



Blue Pools, Haast Pass

Message from your Chairman



Our water quality is generally good, particularly when compared to other regions. However, recent monitoring undertaken to inform our State of Environment Report, shows that there are some small pockets of concern across the West Coast. Our water science team is drilling down into these results to find out what may be happening in these areas.

The work we have been undertaking with the establishment of the new freshwater management groups will also focus on these results, and through working together, we will be seeking ways to reverse these trends in the identified hot spots. The community group model is resulting in some very positive outcomes, however it will take time to roll these out across the region.

In 2000, Council received \$7,000,000 from the Government's \$120,000,000 compensation package following the end of indigenous timber logging on the West Coast. Over the past 18 years we have put this to good use, and I am proud of

the decisions both this and past Councils have made in regards to its management. The fund's story can be found in this newsletter and I hope you will take time to read this yourself.

In mid-April we will be consulting on our Annual Plan for 2019/20. This will be implementing year two of the Long Term Plan adopted last year. We are currently working through the final details around our budgets and it is likely that there will be some changes that affect you, reflecting the outcomes of the Local Government Commission process and an ever-increasing workload for our staff. I would encourage you to review this information when it is released and have your say.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Robb'.

Andrew Robb
Chairman

**have
your
say**

You can register your interest in receiving consultation material on the Annual Plan directly by emailing info@wcr.govt.nz



wcr.govt.nz



**THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

WHY DO WE DO MONITORING?

Our monitoring programmes help us gain a better understanding of our natural resources and environment. Better data allows us to make more informed decisions when setting appropriate rules and limits on resource use.

State of the Environment

Council is constantly collecting information on the quality of our natural resources, monitoring groundwater, lakes, rivers, coastal beaches and air quality at 85 sites across the region. In addition to this, Council also collects a range of environmental data on the quantity of water on the West Coast, including rainfall, river flows and groundwater levels. All of this information will contribute to our State of Environment (SOE) Report which will be released in the coming weeks. Produced every three years, the SOE Report provides valuable information on the current state and long term trends of our environment.

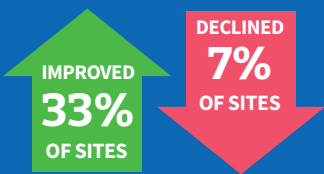
WATER QUALITY

88% of West Coast waterways

drain catchments with indigenous land cover

So we primarily monitor water quality in the lowland catchments that are affected by agricultural, industrial and urban pressures.

Phosphorus levels



Levels at 60% of sites showed no change

Ammonia levels



Levels at 62% of sites showed no change

This indicates potential improvements in management of discharges

Invertebrate communities indicative of



► **poor water quality** were found at

13% of sites

► **fair quality** but typical of moderate impacts on water quality were found at

18% of sites

Levels at 68% of sites were good to excellent

WATER QUANTITY

Demand for water has increased across the region, with water being used for irrigation, drinking, stock water, industry and hydroelectric power generation. On the back of some drier years and reduced summer flows, the demand for water for irrigation alone has been significant.

Irrigation allocation

has increased by

161% since 2012



Hydroelectric power

is the largest consented user of water in the region

The Grey River catchment

has the largest number of consented water takes in the region



AIR QUALITY

Permanent site at **1 Reefton**

Long term monitoring showing improvement



The demand for groundwater has more than doubled since 2012



Lake Brunner
 Significant work undertaken in the Lake Brunner catchment over the past decade continues to pay dividends with the lake still classified as 'low nutrient'.

Iveagh Bay, Lake Brunner

RAINFALL

The West Coast is the wettest region in New Zealand with average yearly rainfall totals of between 1,746mm to 11,228mm. Most rain recorders measured lower than average rainfall in 2012, 2013 and 2017. Rainfall was average, or slightly above, for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

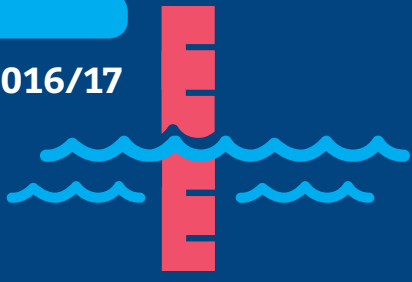
The Cropp River at waterfall received a whopping **11,228mm** of rain in 2017!



RIVER FLOWS

Summer flows 2016/17
 Wetter than average

Summer flows 2012-2017
 Average



FOR MORE INFORMATION

This is just a snippet of the monitoring information we capture. Check our website for more, or the State Of Environment Report 2018 due to be released shortly. This will be available at www.wcrc.govt.nz/SOE2018



BULLER FMU
 Freshwater Management Unit

We need you!

The Buller, Mokihinui and Karamea catchments are to be the focus of a new Freshwater Management community group.

The purpose of the group will be to identify the values and issues of the community in the catchment around freshwater quality and quantity, and to look at what future plan provisions and work programmes may be needed to manage land and water resources in this area. Council is looking for people with a range of backgrounds and interests relating to land and water – farmers, miners, tourism operators, keen fisher-people, kayakers, or those that take their kids to the local swimming hole every day in summer!

If you would like to find out more about this group, and how you can get involved, come along to a community information session – 5.30pm Wednesday 10th April at the Westport Bridge Club or visit www.wcrc.govt.nz/BullerFMU

Updates on the following Working Groups can be found on our website www.wcrc.govt.nz

- ▶ Grey/Mawhera FMU Group
- ▶ Mairs and Shingle Beach
- ▶ Westport 2100

What has Council's Investment Fund been up to?

In 2000, each of the four West Coast Councils received \$7M from the Government's \$120M compensation package following the end of indigenous timber logging in the region. The other \$92M went to Development West Coast.

Value of fund in **2000** **\$7,000,000**



Between 2000 and 2018 Council has **EARNED INCOME** FROM THE INVESTMENT FUND PORTFOLIO OF

\$10,896,000

THIS HAS BEEN USED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOLLOWING:

2002/03 - 2003/04



PAROA OFFICE ACQUISITION and building project

\$1,850,000

Core Council activities (including democracy, resource management, transport, hydrology, flood warning and emergency management) have been funded in part from the interest earned which has offset rate increases. **For many years this meant a nil or small rate increase.**

2004/05 - 2017/18



Funded general **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

\$6,083,000

Regular deposits of **\$50,000** were made each year, until with interest it reached **\$1,000,000**. Should we need to claim under our infrastructure insurance, the fund will be used to pay the \$250,000 excess.

2011/12



Seeded the **CATASTROPHE FUND**

\$500,000

2013 - 2016



Rolleston **BUILDING WORK**

\$1,265,000

This investment currently **earns a rental of \$96,000/annum** which is treated as a general income source for Council. **The total return received since the investment was made = \$380,000**

Value of fund in **2018**

\$10,070,000*

Using the Reserve Bank inflation calculator, the \$7M invested in 2001 would need to have a value of \$10,041,000 to have preserved its real value. This has been achieved.

*The fund total reflects the loss of \$450,000 to 31/12/18 but does not include any of the recovery in January 2019.



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL