

**Thank you.**

**I was going to present this by way of General Business, but was asked by the mayor to follow up after the Chief Executive's report.**

**You would have viewed a copy of the West Coast Regional Council,s Hokitika proposed rating District and Proposed works. plus a copy of the peak depth map showing low lying areas.**

**I am not here to discuss the engineering operatonal logistics of this.**

**My purpose is to outline matters of significance, because we will need to work together and support the West Coast Regional Council in their process to protect Hokitika from erosion and flooding.**

**I have very good knowledge of some major catchments behind Hokitika. The Cropp River catchment not only records the highest rainfall in New Zealand but is listed as one of the top five on the planet. The Cropp flows into the Whitcombe which in turns flows into the Hokitika River.**

**If we have a downpour in the catchments I have just mentioned, similar to the recent Buller and Mid Canterbury events, the risk of flooding to this town will be catastrophic.**

**There will be no escaping flooding to the residential, the central business district, Westland Milk products, rest homes, the list is endless.**

**Not only would this potential event be a disaster for this community but a huge effect to the region.**

**There is a plan to protect the town. NOW is the time where we have to work together, a need for unity, a need for solidarity.**

**We are reliant on the West Coast Regional Council , and we need to not only show support but to give it.**

**In my lifetime I have been witness to events on the West Coast, where people have lost property, belongings and their loved ones.**

**After the event, the finger gets pointed, with statements, " this should never have happened, and that should have happened!!!"**

**In Westport, we are seeing aspects of this behaviour unfolding.**

**Therefore I am strongly advocating that we act now. We need to work together, and I am strongly in favour of getting behind with a plan to protect this town and its people, who are reliant on us to do so.**

**So to this end, we need to set up an action plan, working alongside the West Coast Regional Council. Of course there will be a need to include other organisations in order to achieve our purpose.**

CR Paul Davidson