councils' submissions, in that it is essential that a monitoring framework is developed and agreed to first, so a proper cost benefit analysis can then be done to determine the actual cost to regional councils of aligning or redesigning their regional monitoring programmes to support national reporting requirements. Although the discussion document is written at a high level, details about what national monitoring may be required, and the likely costs, needs to be made available now to regional councils for their consideration. Doing a full cost benefit analysis after deciding to proceed with the regulations is not good decision making.

4. Other comments on the discussion document

Standardising regional council monitoring

The Council disagrees with statements in the discussion document that differences between regional councils monitoring programmes are inconsistent, and a problem.

Requiring all regional councils to monitor the same parameters may potentially be a waste of resources if a particular parameter is not relevant to an environmental issue in a region. For example, if the suggested Bill requires nitrogen monitoring in lakes with adjoining farmland, based on the experience with Lake Rotorua and other North Island lakes affected by nitrogen runoff, this will be a waste of monitoring resources for Lake Brunner, as the problem with that Lake is

phosphorus. Furthermore, although phosphorus and nitrogen are referred to as examples of freshwater monitoring variables (page 24), these are not terribly important parameters to measure for West Coast rivers, as there is seldom any significant periphyton growth resulting from high nutrient levels. This Council prefers to monitor periphyton, clarity, e.coli, pH, temperature, ammonical nitrogen, and invertebrates.

Impacts on estuaries is another example of why regional differences in monitoring variables is appropriate. In Auckland, some inshore marine estuaries are under pressure from contaminants associated with industrial activity. In other regions, estuaries are adversely affected by sediment runoff or nutrients rather than industrial contaminants. On the West Coast, none of these contaminants are likely to have as significant an impact as in other regions.

In the case of hydrological monitoring, in the Canterbury region water allocation is a large focus because of the drier climate and water demands proportional to the resource available. In contrast, allocation is barely an issue on the West Coast due to the higher rainfall and topography.

Comparing air quality monitoring with water quality monitoring is not a valid comparison. The common variable measured for air quality (10 micron particles), and the monitoring method, is simple in comparison to the multiple facets of water quality such as temperature, deposited and suspended sediment, toxicants, pathogens, and the ways to assess them.

The Council agrees that air quality monitoring methods are more consistent between regions due to the requirements of the Air Quality National Environmental Standard. It is noted that the government has funded all of this Council's set-up costs to monitor Reefton air quality, including purchasing the BAM. This was the only way the Council has been able to meet the NES air quality monitoring requirement.

There are no examples provided in the discussion document of what is a desired level of consistency. Recent combined regional council efforts have produced the New Zealand Land and Water website which provides continually updated information on water quality state and trends across multiple spatial scales, including nationally. It would be helpful to have some comments in the discussion document on whether existing reporting tools such as this website assist with national reporting needs.

There is insufficient justification in the discussion document to proceed with drafting a Bill requiring consistency amongst regional monitoring programmes. Councils need flexibility to add or omit monitoring sites or use different variables in response to trends of declining or improving environmental quality, amongst other factors. A Bill may not provide this flexibility, and the Council agrees with the Waikato Regional Council submission that other tools such as a National Environmental Standard should be considered as an alternative tool, once a national monitoring framework is agreed to.

Role of national reporting

The Council supports the suggestion to give the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) the role to undertake national SOE reporting. The government's problem is that the national SOE is not reported on, although this is not the regional council's responsibility. Council therefore supports giving the PCE a mandatory role to do five yearly reporting.

5. Summary

In summary, the Councils' submission is that:

- The Council's monitoring programme validly reflects the particular environmental issues on the West Coast, and the limited amount of resources available to undertake the monitoring.
- Council is concerned about the potential additional costs of the proposed requirement to undertake monitoring for national reporting.

- Council is agreeable to undertaking monitoring for national environmental reporting provided the government funds it.
- Council does not agree with several of the claims made in the discussion document about variations between regional council monitoring being inconsistent and undesirable.
- The parameters for national monitoring to be undertaken by regional councils should be developed, and a more thorough cost-benefit analysis done, before any requirement for regional councils to do the work is drafted and notified for submissions.
- The national monitoring framework and proper cost-benefit analysis should then inform the decision on the most appropriate tool, including consideration of an NES.
- Council supports the proposal to give the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment a mandatory role to do five yearly national reporting.

Levels of Service	Performance Targets
Ensure information about sites affected by hazardous substances is available to potential land buyers, and facilitate investigations and clean up activities.	Maintain the 'Sites Associated with Hazardous Substances' (SAHS) database, ensure District Councils and land buyers have access to up to date information and assist landowners to securing external funding to investigate or remediate high priority SAHS sites, where landowners are interested and funding is available.
Continue to provide flood warnings in accordance with the flood warning procedure manual to assist communities to assess risk of impending floods, for the five rivers (Karamea, Buller, Grey, Hokitika, Waiho) that might flood our larger urban communities.	Provide a continuous flood monitoring service for the five rivers monitored and respond in accordance with the flood-warning manual. Ensure data on these river levels is available on the Council website and Info line (data is updated 12 hourly, and during floods 3 hourly at least).
	Review the flood-warning manual annually and liaise with work groups as required.
Publish reports.	Publish on the Council web site a Hydrometric and Meteorological Data Summary Report by December 2011.

Indicative Costs & Sources of Funds

Annual Plan 2010/11		Annual Plan 2011/12	LTCCP 2011/12
Environmental Monitoring			
369058	Hydrology	376571	384254
7785	Groundwater Monitoring	33223	34291
319577	Surface Water Quality Monitoring	313981	317765
21509	Contaminated Sites	15549	15291
20148	Air Quality Monitoring	27012	27252
<u>738077</u>	Total Operating Expenditure	<u>766316</u>	<u>778853</u>
Funding			
738077	General Funds	766316	778853
<u>738077</u>	Total Funding	<u>766316</u>	<u>778853</u>
Capital Expenditure			
60000	Hydrology	60000	36960
13000	Other Equipment	8000	5280
0	Hydrology Storage Shed	15000	0
0	Operations	5000	0
<u>73000</u>		<u>88000</u>	<u>42240</u>
Funding			
73000	Depreciation Funds	88000	42240
<u>73000</u>		<u>88000</u>	<u>42240</u>

Prospective Statement of Comprehensive Income

Annual Plan 2010/11		Annual Plan 2011/12	LTCCP 2011/12
Cost of Services			
384044	Governance	385543	409628
1673900	Consents & Compliance	1811878	1786222
619814	Planning Processes	728157	601198
738077	Environmental Monitoring	766316	778853
134700	Emergency Management	144902	140147
1183535	River & Coastal Protection	1342779	1295109
834899	Regional % Share of Controls	814523	797918
3436463	VCS Business Unit	2312000	2032538
9005432	Total Expenditure	8306098	7841613
Revenue			
1942000	General Rates	1980000	2022000
75000	Penalties	75000	79000
820000	Investment Income	986250	790000
930898	Consents & Compliance	1033727	1031900
104100	Planning Processes	204650	159700
40000	Emergency Management	50000	53000
1087395	River & Coastal Protection	1222557	1208980
650000	Regional % Share of Controls	650000	608000
3950000	VCS Business Unit	2885000	2437500
9599393	Total Revenue	9087184	8390080
593961	Surplus / (-Deficit) from Activities	781086	548467
0	Revaluation of Assets	0	0
593961	Total Comprehensive Income	781086	548467

Annual Plan 2010/11	Summary of Operating Expenditure by Expenditure Type	Annual Plan 2011/12	LTCCP 2011/12
187307	Interest	179208	315350
308632	Depreciation	319598	288055
2776412	Employee benefits	2886885	2705402
5733081	Other operating expenditure	4920407	4532806
9005432	Total Operating Expenditure	8306098	7841613

Prospective Statement of Changes in Equity

Annual Plan 2010/11		Annual Plan 2011/12	LTCCP 2011/12
56084469	Opening Balance	62844301	55580197
593961	Comprehensive Income	781086	548467
56678430	Closing Balance	63625387	58128664

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Resource Management Committee Meeting 7 November 2011
 Prepared by: Stefan Beaumont, Hydrologist
 Date: 29 October 2011
 Subject: **HYDROLOGY & FLOOD WARNING UPDATE**

Data Requests

There were 1 groundwater and 2 rainfall requests that were actioned immediately.

Flood Warning

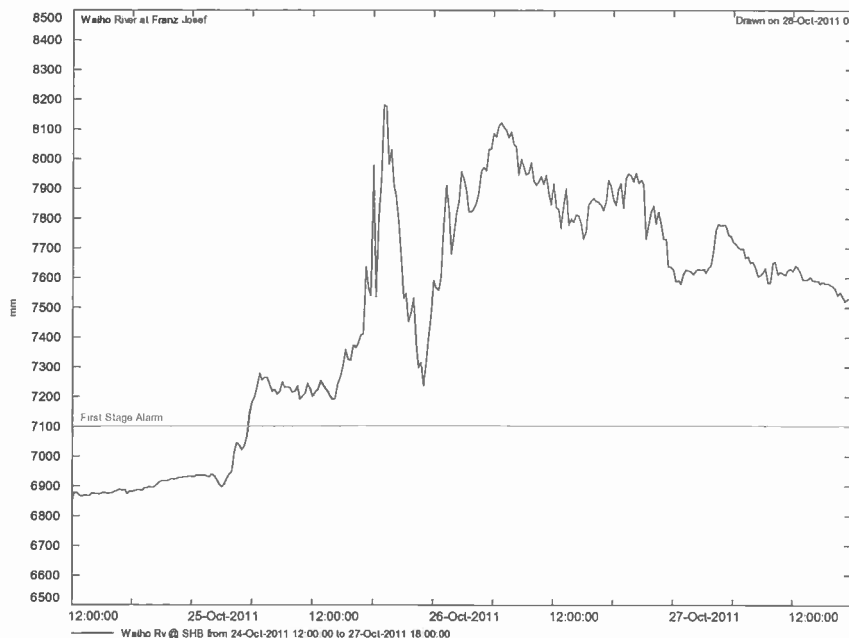
There were two small events and one medium sized event triggering alarms on the Waiho River at Franz Josef this month. The medium sized event on the Waiho River at Franz Josef the 25th October was the product of 250mm of rain in 27 hours

There was also a first stage alarm triggered on the Buller River at Te Kuha. This event was produced from between 50-100mm of rain throughout the catchment.

Site	Time of peak	Peak level	Warning Issued	Alarm threshold
Buller Rv @ Te Kuha	11:20am on 3 rd October	7688 mm	8:40am on 3 rd October	7400mm
Waiho Rv @ bridge	8:45pm on 1 st October	7201 mm	7:45pm on 1 st October	7100mm
Waiho Rv @ bridge	5:30pm on 12 th October	7370 mm	7am on 12 th October	7100mm
Waiho Rv @ bridge	7:15pm on 25 th October	8176 mm	5:45am on 25 th October	7100mm

Callery River Landslide Dam Update

The landslide dam and lake that was identified on the 6th of September 2011 has gone. This is based on an assessment by a Consultant River Engineer undertaking work for the council. The Consultant flew over the Callery River on the 27th of October 2011 and noted the absence of a landslide dam and lake. At this stage it is not certain when the dam failed or whether it was a fast or slow fail but a likely scenario is that the heavy rain event on the 25th October led to its failure. It was not clear from the Waiho River at Franz Josef water level data when the failure had occurred.



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Resource Management Committee Meeting – 8 November 2011
Prepared by: Nichola Costley – Regional Planner
Date: 27 October 2011
Subject: **CIVIL DEFENCE AND REGIONAL TRANSPORT REPORT**

Civil Defence Emergency Management Update

The new Get Ready Get Thru booklet for the West Coast was delivered to each household on the West Coast as an insert to the Messenger on 27 October. The booklet outlines the key hazards on the West Coast and how people can prepare now for such events. It also provides other useful information such as household emergency plan templates.

Regional Transport Update

Councilor Ross Scarlett and Regional Planner Nichola Costley attended the Hearing on the Draft Canterbury Regional Land Transport Strategy to speak in support of the submission made on the document in September.

The main submission point was to highlight the importance of having a Strategy framework which would support the realignment of State Highway 73 between Rough Creek and Mingha Bluff (Arthurs Pass to Klondyke Corner). This is a project that Council has been promoting for several years. An offer of R funding, contingent on the wider approval of the West Coast Regional Transport Committee, was also made in order to assist with bringing the construction date of the project forward.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives this report.

Chris Ingle
Chief Executive

Prepared for: Resource Management Committee
 Prepared by: Colin Dall - Consents & Compliance Manager
 Date: 28 October 2011

Subject: CONSENTS MONTHLY REPORT

CONSENTS

Consents Site Visits from 29 September – 26 October 2011

DATE	NAME, ACTIVITY & LOCATION	PURPOSE
3/10/11	RC7150 – Meridian Energy Ltd, Hydroelectricity power project, Mokihinui River	To view the river and land affected by the project to assist in the preparation of evidence for the appeals before the Environment Court against the consents for project.
7/10/11	RC11210 – Truline Civil Ltd, Gravel extraction, Maruia River	To investigate the site to assess the availability of the gravel resource.
7/10/11	RC11208 – Fulton Hogan Limited, Gravel extraction, Buller River (Organs Island)	To investigate the site to assess the availability of the gravel resource.

Non-Notified Resource Consents Granted from 29 September – 26 October 2011

CONSENT NO. & HOLDER	PURPOSE OF CONSENT
RC07152 B & J Stewart	To undertake earthworks associated with quarrying activities, Rotomanu. To discharge contaminants (dust and diesel fumes) to air from quarrying activities, Rotomanu.
RC10105 RJ & BC Twidle	To discharge treated dairy effluent to land and surface water (farm drain) near DS122, Harihari.
RC10217 Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd	To disturb the bed of Anderson Creek associated with its diversion. To divert water of Anderson Creek.
RC11045 PF Olsen Ltd	To disturb land, including on slopes greater than 25 degrees, associated with the harvesting of exotic forest, land preparation, constructing new sections of road, constructing log processing sites and hauler pads and land based gravel extraction, Hochstetter Forest. To discharge stormwater containing sediment to land from roading, construction of log processing and hauler sites and harvesting and land preparation activities, Hochstetter Forest. To discharge sediment to water as a result of forest harvesting activities and crossings, Hochstetter Forest.
RC11054 C Hooper	To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining and associated activities at Nemona State Forest, within MP50658. To take and use water for alluvial gold mining activities at Nemona State Forest. To discharge sediment-laden water to land in circumstances where it may enter water (tributaries of the Taramakau River). To discharge water containing contaminants (sediments from an alluvial gold mining operation) to water, tributaries of the Taramakau River.

RC11057 Little Paddock (2010) Ltd	<p>To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining at Blue Spur.</p> <p>To take and use water from ponds and Brennans Creek for alluvial gold mining at Blue Spur.</p> <p>To discharge sediment-laden water to land at Blue Spur where it may enter water in Clarkes Creek.</p>
RC11060 Buller District Council	<p>To disturb the bed of the Inangahua River associated with channel diversion.</p> <p>To divert flow of a section of the Inangahua River.</p>
RC11105 Molloy Farms South Westland Ltd	To discharge dairy effluent to land where it may enter water (Purcells Drain) near DS126, Harihari.
RC11117 Notown Gold Ltd	<p>To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining near Notown.</p> <p>To disturb the bed of the Twelve Mile (Ongionui) Creek associated with alluvial gold mining.</p> <p>To disturb the bed of the Twelve Mile (Ongionui) Creek associated with its diversion.</p> <p>To divert water of the Twelve Mile (Ongionui) Creek.</p> <p>To take and use water from the Twelve Mile (Ongionui) Creek for alluvial gold mining activities.</p>
RC11166 G Tripe	<p>To disturb the bed of the Waiho River associated with construction of a gravel bund and formation of "diversion channels".</p> <p>To divert flow of the Waiho River.</p>
RC11174 John Collins RC11183 Buller District Council	<p>To undertake earthworks (including rock removal) near Franz Josef.</p> <p>To undertake earthworks and vegetation clearance including on slopes greater than 25 degrees, Punakaiki Water Treatment Plant.</p>
RC11186 Teronick Mining Ltd	<p>To undertake earthworks associated with alluvial gold mining at Cronadun.</p> <p>To take and use water from groundwater via seepage and surface from ponds for alluvial gold mining at Cronadun.</p> <p>To discharge sediment-laden water to land at Cronadun where it may enter water in Due North Creek.</p>
RC11197 Matt & Carmel O'Regan Family Trust	<p>To disturb the bed of Coal Creek associated with the construction of rock spurs.</p> <p>To disturb the bed of Coal Creek, Brown Creek and the Inangahua River for the purpose of extracting gravel.</p>
RC11198 Ball Developments Ltd	<p>To disturb the dry bed of the Grey River at Omoto for the purpose of extracting gravel.</p> <p>To disturb the dry bed of the Grey River at St Kilda for the purpose of extracting gravel.</p> <p>To disturb the dry bed of the Taramakau River downstream of the SH6 road/rail bridge for the purpose of extracting gravel.</p>
RC11204 Department of Conservation	To discharge contaminants to air associated with abrasive blasting activities, Moonlight bridge.
RC11205 West Coast Regional Council	To disturb the dry bed of the Taramakau River at the Taramakau Settlement for the purpose of extracting gravel.
RC11206 Department of Conservation	To discharge greywater to land from Dillon Hut, Taipo River.

<p>RC11207 Department of Conservation</p>	<p>To disturb the bed of the Fox River for the purpose of providing a walking track.</p> <p>To divert water in the Fox River for the purpose of providing a walking track.</p>
<p>RC11208 Fulton Hogan Ltd</p>	<p>To disturb the dry bed of the Buller River at Organs Island for the purpose of removing gravel.</p>
<p>RC11210 Truline Civil Ltd</p>	<p>To disturb the dry bed of the Maruia River downstream of the SH65 Bridge near Springs Junction for the purpose of gravel extraction.</p>
<p>RC11214 HA Adams</p>	<p>To construct a diversion channel and rock armouring, Hou Hou Creek.</p> <p>To divert water, Hou Hou Creek.</p>
<p>RC11215 SJ & AG Coleman</p>	<p>To discharge treated dairy effluent to land and surface water (an unnamed tributary of Harris Creek) near DS265, Kowhitirangi.</p>

Changes to Consent Conditions Granted from 29 September – 26 October 2011

CONSENT NO, HOLDER & LOCATION	PURPOSE OF CHANGE
<p>RC95022 Westland District Council Ross Landfill</p>	<p>To remove the need to add a layer of topsoil to the existing capping material as the site is being used as a transfer station.</p>
<p>RC03105 Roa Mining Company Ltd Roa Coal Mine</p>	<p>To add a surface water monitoring point.</p>
<p>RC06199 Department of Conservation Near Lake Paringa</p>	<p>To change the discharge area.</p>
<p>RC07102 Roa Mining Company Ltd Roa Coal Mine</p>	<p>To clarify the area for coal mining.</p>
<p>RC09037 D Russ & K Wilson Waimea</p>	<p>To increase the area to be mined.</p>
<p>RC10053 G & S Thompson Waimea Creek</p>	<p>To extend the timeframe during which the bridge can be constructed.</p>
<p>RC10217 Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd Reddale Mine</p>	<p>To change consent conditions and add additional consents for the diversion of Anderson Creek.</p>
<p>RC11166 G Tripe Waiho River</p>	<p>To change the location of the gravel bund for flood protection.</p>

No Limited Notified or Notified Resource Consents were granted from 29 September to 26 October 2011.

Notified Consents Updates & Other Matters

The Consents & Compliance Manager spent a substantial amount of his time during the reporting period preparing his evidence for the appeals before the Environment Court against the consents granted to Meridian Energy Limited for its proposed Mokihinui Hydro Project.

The Consents & Compliance Manager also attended and gave evidence at the Environment Court hearing for the Wetlands Variation appeals held in Christchurch on 10 and 11 October 2011.

Public Enquiries

32 written public enquiries were responded to during the reporting period, including one official information request which was responded to within the required 20 working day period. Of the remaining 31 enquiries, 22 (71.0%) were answered on the same day, 5 (16.1%) the following day, and the remaining 4 (12.9%) no more than 10 working days later.

RECOMMENDATION

That the November 2011 report of the Consents Group be received.

Colin Dall

Consents & Compliance Manager

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Resource Management Committee
 Prepared by: Colin Dall – Consents & Compliance Manager & Phil McKinnel – Compliance Team Leader
 Date: 28 October 2011
 Subject: **COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT**

Site Visits

A total of 38 site visits were undertaken during the reporting period, which consisted of:

Activity	Number of Visits	Fully Compliant (%)
Resource consent monitoring	13	85
Dairy shed inspections	19	84
Mining compliance & bond release	11	64

Included in these totals are 16 complaint site visits in response to complaints.

Specific Issues

Dairy Effluent Discharges: No major issues were identified during the site visits undertaken. Compliance staff continued to work closely with the Westland Milk Products Environmental Team to progress resource consent applications for dairy farmers and resolve problems with discharges.

Solid Energy New Zealand Limited (SENZ): Compliance staff reviewed and certified the management plans for the following SENZ sites during the last reporting period:

- Reddale Mine – Reefton
- No.2 South Cutback – Stockton
- No.1 North Dam – Stockton

Regular inspections of these new activities will commence shortly and occur as frequently as needed throughout the operations.

Whitebait Stands: Whitebait season continues to keep Compliance staff busy with complaints about distances between stands, alignment of stands and river changes affecting stand locations.

A number of inspections have been carried out on popular South Westland rivers, including the Paringa, Jacob and Karangarua Rivers. These inspections were carried in conjunction with Department of Conservation staff.

With the season drawing to a close the focus will be on ensuring that stands are removed within the timeframe allowed by the consents and the affected rivers are left in a tidy state.

Complaints/Incidents between 28 September and 27 October 2011

The following 17 complaints/incidents were received during the reporting period:

Activity	Description	Location	Action/Outcome
Black Sand Mining	Unauthorised removal of black sand.	Hokitika	Complainant will contact the Council if the activity is undertaken again.
Gold Mining	Complaint about waterway running dirty.	Reefton	Attributed to a natural slip which was observed during the site visit.

Earthworks	Complaint about disturbance of riparian margins.	Haast	Site visit undertaken and rules explained to landowner, who has plans to plant the affected area.
Coal Mining	Dust exceedance reported at Stockton Mine.	Stockton	Remedial actions undertaken.
Gravel Extraction	Complaint about gravel extraction location and methods.	Taramakau River	The gravel extractor was extracting gravel in an appropriate method, but was operating outside the consented location.
Unknown Discharge	Complaint about foam in Sawyers Creek.	Greymouth	Creek inspected, but source of foam not found.
Septic Tank Discharge & River Works	Complaint about rock groynes in a river and a septic tank discharge.	Hukarere	Still under investigation.
Spill	Truck accident resulting in a spill of whey protein permeate.	Chesterfield	No adverse effects apparent from spill when inspected.
Slinkskins	Complaint about odour from slinkskin operation.	Karamea	Site visit confirmed that the operation didn't meet the relevant permitted activity rules and so the operator will need to obtain a consent to continue the operation.
Whitebait	Complaint about machinery being used to improve fishing.	Arawhata River	No problems found during site visit.
Whitebait	Complaint about stand located in wrong place.	Jacobs River	Site visit undertaken and stand located.
Whitebait	Complaint about length of whitebait stand.	Taramakau River	Stand length measured and found to be compliant at the time of inspection.
Septic Tank	Complaint about septic tank discharge.	Blackball	Still under investigation.
Unknown Event	Complaint about Larry Creek running dirty (2 complaints received).	Reefton	The creek was inspected and known operations in area visited. No issues found with the operations and it is suspected that a natural slip was the cause of the discolouration.
Clean Fill Operation	Complaint about bund near Omoto impacting on Coal Creek during flood events.	Omoto	The earthworks were complying with resource consent conditions when inspected.
Gold Mining	Complaint about gold mine sediment impacting on Mikonui Lagoon.	Ross	All rivers in area were in high flood and discoloured when inspected.

Formal Enforcement Action

The following abatement notice and 3 infringement notices were issued during the reporting period:

Notice	Activity	Location
Abatement & Infringement	Unauthorised gravel extraction in the Coastal Marine Area.	Cobden
Infringement (x2)	Unauthorised discharge of sediment from a gold mining operation to land where it entered water and contravention of an abatement notice.	Arahura

Two formal warnings were also issued during the reporting period.

MINING

Work Programmes

The Council received the following 2 work programmes during the last reporting period, both of which were processed within the 20 day timeframe.

Date	Mining Authorisation	Holder	Location
14/10/11	RC10273	Blacktopp Mining	Marsden
17/10/11	RC04137	Gavin McKay (Whyte Gold)	Quinns Terrace

Bonds Received & Bond Releases

The following four mining bonds were received:

Mining Authorisation	Holder	Location	Amount
RC10217	Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd	Reddale	\$3,835,000
RC10253	Blacktopp Mining	Waimea	\$6,000
RC10273	Blacktopp Mining	Marsden	\$6,000
RC11145	Astral Mining Ltd	Blackwater	\$6,000

OIL SPILL RESPONSE

The Council has received a number of requests for trained spill responders to assist in the Rena incident in Tauranga, and the following responders have assisted in the response effort to date:

Michael Meehan – Planning

Tony Ridge – Operations

Jonny Horrox – Wildlife

Phil McKinnel – Shoreline assessment

Robbie Blankenstein – Aerial observation

Ivan Fishburn – Operations

Chris Hayden – Operations

Ian Haussmann (Greymouth Port) – Operations

RECOMMENDATION

That the November 2011 report of the Compliance Group be received.

Colin Dall

Consents & Compliance Manager

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Resource Management Committee
 Prepared by: Councillor Andrew Robb and Phil McKinnel, Compliance Team Leader
 Date: 26 October 2011
 Subject: **Proposed Alternative Environmental Justice Policy**

Background

Following a conversation initiated by Councillor Andrew Robb with a senior Environment Canterbury official, further research has been undertaken on the development of an Alternate Environmental Justice Policy for the West Coast Regional Council. It is envisaged that this new Policy, if accepted by Council, would form part of the Council's Enforcement Policy.

Similar to the Restorative Justice process, which is already in use, the new Alternative Environmental Justice approach is designed to allow the West Coast Regional Council to exercise prosecutorial discretion to resolve environmental offending without the offender gaining a conviction and a criminal record, while still ensuring timely remediation of the harm they have caused to the environment.

Applicability of the new Policy

Experience has shown that, in some cases, environmental offending is the result of ignorance of the rules or lack of care rather than outright deceptiveness or deliberate actions. Sometime in these cases the environmental impact is deemed to be more serious than what would warrant an infringement or abatement notice. However, exposing the offender to the full prosecution process may be too harsh. It is in these 'grey areas' where the Alternative Environmental Justice method could come into play.

The Proposed Alternative Environmental Justice Process

The current prosecution process follows the following steps:

1. A Compliance Officer discovers the offending and an investigation is carried out.
2. An enforcement discussion is held between the investigating officer, the Compliance Team Leader and the Consents & Compliance Manager, and a staff Enforcement Decision is made.
3. If the decision in (2) above is to prosecute, then a recommendation report is prepared for Council.
4. A decision is made by Council whether to prosecute or not.

Following step 4 above, the new Alternative Environmental Justice Policy would come into play:

5. At the same time as charges are laid with the Court; an Alternative Environmental Justice offer would be made to the defendant, and if accepted by the defendant, the Council would apply to the Court for an adjournment to court proceedings.
6. An Alternative Environmental Justice conference would then be undertaken, facilitated by an independent agency.
7. The conference would result in an agreement on the remedial actions and timeframes for completion. If the conference fails to reach agreement, the court process resumes.
8. Once all agreed actions are completed, Council applies to the Court to withdraw all charges.

Eligibility Criteria for Alternative Environmental Justice pathway

The defendant must intimate a guilty plea before being offered the opportunity to follow the Alternative Environmental Justice pathway. The scale of the environmental impact is important but more important is the attitude of the defendant towards the offending and their compliance history. If an offender has a history of offences they may not be offered the opportunity to follow the Alternative Environmental Justice pathway.

Other criteria include:

- Culpability, the level of intent involved in commissioning of the offence;
- Degree and type of deterrence required;
- The defendant's personal factors. For example age and health may be taken into consideration;
- The views of any victim directly affected by the offending are also important (if there is a victim)
- All Council investigation costs must be met by the offender.

The Solicitor General's guidelines for prosecution decisions also contain relevant criteria that will apply in some cases.

Offering Alternative Environmental Justice

There are a range of complexities around RMA prosecution cases, including offences that have been carried out by more than one offender. Offender's culpabilities may be different so it may be that one person can be eligible for Alternative Environmental Justice, whereas another offender may not.

The offer of Alternative Environmental Justice will be made in writing at the time of service of the court summons. Acceptance must also be made in writing to Council by the defendant. Both parties retain the right to remove themselves from process for any reason, hence the need for charges to be laid at the outset.

Likely reasons for withdrawal from the Alternative Environmental Justice process include:

- The defendant may believe the requirements of Alternative Environmental Justice are too onerous and may consider that a hearing in court is their best option.
- The defendant may wish to reverse their intimation of guilt.
- Council may wish to withdraw if the defendant is not acting in good faith.

The Alternative Environmental Justice Conference

Similar to the Restorative Justice conference, this would be facilitated by an independent agency that is listed as a provider of Restorative Justice conferences with the Ministry of Justice. This will maintain transparency and impartiality for all parties involved in the process. The conference participants will include:

1. Conference facilitator
2. Council representatives (Investigating officer plus Consents & Compliance Manager or Team Leader)
3. Defendant, and support person if desired
4. Victim (if any)

The purpose of the Alternative Environmental Justice process is to facilitate the resolution of the offending to the standard where it is no longer in the public interest to proceed with a prosecution. It is up to the defendant to offer measures to address the impact of their offending. The appropriateness of the measures agreed to will be evaluated against the following:

- The proposed remediation measures must be in proportion to the offence.
- The defendant must show remorse.
- Remediation of harm caused should be undertaken by the defendant. It may be appropriate for Council to seek an enforcement order to ensure agreed remediation is fully completed.
- The remediation measures must be able to be completed within a suitable timeframe.
- The defendant must demonstrate an improved understanding of the rules relating to their activities (they may be able to show this by applying for resource consent or installing best practice systems).
- At the conclusion of this process the defendant should understand why their action was an offence and how to avoid similar incidents occurring in the future.
- General deterrence – the process is public and transparent and the publicity of the process and the remediation undertaken helps to educate the general public about environmental accountability.
- It may be appropriate for the defendant to compensate victims affected by the offending and non-financial reparation should be considered. If a community is affected then a donation to that community may be appropriate, but again this process needs to be transparent.
- The remediation measures must not provide any direct benefit to Council

Meeting the Council's Costs

The defendant will be liable for all the costs associated with the process. This includes the investigation and legal costs leading to the decision to undertake Alternative Environmental Justice and the costs associated with the Council attending the Conference (including the independent facilitator costs).

If one of the parties withdraws from the process then the defendant cannot be held liable for costs. However if this was to occur then Council would incorporate these costs into any sentencing submissions during the court process that follows.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Alternative Environmental Justice Policy outlined above, and incorporates it into the Council's Enforcement Policy.

COUNCIL MEETING

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that an **ORDINARY MEETING** of the West Coast Regional Council will be held in the Offices of the West Coast Regional Council, 388 Main South Road, Greymouth on **Monday, 7h November 2011** commencing on completion of the Resource Management Committee Meeting.

A.R. SCARLETT
CHAIRPERSON

C. INGLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

<u>AGENDA NUMBERS</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBERS</u>	<u>BUSINESS</u>
1.		APOLOGIES
2.		PUBLIC FORUM
3.		MINUTES
	1 – 4	3.1 Minutes of Council Meeting 11 October 2011
4.		REPORTS
	5 - 6	4.1 Planning & Environmental Manager's Report on Engineering Operations
	7 – 10	4.1.2 Saltwater Creek New River Opinion Survey Results
	11 – 13	4.2 Corporate Services Manager's Report
	14 – 15	4.2.1 Setting of Rate for New Whataroa Rating District
	16 – 17	4.2.2 Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2012
5.	18 – 20	CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (VERBAL)
6.0	21 – 24	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT
7.		GENERAL BUSINESS

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2011,
AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH,
COMMENCING AT 10.57 A.M.****PRESENT:**

R. Scarlett (Chairman), B. Chinn, A. Robb, D. Davidson, A. Birchfield, I. Cummings

IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Ingle (Chief Executive Officer), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), M. Meehan (Planning and Environmental Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *that the apology from T. Archer be accepted.*

Carried

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Birchfield / Cummings) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 13 September 2011, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:**4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT**

M. Meehan spoke to his report advising that final price for the Franz Josef rating district emergency works is \$173,246.48. He stated that both he and the rating district are happy with the job and Westland Contractors Ltd did a very good job. M. Meehan reported that the contract in the Taramakau rating district for the raising of the hook groyne has been completed. He advised that the Taramakau rating district meeting was held yesterday and Cr Cummings was able to see these works.

M. Meehan reported that a meeting was held last week with ratepayers in the proposed Punakaiki River rating district. He advised that the ratepayers in this area were grateful for the work done by Council but they do not wish to proceed with the formation of a rating district at this time. M. Meehan advised that the meeting would like to follow up on this matter in a year's time should there be a change in the area or further erosion.

M. Meehan reported that there has been a lot of work going on in Council quarries. He stated that good progress is being made with rock available and emergency stockpiling of rock. M. Meehan reported that an opinion survey has been sent out to ratepayers in the Saltwater Creek / New River proposed rating district.

Moved (Birchfield / Cummings) *that this report be received.*

Carried

4.1.2 PROPOSED WHATAROA RATING DISTRICT

M. Meehan spoke to this report advising that there was an attempt to form a rating district in 2009 but there was not sufficient support for council to form a rating district at that time. M. Meehan advised that during the past two or three months residents have come to council asking council to revisit this, as they now believe that there is sufficient support. M. Meehan advised that a ratepayer in this area carried out an informal survey and this revealed renewed support for a rating district. M. Meehan advised that council then sent out a survey to the proposed rating district and the response is 68% in favour but one vote that was against the rating district was in favour of doing the emergency works proposed but did not want the rating district to extend out to further works and especially capital works. If this vote were to be taken in favour the result would then be 14 out of 19, which is 74% in favour. M. Meehan advised that some comments received from the survey form, from those that said no, were uncertainty over the boundaries of the rating district, whether the rating district will be just for emergency works outlined in attached plan or whether the rating district extends out to capital works further downstream. M. Meehan noted that there are some properties within the proposed rating district that are lifestyle properties and they do not have the ability to generate income from the land. M. Meehan advised that some properties are tied into longterm leases and there is no ability to recoup the money from the lease. M. Meehan stated that some people thought that the rating district would be too big to manage, so wanted further information and further investigations, some thought that the costs were not fair to properties further away from the river as opposed to properties closer to the river. M. Meehan advised that these comments have been looked into by council, he stated that the consultation period is much faster than normal but this is due to the concern of some people in the area that the works are required immediately. M. Meehan advised that the works have been identified, the community is aware of them and he believes that delaying the formation of the rating district is not the right thing to do and that by getting on with the formation of the rating district Council is going to help the community out. M. Meehan advised that there are two classes in the rating district, Class A and Class B, Class B is further away from the river so they pay a proportion less than Class A. M. Meehan advised that it is proposed that the rating district first deals with the emergency works that have been identified and then at their first meeting and subsequent meetings they work out what they would like to do longterm, whether they wish to tackle works further downstream or whether they just want to deal with the current issue and keep the river on track in the first 1.5 km near the bridge. M. Meehan advised that they may wish to do what other rating districts do and allow people to do capital works on their frontage and if these works are done to the appropriate standard then the rating district could take over the maintenance of these capital works after a settling down period. M. Meehan advised that if the recommendation goes through today then the first rating district meeting would be held this Thursday 13th of October. M. Meehan advised that some of the potential members of the rating district have already sent in cheques to fund the works. It was noted that all those who have sent in cheques are in favour of the works. M. Meehan advised that \$60,000 has been received to date.

Cr Chinn referred to the aerial photo showing the urgent works near the bridge. He stated that number 4 groyne in the aerial photograph is to be extended out 10 metres with 500 tonne of extra rock, he stated that the people on the north bank are against this and also number 5 groyne. Cr Chinn said that the decisions on capital works does not get decided on until Thursday and he feels that some people further down from these emergency spurs may want their capital works paid for and others might not be in favour of this. Cr Chinn wishes to move that no capital works be done in this proposal but just to top up the existing damaged groynes without any extensions included. Cr Chinn asked if the council has consents in place for the new spurs. Cr Scarlett clarified that all that council is doing at the moment is voting to form the rating district for emergency works and any subsequent works will be taken to Thursday's meeting for the ratepayers to decide on. M. Meehan advised that all the ratepayers in the proposed rating district have been advised of Thursday's meeting and he will phone them all today to advise them of the outcome of today's meeting and remind them of Thursday's meeting. M. Meehan advised Cr Chinn that there are no resource consents in place for the new works but there are consents in place for the existing works and he will be applying for consents within the timeframe allowed by the RMA for emergency works. Discussion took place on the recommendations. Cr Chinn stated that the rating district would decide on Thursday whether or not they wish to fund capital works. He stated that there could be several million dollars worth of capital works on the Whataroa River. Cr Scarlett suggested that recommendation one is changed to and the works are "other than capital works" to this recommendation. Cr Davidson stated that he is concerned that some people who are supporting the formation of the rating district are doing so on the pretext that the rating district is only going to maintain existing works. Cr Robb clarified that Cr Davidson is concerned that if there was a group of ratepayers, perhaps 60%, that wanted capital works paid for by the whole scheme and that this could

cause dissent amongst the rest of the rating district. Cr Scarlett stated that the rating district could vote for capital works on a case by case basis and if there were major works were identified then a meeting could be called to ascertain whether the rating district could afford to pay for this. M. Meehan confirmed that the rating classes are a 60 / 40 split for class A (60) and class B (40).

C. Ingle advised that the word "primary" is key in the first recommendation as this implies that there is a secondary purpose to the rating district also. He advised that the primary purpose is the existing works within the first 1.5km reach of the river which is what council is deciding on today but there might be secondary or tertiary purposes of the rating district that are revealed at the rating district meeting on Thursday and these would come back to council for confirmation. C. Ingle stated that the word primary gives the rating district some flexibility to go further should they wish to at a later date.

M. Meehan advised that the emergency works have been put out to tender and tenders have been received and prices are ready to be put to the rating district. M. Meehan stated that there will be a lot of discussion about these works at the rating district meeting and capital works will also be discussed but it will be up to the meeting to decide on what they want to do. M. Meehan advised that the number one priority is the three new spurs which is outlined in the attached map and needs protection from erosion but this will be discussed at the rating district meeting. C. Ingle advised that the problem is that the Whataroa River has changed, the works immediately downstream of the bridge have not been maintained up until now and the bend in the river, below the bridge is where the river could break out and affect everyone downstream. C. Ingle stated that this is the area where the three new spurs are required and it is important that the priority works go ahead.

Moved (Chinn / Davidson)

1. *That Council resolves to form a new Whataroa Special Rating District as per the attached map, for the primary purpose of funding the emergency river works indentified in the attached aerial photo of the river within 1.5km of the State Highway Bridge, other than capital works; such will be decided at a later date.*
2. *That Council give 14 days notice of its intention to strike a rate to raise \$100,000, to fund the emergency works as outlined in the attached aerial photo, having satisfied itself that section 23 (3) (a) of the Rating Act applies in this situation.*
3. *That the first meeting of the Whataroa Rating District is scheduled for 13 October 2011 in Whataroa, to discuss the longer term strategic objectives of the new rating district.*

Carried

5.1 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to his report advising that this report is for the first two months of the financial year. He reported that the surplus for this period is \$562,000. R. Mallinson reported that the surplus includes a positive budget variance of \$137,000. R. Mallinson reported that there has been a portfolio loss of \$296,000 during the reporting period which is due to the volatile international marketplace. R. Mallinson advised that portfolio losses would continue until the situation in Europe is sorted out.

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *that this report be received.*

Carried

5.2.1 ADOPTION OF AUDITED ANNUAL REPORT YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2011

R. Mallinson circulated the Audit Report which was received from Audit NZ this morning. He advised that this is an unqualified audit report and there is nothing unusual in this report that he needs to bring to council's attention. R. Mallinson advised that council's Auditors requested that the final Riskpool weather tight home call of \$55,000 due in July 2012 and an adjustment of \$3,300 to assessed future quarry restoration liabilities be included in the 2010 / 11 results. Cr Scarlett asked if it is normal to include this in last year's accounts. R. Mallinson responded that this is normal where the cost is already known at the time.

Moved (Birchfield / Robb)

That the audit report be received and the Annual Report for the year to 30 June 2011 be adopted by Council pursuant to section 98 (3) of the Local Government Act.

Carried

5.2.2 REVIEW OF LOCAL AUTHORITY REMUNERATION SETTING

R. Mallinson spoke to this report and took it as read. He advised that it is important for this council to retain its special case status as conceded by the Remuneration Authority.

Moved (Robb / Chinn) *That Council endorse the attached Draft submission.*

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

C. Ingle spoke to his report advising that he attended the new Ministry of Science and Innovation’s (MSI) Environment Sector Advisory Group meeting in Wellington on the 22nd of September. He stated that this is the new government department that is replace FORST and MORST which were the previous science policy and funding agencies. C. Ingle stated that he was invited to this meeting on behalf of all regional councils to advise them on the best value investment in environmental science. C. Ingle reported that it is good that MSI are seeking the views of regional councils.

C. Ingle reported that he has read through the Auditor General’s Report on Managing Freshwater Quality. He stated that this is a solid report and a good job seems to have been done of assessing the four councils that were looked at. C. Ingle advised that this does not assess what the West Coast Regional Council does or does not do but the report does provide other councils a handy checklist and it makes recommendations which apply to all regional councils. C. Ingle advised that council’s State of Environment Report which was recently released shows an overall improvement in water quality in our rivers but with concern still around the Lake Brunner catchment. He advised that these concerns are being addressed via the Plan variation. C. Ingle stated that if the Auditor General did such a report on this council we would probably come out looking reasonably good. C. Ingle advised that he and Cr Scarlett are meeting with the Auditor General on Thursday and he will bring a more detailed report on this matter to the November council meeting. Cr Birchfield stated that he would question what the Auditor General is doing getting involved with water management. C. Ingle offered to ask this question of the Auditor General on Thursday.

Moved (Robb / Davidson) *that this report be received.*

Carried

7.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT (VERBAL)

Cr Scarlett reported that it has been a very quiet month and he has dealt with general constituency matters.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 11.37 a.m.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Council Meeting – 7 November 2011
 Prepared by: Wayne Moen – Rivers Engineer and Paulette Birchfield – Engineering Officer
 Date: 26 October 2011
 Subject: **ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT**

River and Drainage Inspections

- Ahaura River – Inspection
- Karamea River - Inspection
- Carters Beach – Inspection with Buller District Council
- Inangahua River– Erosion Protection Advice for Reefton domain board

New Whataroa Rating District.

At the October Council meeting the Whataroa Rating District was formed to undertake emergency works 1.5km downstream of the State Highway Bridge on the south side of the river. The inaugural meeting was held in Whataroa on 13 October 2011 where the emergency works were discussed. The rating district formed a committee to oversee these works in consultation with the Council River Engineer.

Prior to the meeting Council invited tenders for these emergency works, three tenders were received, the successful tenderer being Westland Contractors Ltd at a price of \$78,975 (GST Excl). The committee met with the contractor and Council staff on 20 October 2011 to discuss this work and minor alterations were discussed.

Other Matters

All rating district annual meetings have been completed in October 2011, including the initial meeting of the Whataroa Rating District.

Quarry Rock Movements for the Period 1st September to 30th September 2011

Quarry	Rock In Quarry	Rock Used	Rock Quarried	Rock In Quarry
Blackball	1,282	0	7,830	9,112
Camelback	4,826	339	13,638	18,125
Inchbonnie	3,620	0	0	3,620
Kiwi	0	1,574	6,565	4,991
Miedema	0	0	0	0
Okuru	946	0	0	946
Taramakau	0	0	0	0
Wanganui	0	0	0	0
Whataroa	5,333	0	9,150	14,483
Totals	16,007	1,913	37,183	51,277

Quarry Work Permitted Since 27th September 2011

Quarry	Contractor	Tonnage Requested	Permit Start	Permit Finish
Blackball	GH Foster Contracting	2000	27 th September	30 th October
Camelback	Westland Contractors Ltd	500 (rubble)	1 st October	1 st November
Camelback	Henry Adams Contracting Ltd	150 (rubble)	29 th September	30 th September

Approximate rock in quarry as at 25th October 2011 (in tonnes)

Quarry	Rock Available	Emergency Stockpile
Blackball	2,000	
Camelback	3,000	
Inchbonnie	5,000	
Kiwi	1,500	
Whataroa	4,000	4,000
Okuru	1,500	

RECOMMENDATION

That the report is received

Michael Meehan
Planning and Environment Manager

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Council Meeting – 7 November 2011
 Prepared by: Michael Meehan – Planning and Environment Manager
 Date: 28 October 2011
 Subject: **SALTWATER CREEK NEW RIVER OPINION SURVEY RESULTS**

Background

On 28 December 2010 an intense rainfall event caused Saltwater Creek and New River to flood properties (including the hotel, school and pre-school) on the western side of the State Highway and closed the State Highway. At this time the river mouth had migrated northwards to be opposite the Paroa School.

Grey District Council undertook emergency works to open a new mouth of Saltwater Creek and New River approximately 1.5 km south of the hotel and constructed a bund at the new outlet. The Regional Council is considering assuming management of the rivermouth.

Council has received advice from an independent river engineering consultant on the boundaries and contributions for a proposed rating district to fund ongoing works, and liaised with the Grey District Council in regard to the works already undertaken.

Council sent a letter to all ratepayers in the proposed rating district asking them to complete and return a survey form, so that Council can gauge their opinions on five options to manage the rivermouth and minimise the impact of future rain events (see letter attached).

Opinion Survey Results

218 of the 600 survey forms were returned (36%). Please find the results of the survey below. Note that 10 people declined to choose an option, instead providing explanatory comments. A summary of these and other comments is attached to this report.

Options	In Favour
1. Periodically clear the outlet of Saltwater Creek and New River at its current location.	95 (44%)
2. Periodically clear the outlet of Saltwater Creek and New River at its current location and maintain the bund at the mouth.	42 (19%)
3. Periodically clear the outlet of Saltwater Creek and New River at its current location, and construct a bund wall to protect the hotel, school and other properties on the western side of the State Highway. A cut similar to the Cobden cut would be investigated to allow water to escape the coastal drain to sea.	3 (1%)
4. Periodically clear the outlet of Saltwater Creek and New River at its current location. Maintain the bund at the mouth. Construct a new wall to protect the hotel, school and other properties on the western side of the State Highway.	14 (6%)
5. Open a new mouth for New River directly opposite the New River State Highway Bridge at Camerons (subject to Resource Consent). Saltwater Creek would then flow south until it meets the New River outlet.	54 (25%)

Analysis of the Results

The response rate of 36% is similar to the recent Grey River Floodwall opinion survey and can be considered to be a fairly good response rate for a large survey of 600 ratepayers.

- a. The majority seem to prefer that the mouth be retained at its current location, 1.5km south of the Paroa Hotel. In total 70% were in favour of maintaining the outlet at this location (Options 1 to 4 cumulatively = 70%).
- b. There was little support for building a new wall at the Paroa Hotel (Options 3 and 4 = 7% cumulatively).
- c. A reasonable percentage did want the Council to maintain the bund at the new mouth (Options 2 and 4 = 25% cumulatively).
- d. Finally, a fair number (25%) wanted to see the mouth located at New River. Several comments were made about how this would need to be engineered in order to avoid potential impacts on the Camerons community.

Comments Made by Respondents

Comments received have been summarised and presented according to the option selected (see attached). The comments made need to be considered by Council prior to any decisions being made.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. *That Council receives the results of the Saltwater Creek / New River proposed rating district opinion survey, and the comments made (attached).*
2. *That Council notes the preference of the community to retain the river mouth at its current location, and brings that preference forward into the Proposed Long Term Plan to be released for consultation in early 2012; by stating in the Long Term Plan the intention of Council to form a new Rating District to fund periodic river mouth clearance works.*
3. *That Council writes to Grey District Council, New Zealand Transport Authority, Paroa School and the Department of Conservation seeking suitable annual financial contributions in lieu of rates, towards the proposed rating district mentioned above.*

Michael Meehan
Planning and Environment Manager

Option 1 comments

- As long as the mouth is kept open the flooding will not occur.
- Option 1 has been being used for the last 53 years, until recently.
- Let nature take its course, except to keep the mouth open (x2)
- Options 3 and 4 are much too expensive for the average person to afford.
- It is not possible to keep the mouth in one place as the tides and ocean currents are too strong.
- The mouth of this river will always be a problem due to the gravel flow from the Taramakau River heading north along the beach.
- See how option 1 goes for 1-2 years and then look at option 5.
- A new outlet will form naturally opposite the New River bridge eventually and when this occurs the mouth should be maintained at that location.
- If you build near a river you should expect consequences and absorb any costs.
- If you live on a flood plain you should bear the costs.
- We spent our own money on our river protection and are not happy to pay more for other's benefit.
- Houses built by Paroa School should never have been allowed to build there as it has always flooded in that area.
- I do not believe this flooding is my problem and object to having to pay anything (x3)
- Why start a special rate when the job involves a digger visiting the site once a year?
- The work should be done once a year out of existing rates funds.
- Existing rates should cover this cost – all other rate costs should be accounted for first.
- We are 3m above road level and do not want to pay more.
- How much are Transit, Westpower and Telecom going to contribute?
- Consider abandoning the A and B differential and charge everyone equally (x2)
- Consider including flood prone land south of Option 5.
- Would also support a cut from the drain, in the vicinity of Paroa School.
- Clean out the drains properly as well.
- Open the access road to the public.
- Concerns about whitebait and penguin habitat.

Option 2 comments

- A stockpile of rock should be kept close to the mouth for emergency use.
- Option 5 would destroy the lagoon which is used for recreation.
- Option 5 would cause more problems than it would solve.
- Option 5 is a good option but would need an environmental impact study.
- Extend rock wall further into the sea (x2)
- Option 2 has worked well so far and a lot of time and money has been invested in putting rock on the bund, so why change to a different location now?

Option 4 comments

- Do the job right first time.
- We are in the Marsden ward for the GDC infrastructure fund, but WCRC are using catchment boundaries.

Option 5 Comments

- Option 5 is preferred for New River mouth, provided the current mouth is kept open for saltwater creek – essentially a combination of options 1 and 5 and option 2 also as the bund may need maintenance.
- Option 5, and use the current mouth as an overflow.
- Option 5 will need rock work on the south side to prevent the river going south to Camerons lagoon. Only 9 metres to go before New River breaks out naturally.
- Option 5, but with rock protection on both sides.
- Create an overflow channel near Paroa.
- The cut mentioned in option 3 will not work.
- Saltwater Creek is not big enough to support its own mouth.
- Are the pipes big enough to handle run off from Paroa Estate?
- Disappointed that this has taken so long to decide on.
- Laypeople should not be asked to make hydrological decisions.

- It is folly to continue allowing buildings to locate on the west side of the highway.
- Why should those on the sea side of the road pay for the protection of the highway?
- Option 5 has better access, less silt and better flushing.

No option comments (these forms were returned with no option ticked)

- Option 1 would suffice to prevent flooding and it should be funded from general rates, state highway funding and GDC contributions.
- All costs should be funded by blue zone ratepayers.
- The flooding does not affect us so we should not have to contribute (x3)
- If the mouth had been opened up beforehand we would not have had this problem.
- Those who have built on flood plains should bear the consequences. User pays.
- Prefer option 5 but object to having to pay an extra rate. Don't agree with differential.
- The Class B properties had little bearing on the December flood; and rainfall results from Rutherglen show the December 2010 event was not a large rain event, with larger events in 2004 and 2005.
- Lifestyle blocks are already rated too much by local government.
- Map were hard to read (x2)
- Can't make informed decision based on the information provided.
- Adopt the option that gives best outcome for least cost, given current economic situation.

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Council Meeting
 Prepared by: Robert Mallinson – Corporate Services Manager
 Date: 27 October 2011
 Subject: **CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT**

1. Financial Report

FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2011				
	ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	ACTUAL % ANNUAL BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
REVENUES				
General Rates	496,641	495,000	25%	1,980,000
Rates Penalties	26,238	18,750	35%	75,000
Investment Income	-420,264	261,563	-40%	1,046,250
Regulatory	335,943	307,707	32%	1,033,727
Planning Processes	92,398	51,163	45%	204,650
Environmental Monitoring	0	0	0%	0
Emergency Management	15,758	12,500	32%	50,000
River, Drainage, Coastal Protection	346,970	305,639	28%	1,222,557
Regional % Share Controls	163,352	162,500	25%	650,000
VCS Business Unit	2,281,370	721,250	79%	2,885,000
	3,338,406	2,336,071	36%	9,147,184
EXPENDITURE				
Representation	86,089	96,386	22%	385,543
Regulatory Activities	509,682	482,350	28%	1,811,878
Planning Processes	224,874	182,039	31%	728,157
Environmental Monitoring	193,814	191,579	25%	766,316
Emergency Management	33,576	36,226	23%	144,902
River, Drainage, Coastal Protection	502,282	335,695	37%	1,342,779
Regional % Share Controls	206,924	203,631	25%	814,523
VCS Business Unit	1,247,459	578,000	54%	2,312,000
Portfolio Management	15,150	15,000	25%	60,000
	3,019,850	2,105,905	36%	8,366,098
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	318,556	230,166		781,086

BREAKDOWN OF SURPLUS (-DEFICIT)	Variance Actual V Budgeted YTD	ACTUAL	BUDGET Year to date	ANNUAL BUDGET
Rating Districts	-111,051	-45,361	65,690	262,758
Quarries	-53,686	-62,267	-8,581	-34,324
Regional % Share of AHB Programmes	-2,441	-43,572	-41,131	-164,523
Investment Income	-681,977	-435,414	246,563	986,250
VCS Business Unit	890,661	1,033,911	143,250	573,000
General Rates Funded Activities	81,893	-128,741	-180,624	-842,075
TOTAL	103,390	318,556	215,166	781,086

Net Contributors to General Rates Funded Surplus (-Deficit)	Actual	Budget ytd	Annual Plan
<u>Net Variance</u>			
<u>Actual V YTD</u>			
Rates	1,641	496,641	495,000
Rates Penalties	7,488	26,238	18,750
Representation	10,297	-86,089	-96,386
Regulatory Activities	904	-173,739	-174,643
Planning Activities	-1,599	-132,476	-130,877
River, Drainage, Coastal Protection (excl.)	39,480	-47,684	-87,164
Environmental Monitoring	-2,235	-193,814	-191,579
Emergency Management	5,908	-17,818	-23,726
	81,893	-128,741	-180,624
			-842,075

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION @ 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

	@ 30/09/2011	@ 30/06/2011
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Cash	228,592	35,009
Short term Deposit - Westpac	909	1,502,947
Accounts Receivable - Rates	1,824,053	286,950
Accounts Receivable - General Debtors	151,879	1,747,428
Prepayments	238,578	227,482
Sundry Receivables	556,293	233,453
Stock - VCS	20,786	143,635
Stock - Rock	166,650	31,886
Stock - Office Supplies	11,232	11,232
Accrued Rates Revenue	0	0
Unbilled Revenue	215,723	113,060
	<u>3,414,695</u>	<u>4,333,082</u>
<u>Non Current Assets</u>		
Investments	11,541,611	11,473,175
Investments-Catastrophe Fund	503,338	0
Fixed Assets	4,245,252	4,168,272
Infrastructural Assets	49,007,111	49,007,111
	<u>65,297,312</u>	<u>64,648,558</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>68,712,007</u>	<u>68,981,640</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Bank Short Term Loan	250,000	0
Accounts Payable	653,680	1,310,545
GST	145,530	0
Deposits and Bonds	667,711	590,305
Sundry Payables	349,988	480,466
Accrued Annual Leave, Payroll	278,771	294,522
Other Revenue in Advance	0	1,070,622
Rates Revenue in Advance	910,347	60,940
	<u>3,256,027</u>	<u>3,807,400</u>
<u>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Future Quarry restoration	60,000	60,000
Greymouth Floodwall	2,034,856	2,048,291
Inchbonnie	78,393	82,877
Punakaiki Loan	199,638	209,856
Office Equipment Leases	49,382	58,060
	<u>2,422,269</u>	<u>2,459,084</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>5,678,296</u>	<u>6,266,484</u>
<u>EQUITY</u>		
Ratepayers Equity	18,577,120 }	18,577,120
Surplus Tsfrd.	318,556 }	
Rating District Equity Mvmts	-147,275 }	
Rating Districts Equity	<u>1,687,475</u>	1,540,201
Tb Special Rate Balance	1,037	1,037
Revaluation	32,316,638	32,316,638
Quarry Account	379,160	379,160
Investment Growth Reserve	9,901,000	9,901,000
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>63,033,711</u>	<u>62,715,156</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>68,712,007</u>	<u>68,981,640</u>

2. Investment Portfolio

PORTFOLIO @ 30 September 2011 Summary & Reconciliation		Cash	Bonds	Australasian Equities	International Equities	Property Equities	Alternative Asset Classes	Total
Portfolio Value @ Start	01 July 2011	\$ 2,883,140	\$ 2,186,007	\$ 2,084,788	\$ 3,051,043	\$ 576,726	\$ 659,819	\$ 11,441,524
Contributions		\$ 165						\$ 165
Withdrawals		-\$ 382,264			-\$ 88,090		-\$ 29,810	-\$ 500,165
Realised Gains/(Losses)		-\$ 6,842		-\$ 114,205	\$ 404,083	\$ 59,897	\$ 101,877	\$ 444,811
Unrealised Gains/(Losses)		-\$ 2,726	\$ 23,344	-\$ 91,656	-\$ 720,537	-\$ 63,118	-\$ 155,416	-\$ 1,010,107
Mgmt Fee					\$ -			\$ -
Income		\$ 21,591	\$ 10,538	\$ 41,732	\$ 13,913	\$ 8,863	\$ -	\$ 96,637
Changes Accrued Interest		\$ 10,116	\$ 26,978					\$ 37,094
Portfolio Value @ End Period	30 September 2011	\$ 2,523,182	\$ 2,246,867	\$ 1,920,660	\$ 2,660,412	\$ 582,369	\$ 576,469	\$ 10,509,960
ytd return for 3 months		1.05%	2.78%	-7.87%	-10.00%	0.98%	-8.52%	-3.94%

Asset Allocation %'s @ 30 September 2011	Benchmarks	Tactical asset allocation range	
Cash	24%	25%	10% - 50%
Bonds	21%	25%	10% - 50%
Australasian Equities	18%	15%	0% - 20%
International Equities	25%	15%	0% - 20%
Property Equities	6%	5%	0% - 10%
Alternative Asset Classes	5%	15%	0% - 20%
	100%	100%	

3. General Comment

This financial report covers the first quarter to 30 September 2011.

Highlights:

- Surplus of \$318,000 which includes income from the three AHB aerial contracts completed this winter.
- Portfolio loss of \$431,000 for the period, due to continued volatile international equities markets. I would expect us to recoup some of those losses during October.
- Positive budget variances amounting to \$61,000 in general rate funded activities.

4. Replacement of Core Financial Systems

Both WCRC and GDC entered into contracts with Civica Pty Ltd for the replacement of core financial systems to replace existing aged systems which were nearing the end of their effective useful life.

This was the end of a long process to identify suitable replacements.

This project was identified in the 2011/12 Annual Plan.

There will be a project initiation meeting in mid November.

The contract stipulates a "go-live" date of 1 October 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received.

Robert Mallinson
Corporate Services Manager

4.2.1

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Council Meeting
 Prepared by: Robert Mallinson – Corporate Services Manager
 Date: 3 October 2011
 Subject: **SETTING OF RATE FOR NEW WHATAROA RATING DISTRICT**

At its ordinary meeting on 11 October Council resolved to form the new Whataroa Special Rating District and to give 14 days notice of its intention to strike a rate of \$100,000 + GST at the ordinary meeting to be held on 7 November.

As this rate is being set under section 23 (3) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA 2002), outside the usual Annual plan / LTP process, the required 14 days notice of intention to set this rate was publicly advertised on 21 October.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council set a rate for the new Whataroa Special Rating Area for \$100,000 + GST for the 2011/12 rating year, as follows;

Classification	Estimated Rateable Capital Value	Factor per \$ of Capital Value (GST inclusive)	Estimated to yield
A	\$22,331,000	0.0026106	\$58,297
B	\$32,581,000	0.0017404	\$56,703
Total			\$115,000

That there be two instalments:

- The first instalment will be due on 15 November 2011 with a 10% penalty date of 20 December 2011 as per sections 57 and 58 of the LGRA 2002.*
- The second instalment will be due on 1 March 2012 with a 10% penalty date of 20 April 2012 as per sections 57 and 58 of the LGRA 2002.*
- A further 10% penalty will be charged on all accumulated rate arrears as at 1 July 2012.*

Robert Mallinson
 Corporate Services Manager

Notice of Intention to Set a Rate for the 2011/12 year for the New Whataroa Special Rating Area Under Section 23 (3) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to Fund Unforeseen and Urgent Emergency River Protection Works
Rates will be payable by two instalments;
First instalment due date November 15, 2011, final date for payment being December 20, 2011.

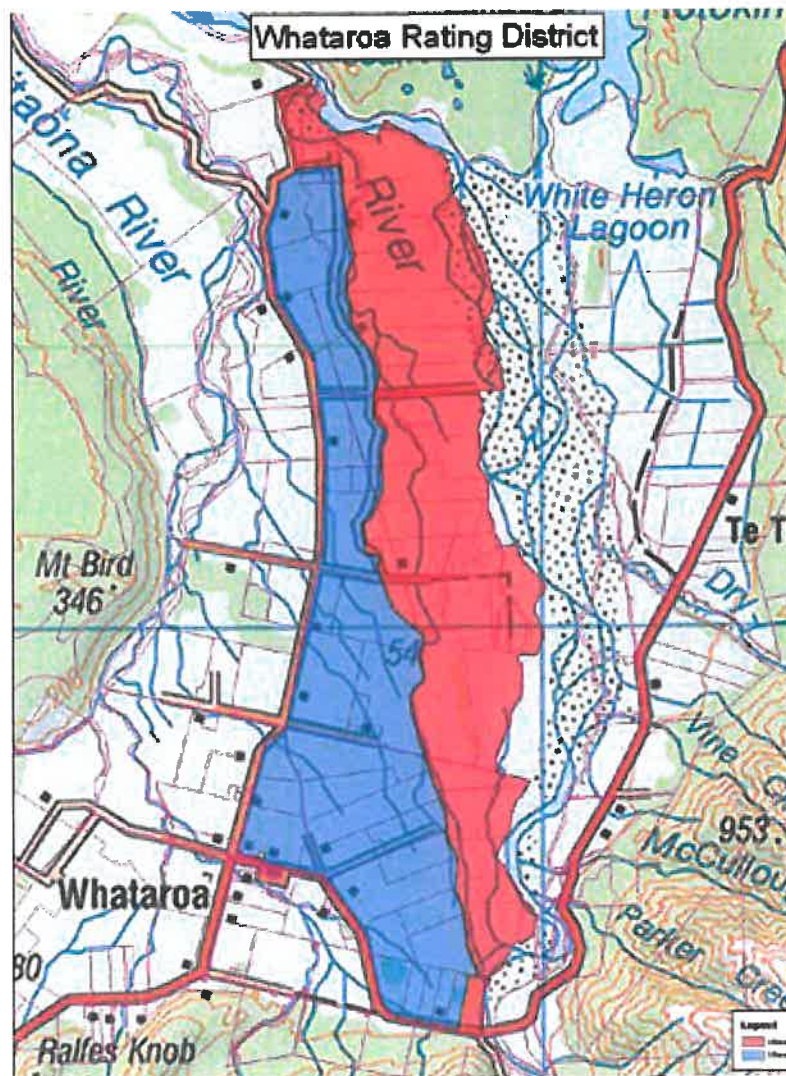
Second instalment due date March 1, 2012, final date for payment being April 20, 2012.

At its ordinary meeting on November 7, 2011, Council set a targeted rate, set differentially in accordance with sections 16, 17 and 18 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, on all rateable land situated on the southern side of the Whataroa river, boundaries being the Whataroa River, the Whataroa Gorge Road, Whataroa Flat Road and the State Highway. (Refer map below).

The rate will be calculated on the capital value of each rating unit, as shown below.

Classification	Estimated rateable capital value	Factor per \$ of Capital Value (GST inclusive)	Estimated to yield (GST inclusive)
Class A (red area)	\$22,331,000	0.002610571	\$58,297
Class B (blue area)	\$32,581,000	0.001740381	\$56,703
Total			\$115,000

A penalty for late payment will be applied at the amount allowed by the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 of 10%. A further 10% penalty will be charged on all accumulated rate arrears as at 1 July 2012.



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Council Meeting – 7 November 2011
Prepared by: Robert Mallinson – Corporate Services Manager
Date: 27 October 2011

Subject: **SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR 2012**

Attached is a proposed meeting date schedule for 2012.

All dates are the second Tuesday of the month.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the 2012 Schedule of Meeting Dates.

Robert Mallinson
Corporate Services Manager

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR 2012

ORDINARY MEETING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

(Held 2nd Tuesday of the Month – Commencing at 10.30 a.m.)

MEETING MONTH	DATE
2012	
January	No Meeting
February	14 th
March	13 th
April	10 th
May	8 th
June	12 th
July	10 th
August	14 th
September	11 th
October	9 th
November	13 th
December	11 th

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Council Meeting November 2011
Prepared by: Ross Scarlett – Chairman
Date: October 2011
Subject: **Meeting with the Auditor General**

The Chief Executive and I met with Lynn Provost, the Auditor General, on Thursday 13 October. Amongst other things, we discussed her recent report on the management of freshwater. The recommendations from that report are attached.

The Auditor General was interested in how freshwater is being managed in this region and was pleased to hear about the recent successes we have had with voluntary farm plans in priority catchments and achieving improvements in water quality in many parts of our region.

However, she also raised the issue of councillors making prosecution decisions. She explained that there are longstanding conventions against elected officials becoming involved in prosecution decisions. Her view is that all investigation and enforcement decisions on individual cases should be delegated to council staff for an independent decision.

Governance vs Management regarding enforcement

As elected members, our role is to be the policymakers. The governance role of Councillors is to set the policy (in this case the enforcement policy), and then to monitor the exercise of that policy and to make adjustments to the policy as required from time to time.

The implementation of any Council policy is a day to day task that should be handled by management. It is not a governance function. Our role is not to make individual enforcement decisions on a case by case basis, in my view.

Recommendation 8 of the Auditor General's report

The Auditor General's report on Freshwater recommends that all regional councils review their delegations and procedures for prosecuting, to ensure that any decision about prosecution is free from actual or perceived political bias (recommendation 8).

Self Assessment Tool

The Auditor General has also provided a self-assessment audit tool in her report that all regional councils are encouraged to use to ensure that freshwater in their own region is being managed appropriately.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Council delegates to the Chief Executive the power to initiate or withdraw a prosecution for an offence, under Section 338 of the Resource Management Act, provided that the Chief Executive reports the exercise of this delegation to Council.*
- 2. That Council requests a report from the Chief Executive that applies the self-assessment audit tool in respect of this Council's policies, processes and activities.*

Ross Scarlett
Chairman
West Coast Regional Council

Our recommendations

We have already provided Waikato Regional Council, Taranaki Regional Council, Horizons Regional Council, and Environment Southland with specific recommendations (see Appendix 1).

The recommendations that we make here are aimed at **all regional councils and unitary authorities**.

We recommend that all regional councils and unitary authorities:

1. review methods for reporting results of their freshwater quality monitoring to ensure that the methods:
 - compare the freshwater quality monitoring results with (ideally specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) plan objectives, limits, and standards where possible and with guidelines where necessary;
 - say whether freshwater quality is getting better or worse;
 - outline probable reasons why freshwater quality is in the condition that it is; and
 - discuss what the council and the community are doing, or can do, to remedy any problems;
2. set up stronger links between freshwater quality monitoring results and how they measure the effectiveness of their policies for maintaining and enhancing freshwater quality; and
3. meet the requirements of sections 35(2)(b) and 35(2A) of the Resource Management Act 1991 to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the policies, rules, or methods in their policy statements and plans, and to compile and make the results of this monitoring available to the public at least every five years.

We recommend that the Ministry for the Environment:

4. provide guidance on what is expected from regional councils to meet the requirements of sections 35(2)(b) and 35(2A) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

We recommend that all regional councils and unitary authorities:

5. include specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound objectives in their regional plans and in their long-term plans under the Local Government Act 2002.

We recommend that the Ministry for the Environment:

6. seek input from regional councils and unitary authorities on whether they need information on:
 - the economic assessments required to implement the changes required in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management; and
 - what has been learned from limit-setting processes already carried out in New Zealand and internationally.

We recommend that all regional councils and unitary authorities:

7. be able to demonstrate that they are co-ordinating their efforts effectively with appropriate stakeholders to improve freshwater quality; and
8. review their delegations and procedures for prosecuting, to ensure that any decision about prosecution is free from actual or perceived political bias.

Appendix 2 of this report is a self-assessment audit tool for regional councils and unitary authorities to use to assess their own performance against the criteria we used for our audit and against the emerging issues and best practice that we identified during our audit.

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Prepared for: Council Meeting 7 November 2011
 Prepared by: Chris Ingle – Chief Executive
 Date: 28 October 2011
 Subject: **CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT**

Meetings Attended

The key meetings I have attended since my last report include:

- Attended the Greymouth Joint Floodwall Committee meeting on 11 October.
- Met with Lyn Provost, Auditor-General, on 13 October with the Council Chairman.
- Attended the Raft Creek, Vine Creek, Kowhitirangi, Kaniere and Hokitika Southside annual rating district meetings on 17 October, with Crs Chinn and Davidson.
- Attended IRIS software shared services meeting and the Regional Chief Executive's Forum on 19 October.
- Attended the Chief Executive's Environmental Forum in Wellington on 20 October.
- Attended a community meeting at the Camerons Hall on 20 October to discuss the proposed new rating district for Saltwater Creek and New River, with Councillors Andrew Robb and Allan Birchfield also attending.
- Met with Rowan Galloway of Assure Quality to discuss the National Biosecurity Capability Network on 21 October.
- Attended the Kongahu, Karamea and Mokihinui annual rating district meetings on 25 October, with Cr Archer.
- Attending the Zone 5 meeting in Christchurch on 1 November.
- Attending the Civil Defence Controllers Meeting in Wellington on 2 November.
- The Envirolink governance meeting is to be held in Wellington also on 2 November.

2012 Long Term Plan and Community Outcomes

The Long Term Plan 2012 will differ from the 2009 LTCCP due to the recent changes to the Local Government Act. One key proposed change relates to the community outcomes section near the front of the Plan.

Recent changes to the Local Government Act altered the definition of community outcome, which now restrict the meaning of community outcomes to *"the outcomes that a local authority aims to achieve, in order to promote the social, economic, cultural and environmental well being of its region, in the present and for the future."* The new definition means that Council can now dispense with the previous outcomes related to health, education and identity that our activities do not aim to achieve.

This means we can focus on the three key outcomes of economy, environment and community safety. These outcomes are matters council aims to achieve as a result of its activities. I have re-drafted the Plan to reflect these new outcomes and I attach the section as it now looks. Councillor feedback on this new approach is welcomed.

RECOMMENDATION

That this report be received.

Chris Ingle
 Chief Executive

West Coast Regional Council's Community Outcomes

Under the old Local Government Act, community outcomes were developed that were not always related to Regional Council functions. The new Local Government Act defines community outcomes as *the outcomes that the Council aims to achieve, in order to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing the region, in the present and for the future*. Given this new paradigm, Council has developed the following three high-level community outcomes for the West Coast region:

- Economy** A thriving, resilient and innovative economy is promoted, which creates many opportunities for growth, wealth generation and employment.
- Environment** The high quality and distinctive character of our environment is retained.
- Safety** A region that is a safe place to live, with a strong community spirit and cohesion.

How the Council will contribute to furthering the Community Outcomes

The Council's RMA functions make it a lead agency for furthering the Environment Outcome in particular. The Levels of service in the Resource Management group of activities reflect the Council's efforts to contribute to the Community Outcomes for Environment.

The contribution to community outcomes are addressed in more detail in each Activity Management Plan. The six groups of Council activities relate to the achievement of the above outcomes as follows:

Activity Area	Community Outcome (s)
Governance	Economy, Environment
Resource Management	Environment, Economy and Safety
Transport Planning	Environment, Economy and Safety
Hydrology and Flood Warning Services	Environment and Safety
Civil Defence Emergency Management	Safety and Economy
River, Drainage & Coastal Protection Works	Economy and Safety
Vector Control Services Business Unit	Economy and Environment

Each Community Outcome is contributed to by different Council Activities

Economy: *A thriving, resilient and innovative economy is promoted, which creates many opportunities for growth, wealth generation and employment*

- Regional Plans assist economic development by ensuring an 'enabling' planning framework is in place. Permitted activities in regional plans allow for much development to occur without the need for consent processes. Where consents are needed the activity classification is normally controlled or discretionary which tends to enable activities to proceed without undue delay, with appropriate conditions applied to protect the environment.

- Consent processing within statutory timeframes is one of Council's highest priorities. This ensures that when a consent is needed the applicant should have their consent processed without delay (provided sufficient information is provided). Council also makes full use of non-notified and limited-notified processes to ensure delays in consent processing are minimised as far as is practicable.
- Flood warning services and flood protection works help the economy by ensuring business confidence in investing in flood protected areas. Protection works also increase property values in affected areas.
- Tb control assists our agricultural sector gaining access to lucrative export markets, while the VCS business unit assists ratepayers by keeping rates at a lower level.
- Transport planning enables us to advocate for national road funding on strategic freight or tourism routes, which can result in major transport upgrades (eg Arahura Bridge).

Environment: *The high quality and distinctive character of our environment is retained*

- Our State of the Environment monitoring established environmental baselines so we can measure progress with maintaining or improving our environment. This monitoring information informs reviews of the Regional Plans and Policy Statement. Regional Plans establish the balance between enabling economic development and requiring environmental protection. They have all been through a public consultation process and reflect West Coast community desires.
- Resource Consent processes help to ensure environmental matters are given due consideration by setting appropriate conditions on specific resource uses, in accordance with the policies set by council Plans. Compliance monitoring work ensures the conditions set are adhered to.
- Spill response teams help to ensure accidental spills are cleaned up promptly before major environmental damage occurs.
- Control of pest plants also contributes to the environmental outcome.

Safety: *A region that is a safe place to live, with a strong community spirit and cohesion.*

- The Council's flood warning service and the flood protection works assist with community safety in areas covered by those services, during flood events.
- Civil defence work is primarily concerned with community safety in a major emergency event.
- The summer contact recreation water sampling assists by ensuring swimmers know of sites that are of higher risk of bacterial contamination.
- Regional Transport road safety work assists with community road safety.
- Resource consents often include conditions set for public safety and spill response work and consent compliance also partially addresses safety issues.

How the Council will Work with Others

Council will continue to use the following methods to work with others:

- Processes prescribed under legislation, for example, the Resource Management, Biosecurity, and Transport Acts for consultation on Plan development, and good practice procedures;
- Public submission and hearing processes;
- Liaison, for example, on consent processing and compliance work;
- Participation in joint working groups and committees;
- Encourage participation by Iwi in Committee meetings and other processes e.g. resource consents;
- Responding to enquiries, environmental incidents and complaints;
- Field days, site visits, workshops, networks, training and seminars.

In consulting and working with the community the Council will apply the consultation, planning and decision-making provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 and other statutes that it works under.

How can the Public Monitor our Outputs and Outcomes?

Council undertakes monitoring of water quality, groundwater, river levels and air quality, at key locations. The Council prepares 'State of the Environment' reports which are all available on the Council website. These reports aim to identify trends in environmental quality, which can be an indicator of how well the environmental programmes of the Council are delivering on the environmental outcome.

Council follows RMA consultative processes for our Regional Plans and the Biosecurity Act process for the Pest Plant Strategy. For these policy documents there are regular effectiveness and efficiency reviews and the reports on those reviews are presented in public meeting and are made available on our website. Every 10 years, each RMA policy document is publicly notified and any person may make a submission suggesting amendments to the document (5 yearly for the pest plant strategy). This is another avenue for public input.

The Council measures its own performance against the targets set in this LTP on a 4 monthly basis and the results are reported in public at a Council meeting and reported on Council's website. Any member of the public is welcome to attend the Council meetings where elected members monitor the programmes staff deliver. These 4-monthly reports on progress in achieving the LTP targets are the main way members of the public can keep track of the commitments made by Council to fund and deliver on the targets in this LTP.

The Council also produces an annual report that includes a summary of all targets and their achievement and this report is audited by Audit NZ and made available on the Council website. The public can therefore keep track of progress on LTP targets during the year, via the 4 and 8 month reports, attend the relevant council meeting where these reports are presented, or wait for the audited 12 month report which can also be viewed on the website (www.wcrc.govt.nz).

Finally, members of the public are encouraged to make submissions on this LTP and make suggestions about programmes they feel Council should (or should not) be funding in order to meet our Regional Plan objectives and our community outcomes.

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

To: Chairperson
West Coast Regional Council

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, -

Agenda Item No. 8.

- | | | |
|---------|-----|--|
| 25 – 26 | 8.1 | Confirmation of Confidential Minutes 11 October 2011 |
| | 8.2 | Overdue Debtors Report |
| | 8.3 | Response to Presentation (if any) |
| | 8.4 | In Committee Items to be Released to Media |

Item No.	General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution.
8.			
8.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes 11 October 2011		Section 48(1)(a) and in particular Section 9 of 2nd Schedule Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.
8.2	Overdue Debtors Report (to be tabled)		
8.3	Response to Presentation (if any)		
8.4	In Committee Items to be Released to Media		

I also move that:

- Chris Ingle
- Robert Mallinson
- Michael Meehan
- Colin Dall

be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge on the subject. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed.

The Minutes Clerk also be permitted to remain at the meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEETING