



VOTE
2019
LOCAL ELECTIONS

Have your say.

20 Sept - 12 Oct.

Local government elections are coming soon!

The West Coast region is made up of three constituencies, represented by seven regional councilors; two from Buller, three from Grey and two from Westland. By voting you can make a real difference and give your support to those candidates who have the values and policies to strengthen our regional economy and revitalise our communities. We encourage you to vote as soon as possible after receiving your voting papers in the post so you don't lose them or run out of time.

Voting papers must be received before noon on Polling Day, 12 October 2019.

Te Tai o Poutini Plan

On 21 June, the Local Government Reorganisation Scheme Order was gazetted, and the first official Te Tai O Poutini Plan (TTPP) Committee meeting took place. Recruitment is progressing to engage a very experienced principal planner as well as for a senior planner to work out of the Regional Council.

The first task will be undertaking a gap analysis to understand the current district plans and what is needed to bring these in to line to meet central government and regional policy requirements. This process will also identify what research is required to support a robust plan.

Meetings with lots of stakeholders have been happening over the past few months and a TTPP web page will soon be available on all West Coast Council sites. The web page will track the progress of the project, and outline and identify opportunities for public engagement throughout the plan's development. Public meetings will also be held throughout the region as the work gets underway.

Keep an eye on Facebook for updates on the TTPP project.



wcrc.govt.nz



THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

West Coast Lake Health

Spotlight on Invasive Weeds

The West Coast lakes are uniquely abundant and beautiful and require our protection. By all accounts, our lakes are in good order, comparative to other regions and we want to keep them that way.

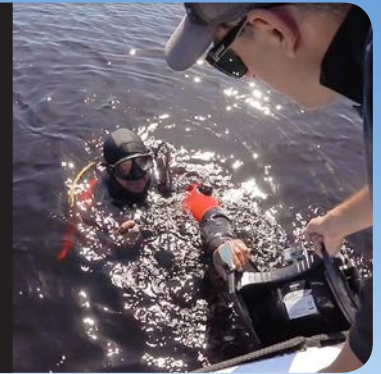
That's why in April we contracted a specialist dive team to survey our most popular lakes to get a good idea of where they were at health wise, a check-up of sorts. Running this programme, in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, we were able to get a baseline of lake health to undertake regular warrant of fitness checks into the future.

We got a good pass mark for lake health with no big surprises. We also got the opportunity through the surveillance programme to further investigate a recently spotted incursion of *Lagarosiphon* (oxygen weed) at the Kapitea Reservoir. Unfortunately, it appears that it has been present for some years and had spread much further than originally thought. We are working with Trust Power and the Department of Conservation on options for control.

While *Elodea canadensis* was found at a number of other lakes, as well as some other weeds, these are not currently causing any issues as lake conditions are keeping them in check.

Want to find out more?

Watch the dive team in action. A short video of the surveillance programme can be found on Council's Facebook page – WCRC and DOC partner up to diver deeper into lake health



The surveillance programme was undertaken in eight lakes across the region chosen due to having the highest potential risk of incursion. The map on the opposite page identifies the lakes involved and some facts about them.



HOKITIKA FMU

Freshwater Management Unit

Are you passionate about your local waterbodies? We are now calling for expressions of interest to be a part of the Hokitika Freshwater Management Unit working group. The work of this group will cover a large geographical area from Hokitika to Franz.

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!

To register your interest go to www.wcrc.govt.nz and follow the Community Group links.



**Be that hero.
Protect our waterways.**

mpi.govt.nz/checkcleandry

**Stop the spread
of invasive
freshwater weeds**

The incursion in the Kapitea Reservoir reinforces the importance of the CHECK CLEAN DRY action to reduce the risk of spreading invasive weeds from one waterbody to another. **ALWAYS CHECK** your gear for weed fragments as the tiniest piece can survive, and will spread, if given the opportunity.



Lake Mapourika

The lake was formed by the once active glaciers of the area and runs into the Okarito Lagoon via the Okarito River.

Lake Haupiri

A strong brown tinge, resulting from dissolved carbon leaching from the wet forest soils and surrounding wetlands, limits the depth to which light can penetrate. This reduces the extent of plant growth.

Lady Lake

24m deep at its central point, Lady Lake sits on top of a major faultline.

Lake Brunner

Roughly a third of all trout fishing on the Coast happens here.

Kapitea Reservoir

Functioning hydro lakes located behind the township of Kumara, this is a beautiful attraction alongside the West Coast Wilderness Trail.

Alert: *Lagarosiphon major*

Lake Mahinapua

The lake was formed by the Hokitika River in times past and is one of the Coast's brownest lakes.

Lake Kaniere

Lake Kaniere is our clearest lake with, on average, 7m visibility.

Lake Poerua

Situated on a major fault line, Lake Poerua was formed by a large landslide that came from the eastern slopes of Mt Te Kinga. The lake is known for its sudden and strong winds that can quickly make conditions rapidly challenging for small craft, with people sadly having lost their lives as a result.

Lake Mapourika

Franz Josef

Ongoing monitoring

The West Coast has approximately 20 sizeable accessible lakes. A monitoring programme has been recommended to keep a watch on the presence of other invasive weed or pest fish species. The frequency of checks ranges from annually to 10 yearly, depending on their accessibility and how popular they are.



What do you want to know?

Twice a year, Council produces a general information newsletter which accompanies the rates invoice. Do you find this information interesting? Is there something you would like to see or find out more about? This is your chance to let us know. You can email your thoughts and ideas to feedback@wrc.govt.nz

COMPLIANCE SNAPSHOT

Some of the activity undertaken over the last year (ended 30 June 2019).

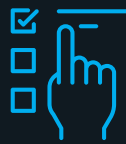
Council's small Compliance team covers a large geographical area. Responding to both complaints and environmental incidents (including marine oil spills), they also undertake a proactive monitoring programme.

Activities are guided by Council's Compliance and Enforcement Policy (which is available on the Council website), as well as the targets set out in the Annual Plan. The majority of sites visited are compliant, and a 'work with' approach is favoured to address minor non-compliances. However there are incidences where enforcement action is necessary.

3 prosecutions completed



Environmental incidents can be reported to the 24 hour response service on 0508 800 118.



233 complaints received and assessed

891 resource consents monitored

resource consents monitored



208 dairy farm compliance assessments

dairy farm compliance assessments



27 infringement notices

infringement notices

20 abatement notices

abatement notices

28 formal warnings issued

formal warnings issued

96 non-compliances confirmed from complaint related site visits

238 site visits across 84 mine sites

500+ other site visits

(e.g. whitebait, gravel, sewage systems, industrial plants)



PAYING RATES

Want to receive your rates invoice by email? If this sounds like you, follow the links on our website to register your email against your properties www.wcrc.govt.nz

Twitter Flood Alert Service



The Council offers flood alerts via Twitter. The rivers linked to provide this information include the Karamea, Mokihinui, Buller, Grey, Hokitika and Waiho rivers. The flood alerts are another tool that will share updates with the public when a river goes through its alarm levels. This information does not replace the data currently provided on the Council's website, or other flood warning procedures already in place. To register to receive a Twitter flood alert visit www.wcrc.govt.nz/floodalerts



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