



Cover image: Lake Matheson - BareKiwi

# Council Meeting Agenda

4 June 2026

Ordinary Council Meeting

**WESTLAND**  
District Council | Te Kahui o Poutini



# AGENDA

## RĀRANGI TAKE

NOTICE OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF

# COUNCIL

to be held on **Thursday, 4 June 2026**, commencing at **1 pm** in the Council Chambers,  
36 Weld Street, Hokitika and via Zoom

Chairperson	Her Worship the Mayor
Deputy and Northern Ward Member:	Cr Burden
Northern Ward Members:	Cr Mackenzie, Cr Maitland
Hokitika Ward Members:	Cr Gillett, Cr Martin, Cr Walker
Southern Ward Members:	Cr Manera, Cr Munns
Iwi Representatives:	Kw Madgwick, Kw Tumahai



In accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, members may attend the meeting by audio or audio-visual link.

## Council Vision

*By investing in our people, caring for the environment, respecting the Mana Whenua Cultural heritage, and enabling investment, growth, and development we will enrich our district and the people that reside here.*

# Purpose

The Council is required to give effect to the purpose of local government as prescribed by section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002. That purpose is:

- (a) To enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) To promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

## 1. KARAKIA TĪMATANGA OPENING KARAKIA

*Kia hora te marino  
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana  
Hei hurahai mā tātou  
I te rangi nei  
Aroha atu, aroha mai  
Tātou i a tātou katoa  
Hui e! Tāiki e!*

*May peace be widespread  
May the sea be like greenstone  
A pathway for us all this day  
Give love, received love  
Let us show respect for each other  
Bind us all together!*

## 2. NGĀ WHAKAPAAHA APOLOGIES

## 3. WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a Member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to Members to review the matters on the agenda and assess and identify where they may have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest, or where there may be a perception of a conflict of interest.

If a member feels they do have a conflict of interest, they should publicly declare that at the start of the meeting or of the relevant item of business and refrain from participating in the discussion or voting on that item. If a member thinks they may have a conflict of interest, they can seek advice from the Chief Executive (preferably before the meeting). It is noted that while members can seek advice the final decision as to whether a conflict exists rests with the member.

## 4. NGĀ TAKE WHAWHATI TATA KĀORE I TE RĀRANGI TAKE URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Section 46A of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 states:

- (7) An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at the meeting if –
  - (a) the local authority by resolution so decides, and
  - (b) the presiding member explains at the meeting at a time when it is open to the public, -
    - (i) the reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
    - (ii) the reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.
- (7A) Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting, -
  - (a) that item may be discussed at the meeting if –
    - (i) that item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
    - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
  - (b) No resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.

**5. PUBLIC FORUM**

Pavel Bares – Kumara Endowment Land Fund

**6. NGĀ MENETI O TE HUI KAUNIHERA  
MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

Minutes circulated.

- Council Meeting Minutes – 23 April 2026 (7 - 12)
- Extraordinary Council Meeting – 17 April 2026 (13 - 14)
- Extraordinary Council Meeting Annual Plan Public Hearings - 13 May 2026 (15 - 48)

**COMMITTEE MINUTES TO BE RECEIVED:**

- Nil

**7. ACTION LIST (49)**

**8. NGĀ TĀPAETANGA  
PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

**9. PŪRONGO KAIMAHI  
STAFF REPORTS**

- **Financial Report** (50 - 66)  
Financial Accountant to speak to the report.
- **Risk and Assurance Committee Chair Report** (67 - 69)  
Quality Assurance Manager to speak to the report.
- **Simplifying Local Government** (70 - 73)  
Chief Executive to speak to the report.

**10. ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

Council is required to confirm its Seal being affixed to the following documents:

- Warrant of Appointment

Harry Thompson	Warrant of Appointment - Planner	To act in the Westland District as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Officer pursuant to s 174 of the Local Government Act; AND</li> <li>• An Officer under the Westland District Council Bylaws; AND</li> <li>• Enforcement officer pursuant to s 38 of the Resource Management Act 1991, including the power of entry pursuant to s 332 and s 333 of the Resource Management Act 1991.</li> </ul>
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## 11. KA MATATAPU TE WHAKATAUNGA I TE TŪMATANUI RESOLUTION TO GO INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED

(to consider and adopt confidential items)

Resolutions to exclude the public: Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public are excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of the resolution are as follows:

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
1.	Confidential Minutes – Ordinary Council Meeting 23 April 2026	Good reason to withhold exist under Section 7	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.  Section 48(1)(a)
2.	Licence to Occupy and Area Development	Good reason to withhold exist under Section 7	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.  Section 48(1)(a)
3.	License to Occupy on Legal Road	Good reason to withhold exist under Section 7	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.  Section 48(1)(a)
4.	Haast Water Supply	Good reason to withhold exist under Section 7	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.  Section 48(1)(a)
5.	Hokitika Swimming Pool	Good reason to withhold exist under Section 7	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.  Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on sections 48(1)(a) and (d) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests or interests protected by section 7 of that Act, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Item No.	Interest	Section
1, 3, 4	Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	(S.7(2)(a))
1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Protect information where the making available of the information: (i) would disclose a trade secret; and (ii) would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	(S.7(2)(b))
3, 4	Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information (i) would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; (ii) would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest;	(S.7 (2)(c))
4	Maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through (i) The free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of any local authority, or any persons to whom section 2(5) applies, in the course of their duty; or (ii) The protection of such members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment.	(S.7 (2)(f))

**DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
ON 25 JUNE 2026 AT 1.00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM**



# ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM ON THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2026 COMMENCING AT 1.00 PM

The Council Meeting was live streamed to the Westland District Council YouTube Channel and presentations were made available on the Council Website.

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## 1. KARAKIA TĪMATANGA OPENING KARAKIA

The opening Karakia was led by Cr Maitland.

## 2. MEMBERS PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Chairperson:	Her Worship the Mayor
Deputy and Northern Ward Member:	Cr Burden
Northern Ward Members:	Cr Maitland, Cr Mackenzie
Hokitika Ward Members:	Cr Gillett, Cr Martin, Cr Walker
Southern Ward Members:	Cr Manera, Cr Munns
Iwi Representatives:	Kw Madgwick, Kw Tumahai

## NGĀ WHAKAPAAHA APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cr Walker.

Moved Cr Mackenzie, seconded Cr Maitland and **Resolved** that the apology from Cr Walker be received and accepted.

## STAFF PRESENT

B. Phillips, Chief Executive; E. Bencich, General Manager District Assets; S. Lewis, Chief Financial Officer; N. Martin, Governance and Communications Officer; S. Hewett, Governance Administrator.

Staff present for part of the meeting:

D. Maitland, Quality Assurance Manager

## 3. WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Interest Register had been circulated to the Mayor and Councillors, and no changes have been made this month.

**4. NGĀ TAKE WHAWHATI TATA KĀORE I TE RĀRANGI TAKE  
URGENT ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There were no urgent items.

**5. PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no submissions to the public forum.

**6. NGĀ MENETI O TE HUI KAUNIHĒRA  
MINUTES OF MEETINGS TO BE CONFIRMED**

The following council minutes were presented for adoption:

- **Council Meeting Minutes 26 March 2026**
- **Council Meeting Minutes 26 February 2026 – Amended**
- **Extraordinary Council Meeting Minutes 1 April 2026**

Moved Cr Gillett, seconded Cr Manera and **Resolved** that:

- 1.1 The minutes of the ordinary council meeting held on 26 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting following an amendment to resolution 1.6 under the ‘West Coast Water Services Council Controlled Organisation’ report, correcting “March” to “April.”
- 1.2 The **amended** minutes of the ordinary council meeting held on 26 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.
- 1.3 The minutes of the extraordinary council meeting held on 1 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**COMMITTEE MINUTES TO BE RECEIVED:**

- **CCO Oversight Committee Meeting held on 28 January 2026**

Moved Cr Gillett, seconded Cr Manera and **Resolved** that the minutes of the CCO Oversight Committee Meeting held on 28 January 2026 be received.

Her Worship the Mayor approved that her digital signature be added to the confirmed council meeting minutes.

**7. ACTION LIST**

The Chief Executive gave an update on the action list, noting that most items are still ongoing, but the freedom camping workshop has a date set for 4 May 2026. Fuel monitoring was still ongoing in-line with the contingency plan previously circulated to councillors, Her Worship the Mayor also provided an update to council that she has had a meeting with Minister Watts to discuss supply and risks with particular regard towards the more remote communities within the district and that the conversations were positive.

Cr Gillett raised to council that many of the ongoing items on the action list were now outside of council’s control and should be removed to tidy it up. Councillors agreed and the following items are to be closed or remain open accordingly:

- Item 1: Close
- Item 2: Open – until a Trust Board is formed (or is deemed unnecessary)
- Item 5: Open – until the meeting with residents has been held

- Item 6: Close – noting this will be addressed in the next Long-Term Plan
- Item 7: Close
- Item 9: Open – Once workshop is held in May this item should be formally closed at next council meeting
- Item 10: Close – fuel situation updates will be rolled into the Chief Executive’s update going forward.

Moved Cr Gillett, seconded Cr Maitland and **Resolved** that the Action List be received and updated in accordance with the above.

## 8. **NGĀ TĀPAETANGA PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

## 9. **PŪRONGO KAIMAHI STAFF REPORTS**

### **Financial Report**

The Chief Financial Officer spoke to the financial report covering the period of 1 – 31 March 2026 and highlighted the following:

- Revenue is below forecast however this is largely driven by grant funding delays, so it is an issue with reporting timeframes rather than a long-term issue in funding.
- Depreciation calculations are still an issue.
- Additional repairs and maintenance work have been required due to the storms that hit the region causing damage, however council is still operating at a surplus.
- Council’s deposits are showing as 0 however this is just due to the timing of how money is withdrawn and deposited and will be redeposited again soon.
- NZTA claims are now going through and have been submitted and paid on time.

The Chief Financial Officer notified the council that that approval for carry forwards on capital projects will be submitted to council in June.

Council are seeing more requests for rate relief assistance due to the current economic climate and are accommodating these requests as much as possible.

Moved Cr Mackenzie, seconded Cr Munns and **Resolved** that the Financial Performance Report to 31 March 2026 be received.

### **Chief Executive’s Quarterly Report**

The Chief Executive spoke to the report and informed councillors that staff are currently reviewing the content and formatting of this report, looking to make it a more strategic and forward-looking view but welcome any feedback from Councillors on what they would like to be reflected in the report. In the future the Senior Leadership Team will also attend the council meeting for the report to answer any questions Councillors may have.

Councillors noted the level of detail in the report and suggested that this information should be presented to the public to inform them of the work that council does. The Chief Executive confirmed that this messaging is something that council would like to improve on and will be looked at once the new Communications Advisor starts.

Moved Cr Munns, seconded Cr Martin and **Resolved** that the Chief Executive's Quarterly Report be received.

### **Risk and Assurance Committee Chair Report**

The Quality Assurance Manager spoke to the report on behalf of the Independent Chair who sent his apologies for being unable to attend.

Committee members, Cr Mackenzie and Cr Martin, extended an invite to the other councillors to approach them if they would like anything to be raised at the Risk and Assurance Committee meetings.

Moved Cr Mackenzie, seconded Cr Marting and **Resolved** that the report be received.

### **Risk and Assurance Committee Terms of Reference**

The Quality Assurance Manager spoke to the report, explaining that the Terms of Reference were adopted by Council in December 2025 when the committee was reestablished at the commencement of the new triennium, however at the inaugural meeting held in March amendments were made to more accurately reflect the role of the committee within council. The changes made remove references to a non-resourced internal audit function.

Moved Cr Martin, seconded Cr Gillett and **Resolved** that:

1. The report be received
2. Council adopts the amended Risk and Assurance Committee Terms of Reference upon the removal of references to internal audits.

### **CCO Oversight Committee Terms of Reference**

The Chief Financial Officer spoke to the report, as with the Risk and Assurance Committee the Terms of Reference were adopted by Council in December 2025 when the committee was reestablished at the start of the new triennium, however in the inaugural committee meeting held in January an amendment was made to the wording under Section 3 'Delegated Authority' to the following:

"To appoint a specialist consultant or recruitment advisor as and if required to provide the committee with specialised advice."

Moved Cr Maitland, seconded Cr Gillett and **Resolved** that:

1. The report be received
2. Council adopts the amended CCO Oversight Committee Terms of Reference.

### **Mayor's Monthly Report**

Her Worship the Mayor apologised for being unable to provide a written report this month but will include April in May's report.

## **10. ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

Nil

## **11. KA MATATAPU TE WHAKATAUNGA I TE TŪMATANUI RESOLUTION TO GO INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

Moved Cr Gillett, seconded Cr Mackenzie and **Resolved** that Council confirm that the public were excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 at 3.55 pm.

The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public are excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of the resolution are as follows:

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
1.	Confidential Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting 26 March 2026 - Extraordinary Council Meeting 1 April 2026	Good reason to withhold exist under Section 7	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.  Section 48(1)(a)
2.	Kumara Junction Highway	Good reason to withhold exist under Section 7	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.  Section 48(1)(a)
3.	Chief Executive Review Committee Update	Good reason to withhold exist under Section 7	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists.  Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on sections 48(1)(a) and (d) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests or interests protected by section 7 of that Act, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Item No.	Interest	Section
1	Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons	(S.7(2)(a))
1, 2, 3	Protect information where the making available of the information: (i) (ii) would disclose a trade secret; and would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	(S.7(2)(b))
1, 2,	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities	(S. 7(2)(h))
1, 2, 3	Prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	(S.7(2)(j))

Moved Cr Munns, seconded Cr Gillett and **Resolved** that the business conducted in the 'Public Excluded Section' be confirmed, and accordingly, the meeting went back to the open part of the meeting at 4.33 pm.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 2.48 PM**

**DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 28 MAY 2026 AT 1.00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM**

Confirmed by:

**Her Worship the Mayor  
Chair**

**Date: 28 May 2026**

# EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2026 COMMENCING AT 10:30 AM

The Council Meeting was live streamed to the Westland District Council YouTube Channel and presentations were made available on the Council Website.

### 1. KARAKIA TĪMATANGA OPENING KARAKIA

The opening Karakia was led by Cr Maitland.

### 2. MEMBERS AND APOLOGIES

Chairperson:	Her Worship the Mayor
Northern Ward Members:	Deputy Mayor Cr Burden, Cr Maitland, Cr Mackenzie
Hokitika Ward Members:	Cr Gillett , Cr Martin, Cr Walker
Southern Ward Members:	Cr Manera, Cr Munns
Iwi Representatives:	Kw Madgwick , Kw Tumahai

### NGĀ WHAKAPAAHA APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cr Manera.

Moved Cr Munns, seconded Cr Maitland and **Resolved** that the apology from Cr Manera be received and accepted.

### STAFF PRESENT

B. Phillips, Chief Executive; S. Lewis, Chief Financial Officer; E. Bencich, General Manager District Assets; L. Webster, General Manager Regulatory and Compliance; S. Hewett, Governance Administrator; N. Martin, Governance and Communications Officer.

### 3. WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Interest Register had been circulated to the Mayor and Councillors.

There were no changes made to the Interest Register.

### 4. PŪRONGO KAIMAHI STAFF REPORTS

## **Hokitika Swimming Pool**

The Chief Executive introduced the report and background behind it. The Hokitika Swimming Pool uses a diesel boiler to heat the water and council staff have been monitoring the price of fuel, in particular diesel, which has seen large increases due to the conflict in the Middle East. Due to this large increase in diesel prices the cost to keep the pool open and running has also climbed and today's paper presents to the Council a decision on whether it is economically viable to keep it open.

The General Manager Regulatory and Compliance continued, explaining the current situation is that the cost of heating the pool has risen from approximately \$11,000 a month to \$6,000 - \$8,000 a week and this will climb as the temperature decreases over winter. The council is unable to debt fund the pool so any increases in operational costs would need to come either at the expense of other council services or from the rate payer.

The Hokitika Swimming Pool has an annual shutdown period of one month during winter for maintenance and plans had already been approved in the Long Term Plan to upgrade the heating system from diesel to electric so council proposed that these works be accelerated to coincide with a shutdown period beginning on 1 May 2026 to minimise the time the pool is closed. If council approves the closure of the pool, it is expected to be closed for a 3-to-6-month period.

Moved Cr Mackenzie, seconded Cr Munns and **Resolved** that:

- 1.1 The report be received.
- 1.2 Council approve the closure of the Hokitika Swimming Pool on 1st May 2026 until the planned capital project works are completed and fuel prices assessed.
- 1.3 That monthly status updates via the Chief Executive's action list updates will be provided, to ensure clear visibility of the situation to inform future decision making regarding the facility.

Carried unanimously.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 10:48 PM**

**DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 23 APRIL 2026 AT 1:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM**

Confirmed by:

**Her Worship the Mayor Helen Lash  
Chair**

**Date: 28 May 2026**



# EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2026 COMMENCING AT 9.00 AM

The Council Meeting was live streamed to the Westland District Council YouTube Channel and presentations were made available on the Council Website.

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## 1. KARAKIA TĪMATANGA OPENING KARAKIA

The opening Karakia was led by Her Worship the Mayor.

## 2. MEMBERS AND APOLOGIES

Chairperson:	Her Worship the Mayor
Deputy and Northern Ward Member:	Cr Burden
Northern Ward Members:	Cr Maitland, Cr Mackenzie
Hokitika Ward Members:	Cr Gillett, Cr Martin, Cr Walker
Southern Ward Members:	Cr Manera, Cr Munns
Iwi Representatives:	Kw Madgwick, Kw Tumahai

## NGĀ WHAKAPAAHA APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Kw Madgwick and Kw Tumahai.

Moved Deputy Mayor Burden, seconded Cr Martin and **Resolved** that the apologies from Kw Madgwick and Kw Tumahai be received and accepted.

## STAFF PRESENT

B. Phillips, Chief Executive; E. Bencich, General Manager District Assets; S. Lewis, Chief Financial Officer; D. Maitland, Quality Assurance Manager; M. Tahapeehi, General Manager Business Enablement; L. Webster, General Manager Regulatory and Compliance; J. Birnie, Strategy and Transformation Manager; N. Martin, Governance and Communications Officer; S. Hewett, Governance Administrator.

## 3. WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Interest Register had been circulated to the Mayor and Councillors, and no changes have been made this month.

## 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Her Worship the Mayor welcomed the members of the public who had taken the time to come in and speak to their feedback submissions on the Annual Plan and gave an overview of the process,

emphasising that these hearings are about allowing councillors to hear directly from the public before making final decisions on the annual plan.

Speaker List:

#### **4.1 Malcolm Lawson – Submission 39 – Via Zoom**

- The submission focuses on concerns about the Jackson Bay Boat Ramp.
- It notes that the proposed fees are not explained in the plan and cannot be supported without further detail.
- The submitter does not believe the boat ramp justifies charging fees.
- They call for a more thorough analysis and a comprehensive development plan for the area.
- This plan should consider freedom camping, dog access, roading, wharf use, and parking.
- Overall, they prefer a well-thought-out, future-proof strategy rather than quick decisions.

The submission was noted by the Council and the Mayor stated plans to meet with the community when next down in Jackson Bay. It was acknowledged that the items mentioned in this submission largely relate to the Long-Term Plan and will be documented to be raised once planning starts for that document.

#### **4.2 Reilly & Pamela Enstrom – Submissions 65, 66 & 78**

- Suggestion to adjust hours (later openings and closings on some days) to maintain overall access while accommodating swim clubs and remote users.
- Reducing hours could result in 12–20 children per day missing lessons.
- Any fee increases should be introduced gradually.
- Highlighted the importance of recreation, rehabilitation, social connection, and water safety in a region with many rivers and lakes.
- Library access is also highly valuable, particularly for young families.
- When asked about external funding opportunities by councillors, stated that it may be possible for the swim club, but likely not the swim school.

Council thanked Reilly and Pamela for their submission, noting that it was useful for them to hear the number of children attending swim school in their decision making.

#### **4.3 Hemi Bedggood – Submission 71**

Speaking on behalf of Federated Farmers of New Zealand

- Wanted to bring attention to regional pest management as a key issue for West Coast farmers and would like involvement in related policies.
- Rural roads and infrastructure are a top priority, with appreciation for council efforts to secure NZTA funding.
- Concerns raised about land management and subdivision fees, particularly their impact on family farm succession.
- Debt reporting is seen as confusing.
- Overall, they support a “back to basics” approach.

Her Worship the Mayor noted that pest management currently falls within the West Coast Regional Council’s remit but considering the potential upcoming local government reforms it is worth councillors understanding ongoing issues in the area. The main concern on the West Coast are pest plants and the West Coast Regional Council are currently seeking engagement on pest control.

#### **4.4 Lez Morgan – Submission 42**

- Concerns raised about illegal right turns into Railway Terrace, having observed members of the council doing it too.
- Asked council what the diesel price would have to decrease to in order to reopen the pool. Council responded to this that reopening of the pool does not only depend on fuel

cost but also on completion of annual maintenance and the work planned to upgrade the heating system, noting that they recognise the importance of the pool to the community and for that reason want to ensure that once the pool does reopen it can stay open.

- Questions raised around why the library isn't utilising property already owned by the council. Council responded that it was due to contractual obligations.
- Requested that the council increase their communication channels with the public, particularly, would like more utilisation of the paper as not everyone is on social media. Council recognised the need to improve in this area and will be looking to address this in the Long-Term Plan where council can make larger budgetary changes.

#### **4.5 Alan Davidson – Submission 23**

- Expressed confusion about how rate figures are presented as they appear different to what he would pay. This was clarified as the plan showing figures excluding GST, though council acknowledges the need for clearer communication and examples.
- There is also confusion around the stated 6% rate increase, as actual changes vary by area.
- Questions were raised about alternative pool heating options such as coal and solar; coal was not specifically discussed, and while solar was considered, it is not viable due to roof weight limits and risks of ground installation.

*Council adjourned at 9:49am to allow time for the final speaker to arrive.*

*Council reconvened at 10:05am.*

#### **4.6 Kelly Stevens – Submissions 38 & 40**

- Presenting on behalf of the Hokitika Amateur Swim Club as the current Club President, provided the council with a summary of the activities and membership of the club. Highlighting that if the operating hours of the swimming pool were to change, it would effectively make the Hokitika Swim Club inoperable as it would reduce their training hours by too much.
- Questioned whether the reduction in hours would lead to cost savings considering the amount the club pays per year, which would be lost, against the proposed amount that would be saved.
- Instead offered other potential solutions including:
  - The pool closes one day per week
  - A collaborative model where the pool opens late and closes late some days and opens early and closes early on others to accommodate the different groups that need access at different times
  - Allowing public access to pool while swim club and school have their sessions. They do not use the whole pool but the rule at the moment is that since it is outside of normal hours others cannot use the pool, including the parents and siblings of the swim club/school participants so it was suggested that allowing, and charging, for entry during this time could increase revenue.
  - An increase in entry fees, considers the current fees quite cheap and doesn't think that there would be much pushback if the entry fee increased slightly.

Her Worship the Mayor thanked the members of the public who had taken the time to come and speak in person and over zoom today, as well as everyone who submitted their feedback during the consultation period.

*Council adjourned at 10:25am before going into deliberations.*

*Council reconvened at 10:37am.*

**6. ŪRONGO KAIMAHI  
STAFF REPORTS**

**Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027 Submission Analysis Report**

The Chief Executive tabled a staff report to add further context to the Submission Analysis Report circulated with the agenda, stating that staff have endeavoured to deliver a balanced approach between cost saving and service delivery and highlighting any issues raised that will need to be addressed during the Long-Term Plan process.

Moved Cr Burden, seconded Cr Gillett and **Resolved** that the report be received.

**7. DELIBERATIONS**

Councillors went through all public submissions one at a time, also taking into consideration staff analysis provided on the submissions, noting public feedback and highlighting any submissions that would feed into Long Term planning. (Appendix 1).

Council acknowledged that there were a small number of late submissions and it was moved by Cr Burden, seconded by Cr Walker and **Resolved** that the late submissions be accepted and considered.

**8. DECISIONS**

**Item 1: Remittance of Rate Penalties**

Staff provided additional clarification to councillors and the public that the penalty only comes into effect 3 months after the final due date but have suggested providing an earlier warning before the penalty kicks in instead of after the deadline.

It was noted that rate payers receive an annual rate bill at the start of the financial year followed by quarterly updates, totalling 4 reminders per year. The majority of rate payers in the district still receive physical mail from council rather than opting for electronic communication and it was suggested that during Long-Term planning council look at ways it could be incentivised to make the switch to reduce the cost associated with physical reminders.

The councillors held a vote on their preferred option:

Option 1 received 8 votes  
Option 2 received 1 vote.

Moved Deputy Mayor Burden, seconded Cr Mackenzie and **Resolved** that Council adopts option 1, "Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands," for the Annual Plan 2026/2027.

The motion was carried unanimously.

**Item 2: Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Council suggested more work done during the LTP process to investigate user pay models. Staff explained that currently the swim school pay \$15 per day of lane hire, a higher fee than the swim club, because they are a commercial operation and that members are not charged any additional entry fees. Staff are looking at options to change the lane hire model to an hourly rate instead.

Councillors discussed the issues raised by the Hokitika Swim Club and the revenue that would be lost by reducing opening hours, making the savings associated with the decision minimal.

The councillors held a vote on their preferred option:

Option 1 received nil votes.

Option 2 received 9 votes.

Moved Cr Mackenzie, seconded Cr Munns and **Resolved** that Council adopts option 2, "Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours," for the Annual Plan 2026/2027.

The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Item 3: Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Staff suggested Option 1 (reduced hours) could be trialled for one year and reviewed through the LTP, with further analysis underway to better understand visitor patterns and strengthen the supporting metrics provided to Council.

While there is interest in adjusting which days are closed, this may have employment relations implications and will require further investigation before being reported back, without impacting the current Annual Plan decision.

The councillors held a vote on their preferred option:

Option 1 received 8 votes.

Options 2 and 3 received nil votes.

Cr Martin abstained due to a perceived conflict of interest.

Moved Cr Manera, seconded Cr Gillett and **Resolved** that Council adopts option 1, "Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand," for the Annual Plan 2026/2027.

The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Item 4: Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Staff suggested Option 1 could be trialled for a year to build stronger supporting metrics, with library staff expressing clear support for this approach due to improved work life balance, while not supporting the further hour reductions proposed under Option 2. Staff noted the current model is impacting satisfaction, particularly with low Saturday afternoon foot traffic (2–4pm) requiring weekend work and indicated a preference for shorter hours to regain Saturday afternoons.

The library currently has a small room in the back available for hire and staff are investigating other ways for the library to generate revenue but are still in early stages. It was acknowledged that the library is an important part of the community that also provides assistance in other areas such as tech support, printing, and copying etc. that aren't readily available services elsewhere in the area and while closing slightly earlier will require a change of habits for community members, there are already mechanisms such as online book reservations to support this shift.

The councillors held a vote on their preferred option:

Option 1 received 8 votes.

Option 2 received nil votes.

Option 3 received 1 vote.

Moved Cr Manera, seconded Cr Maitland and **Resolved** that Council adopts option 1, "Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs," for the Annual Plan 2026/2027.

The motion was carried unanimously.

### **Item 5: Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Discussions around the performance and metrics of the isite as it relates to the overall tourism experience, as well as the suggestions around combining it with other council facilities such as the library and museum, will need to be brought into Long-Term Planning. Staff indicated to council that option 2 is their preferred option, which proposes an even further reduction in hours for more savings.

The councillors held a vote on their preferred option:

Option 1 received nil votes.

Option 2 received 9 voted

Option 3 received nil votes.

Moved Deputy Mayor Burden, seconded Cr Gillett and **Resolved** that Council adopts option 2, "Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings," for the Annual Plan 2026/2027.

The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **Item 6: Library Reserves**

Staff issued a reminder that it is only proposed to be a 1-year freeze on topping up the reserve while council look at how much is needed per annum moving forward to be presented to the council during the LTP process, and that the reserve will not be drawn down for anything else. The reserve amount as it stands would cover roughly 7 to 8 years of the current levels of expenditure.

The councillors held a vote on their preferred option:

Option 1 received 9 votes.

Option 2 received nil votes.

Moved Cr Munns, seconded Cr Maitland and **Resolved** that Council adopts option 1, "Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year," for the Annual Plan 2026/2027.

The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **Item 7: Heritage Park**

Staff informed the Council that the principle behind the depreciation is correct however in this instance the application isn't because council would not be responsible for the replacement of any buildings at the Heritage Park due to depreciation. It was reiterated that this proposal will not affect any council cash funding towards the Heritage Park already in place and that the depreciation fund was set up relatively recently so there is minimal reserves in there, however it would still require a Council resolution to be released for other use.

The councillors held a vote on their preferred option:

Option 1 received 9 votes.

Option 2 received nil votes.

Moved Cr Mackenzie, seconded Cr Maitland and **Resolved** that Council adopts option 1, "Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve," for the Annual Plan 2026/2027.

The motion was carried unanimously.

To conclude, it was moved Cr Manera, seconded Cr Gillett and **Resolved** that:

1. Council has heard and received the written and verbal submissions.
2. Council deliberated on the submissions to the Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027 in the open part of the meeting.
3. The Chief Executive be instructed to make the necessary amendments to the Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027 and present the Annual Plan 2026/2027 to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 June 2026.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Her Worship the Mayor informed councillors and the public that the May ordinary council meeting has been moved to 4 June 2026 and that the councillors have been invited to go and visit the Heritage Park that morning.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 12.50 PM**

**DATE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 4 JUNE 2026 AT 1.00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM**

Confirmed by:

**Her Worship the Mayor  
Chair**

**Date: 4 June 2026**

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Submission #	Agenda Page	Name	Remittance of Rate Penalty	Pool Hours	Museum Hours	Library Hours	Visitor Hours	Library Reserves	Heritage Park	Additional Comments	Council Notes
1	22	Abby Sullivan	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	I also don't think it is a good idea to have a rate increase maybe a year for a pause of increases would be ideal and really helpful I also don't think it is a good idea to have a rate increase maybe a year for a pause of increases would be ideal and really helpful	Noted
2	23	Paul Rasmussen	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	Keep up the good work & keep the rates down.	Noted
3	24	Luca Mckewen								See Email on page 24 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted
4	26	Anthea Keenan								See Email on page 26 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted
5	27	Anthea Keenan								See Email on page 27 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted
6	29	Amigo Galo	2	2	3						Noted
7	30	Andrew Thompson	1	2	3	3	3	2	1	Is there no philanthropic funding at all? Or perhaps it is absorbed in grants and subsidies or other revenue? \$1.5m Mahinapua boardwalk seems like money which could be better allocated. It is free to access Mahinapua and surrounds, nature walks on the West Coast are a little wet and muddy and that's fine. This could be allocated to other civic services which benefit the ratepayer. The tourism dollar (assisted through a sharpened marketing strategy for the town/district) should be the primary source of revenue. Hokitika revitalisation and CBD is again something else which should be driven by the tourism dollar. Sure there are parts of town looking dated which could be upgraded, but this shouldn't be at the expense of ratepayer-	Noted - to be referred to LTP Councillors requested that pool charges increase

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										<p>funded civic services. (see page 30-31 of the Public Hearings Agenda for comments on individual options)</p>	<p>suggestion can be brought into the long term plan. Also comments on site (tourism experience and tourism dollar). Difficult to make granular changes in annual plan process due to statutory time constraints (in reference to temporary fee increases while fuel cost still up).</p>
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8	32	Kelly Kyle	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	Pool is a must have in our community particularly for our learner swimmers and elderly. Dont rely on tourists to keep museum or isite open. Pool and library more important for locals who are paying the rates.	noted
9	33	Beryl Agnew	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	Fees and charges should be reviewed on a regular basis to align with the costs and match within reason what other Councils are charging. I totally understand why, because of diesel prices, why the swimming pool has to be closed. I do think though that the swimming pool is very important to have open in our small community for the well being of children and adults, those who are recuperating, swimming club, learn to swim, schools and aging adults to name a few. A facility that gets our children away from devices and social media. This facility, in my mind, is more important than the museum and library although they have their place also. Could the swimming pool be emptied during the colder winter months and used for something else? A question to think about!!	Noted. Would like to consider combined facilities in LTP.
10	34	Hamiria Mere Ngaamo	2	2	1	1	3	1	2		Noted
11	36	Nicola Sutton	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	It seems the cost cutting is focused on reducing service delivery to community services (pools, libraries, museum etc) but there are likely to be operational savings through other prioritisation of activity. What other operational savings could be made in other areas by reducing levels of service (e.g. lengthen response times, increase fees)?	Noted

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12	37	Olivia Sutton	1	1	1	1	1	2		<p>Primarily centred on the listed fees and charges at Jackson Bay. Recreational fishers cannot be charged to use the wharf in its current state as there is no landing and is currently unsafe to load and unload passengers. Potentially look at adding this fee once the wharf upgrade has been completed, although I do not know how this will be achieved. Additional you cannot charge to use the "boat ramp" to launch a boat, there are two makeshift ramps in use, they are not formed ramps with facilities, nor would a formed ramp survive for long due to the changeable weather and sometimes rough northerly seas, and it is not feasible to charge usage. Nor is it feasible to charge parking at the site. There is no allocated parking as such. The potential for a parking plan/allocation was discussed with Mayor Lash at her visit to the Bay in February 2026. The community of Jackson Bay believe the most beneficial way to capture fees from visitors to the region would be to have an entry toll payment at the cemetery between Neils Beach and the road to Jackson Bay. This would capture all day visitors, campers, boaties etc. I live in a very prominent position at Jackson Bay on the waterfront and am privy to the numbers of people coming and going to the area on most days. When the weather is fine and usually around weekends we can have in excess of 200-300 vehicles coming and going through out the day at a fee of \$10-\$20 per vehicle per day would definitely generate some income. The sooner this can be implemented the better to commence the potential funding of upgrading the carparking and the ongoing maintenance required for the Jackson Bay Road. It is a popular place for many people to enjoy and it needs to be maintained to allow for the continued enjoyment.</p>	Noted. Jackson Bay to be looked at during LTP - council noting the community has submitted some good ideas.
13	39	Robyn Pope	2		3	3					Noted
14	40	James Scott	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	Instead of increasing rates find cost savings of 6%.	Noted

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15	41	Justin Cook								I can come and speak briefly if needed depending on when it is. About the Band hall in Camp Street Hokitika. I notice there is \$15000 in the long term plan 26/27 but not in the annual plan 26/27. The roof is currently leaking so really needs repairing immediately. I'm not sure how big a job it is but it needs patching straight away.	Noted by council that staff are going back to Justin on issue raised
16	41	Andrew Friedman	1		1				1		Noted
17	42	Anthea Keenan								See Email on page 42 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted
18	43	Paul Elwell-Sutton								See Email on page 43 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted. RMA issue doesn't need to be in annual plan as it is already being covered by the RMA.
19	45	Emma Hurley	2	2	1	1	3	2	2	Can we please put up for consideration to the annual plan angle parking along Hampden street by the Westland High School field. As the field is a significant asset for weekend sports and events, angle parking would allow to reduce risk for parking inappropriately and allow for safer and more people to park and reduce impact to flow to the high school entrance	Parking suggestion will be looked at in LTP. Noted

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20	46	Inger Perkins	2		3	3		1		See pages 46 - 50 of the Public Hearings Agenda for further comments	Council acknowledge confusing nature of presenting 6% rate increase when it differs household to household.
21	51	Rosealie Robinson								I would like to speak about the iSite. I worked there this past summer and I was very concerned about what was happening there. The options should not be just about operating hours. The isite should be merged with the Library or the Museum. That should be an option, not just changes to hours. See my comments on the isite. This needs a major overhaul in the way it operates. That is what I want to speak about. I am an accountant.	Noted.
22	52	Thomas Bleeker	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	In particular, I suggest that development fees be structured in a way that provides certainty and consistency for applicants, while still reflecting the actual cost of processing, assessment, and compliance work undertaken by Council staff. This approach should balance affordability and incentive for development with the need to avoid under-recovery of costs that ultimately fall on ratepayers. I support an approach that prioritises increasing Council revenue and adjusting rates as appropriate to ensure full recovery of staff time expenditures and other service delivery costs, while maintaining overall fiscal stability. It is important that Council funding mechanisms reflect the true cost of delivering services, including staff time, compliance activities, and ongoing operational requirements. Ensuring rates are set at a level that properly	Need to manage library reserves communications as not being fully understood by members of the public.

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										recovers these costs will support long-term financial sustainability and reduce reliance on deferred funding or under-recovered service delivery.	
23	53	Alan Davidson								<p>I would like to speak to council about my submission</p> <p>Cost of Heating Pool - Council officers report discusses cost of diesel and electricity but does not mention costs of heating using coal. In fact coal is not mentioned at all.</p> <p>Greymouth use coal, Milk factory use coal, Grey High School use coal.</p> <p>Page 30. Provide RATE SAMPLES –</p> <p>-EXAMPLES are misleading as what are provided are different from what I pay, as I pay GST included – the examples apparently are not GST inclusive. I found it misleading.</p> <p>- Why are some properties have reductions when all residential have an increase.</p> <p>- Could it be properties have no increase, as opposed to rate reduction.</p>	noted

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24	54	Sally Gallant		2						<p>We do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support your preferred Option 1. We support either Option 2, or other potential alternatives that may achieve cost savings without unduly impacting the Hokitika Swimming Club and the wider swimming community on the West Coast. Hokitika Swimming Club is one of the three clubs that make up the Buller West Coast swimming region. Any decision to reduce pool hours and limit Hokitika Swimming Club’s ability to operate will have significant flow-on effects for the Greymouth and Westport Swimming Clubs, and consequently for competitive swimming across the entire West Coast region. Reducing access to the pool will also have wider impacts on the health and wellbeing of local children and young people. Swimming provides an important opportunity for regular physical activity, fitness, social connection, discipline, and participation in organised sport. Limiting access to these facilities risks reducing participation in healthy recreational activities and competitive sport opportunities for West Coast youth.</p>	noted
25	55	Jean Potter	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	<p>The four places you plan to reduce hours of opening are important services for rate payers. I can see there are occasions when demand is low but reduced hours could easily lead to reduced staff or reduced staff remuneration.</p> <p>These people are the front-line of Council staff. They are often the only Council staff that ratepayers meet and interact with. They all do commendable work and should not have their income or jobs threatened. The Council has an obligation to provide these community services.</p>	noted

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26	60	Chloe Wieblitz	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	<p>I do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support your preferred Option 1. I support option 2 (current hours) or propose other potential options that do not unduly impact our community users and the swim club and swim school. I am concerned that the proposed reduced hours, will significantly impact the ability of the Hokitika Swim Club to operate. The club has volunteer coaches who typically work full-time and are often unable to be poolside before 5pm. The proposed reduction to the operating hours would limits training opportunities available to swimmers. The swim club provides a great opportunity for our swimmers to work hard to improve their swimming, compete in regional and inter-regional competitions and benefit their wellbeing. Without the Hokitika Swimming Club swimmers this would severely impact on the ability to make all West Coast based swim meets viable, therefore the decision on reducing pool hours and impacting our club’s ability to operate will greatly affect Greymouth and Westport Swimming Clubs and subsequently all competitive swimming on the West Coast. The current proposed reduction is also designed and skewed towards impacting just the late afternoon / evening users rather than being designed in a more equitable manner across all pool users. I support developing a collaborative and mixed operating hour model to accommodate early morning swimmers, aqua classes, swim school and swim club. This could be easily designed with a mix of some days having a later start and later finish and some days earlier start and finish. I recommend and strongly support maintaining sufficient late afternoon / early evening access to enable the Hokitika Swim Club and swim school to provide structured training and opportunity for the swim club to continue to provide our community with the opportunity to improve their swimming and swim competitively.</p>	noted
27	61	Lena Walker	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	<p>As a rural family who works full time, we have really appreciated the later swimming lessons available and later open times where we can nip in and have a quick swim with our children. With the current loss of facilities of the Hokitika Primary Schools pool, it has been really important for us to use the facilities at the public pool to further teach our children water safety skills - something we wouldn't be able to do in Greymouth due to the further</p>	Noted

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										distance and costs involved with travel. I'm sure other families are in the same boat and it would be a shame to lose access facility which has recently been upgraded.	
28	63	Antoni Houston	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	I am surprised at how low the swimming pool fees are given the amount of money that has been spent on upgrades. Greymouth fees are higher and appear to be more in line with other Council pool fees such as Christchurch. Hokitika doesn't appear to be trying to recoup basic running costs.	Noted
29	64	Alice Marshall		2		3	3	2	2	I think your decision to shut the pool. Early was not in the interest of any of your Hokitika of residence and ratepayers. Sadly we have all had to get used to the fuel crisis and working ways around saving money but the decision to shut the pool has left Hokitika without one of its greatest assets towards the kids and elderly community of Hokitika if you've ever been to the pool you would've seen the sort of people that use the elderly man that goes every week to keep it fitness app all the kids and parents the kids that get go to swim lessons and the kids that are in swim club sometimes it's not always about numbers in a community. It's about who is using the facilities and who it's going to affect mostly and sadly you've affected the elderly and your youngest generation	Noted
30	65	Cassandra Colman	2	2		3		2		The pool is a VITAL access for our whole community! This includes access being available for children to lose the pool outside of their school hours and for parents able to take their kids swimming before or after the parents work hours. Please don't shut us out of our own pool!	Noted

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31	66	Abby Clement	2	2	1					Operating hours are already more limited than other towns. Better evening hours are required for health of our community to enable better access after work hours for fitness & learning. My children need lessons later in the evening as this helps us as a working family (& you sure don't want me to reduce my hours as an overworked local GP). Swim club is an amazing local asset & should be supported. Aqua fit is another amazing asset and should be supported. These need to be evening options for swim club teacher access & for aqua fit attendees. As a doctor I regularly encourage adults with arthritis to swim for exercise and if they work then option 2 would reduce this access further. In fact I think you should consider more late night access routinely.	Noted. On medical note - can factor rehabilitation into discussion about pool pricing.
32	67	Hannah Matthews	2	2		3		2	2	The pool is a huge benefit to this community. After school swim lessons are so important for kids, the improvement we see in our kids throughout the year as they engage in swim lessons every week is incredible and so important living in a community so close to the sea and lakes.	Noted.
33	67	Andrew Wiffen	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	Practical access to the pool is very important for local families, especially working families, rural families, and those travelling from South Westland. Standard opening hours do not always work around school, work, farming, travel time, and other family commitments. After-school and evening access is especially important for swim lessons, swim club, and water safety education. These programmes give children confidence in the water and create a pathway from learn-to-swim through to competitive swimming. Limiting access to standard hours would make it much harder for many children to take part. Even though the pool is currently closed, I believe future operating arrangements should protect flexible access for organised groups such as swim schools and clubs. This is not just about recreation — it is about child safety, community wellbeing, and giving local families fair access regardless of where they live or what hours they work. Please retain the current ability for approved groups to use the pool outside standard operating hours. Balance needs to be struck between rate increases and service provided.	Noted

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34	69	Alisa Alspach		2	1	3	1			The pool is an important part of pur community, especially for those whanau learning to swim or interested in the more competitive aspect of swim club. The swim club is run by volunteers and thus restricting the time the pool is open will be di icult for those working volunteers. Water safety is such an important aspect of living on the Coast and in NZ and our kids need the opportunity to learn water safety in a safe controlled environment. I would suggest that if operating hour reduction is a cost saving exercise, that the fee structure is looked at. The pool is currently easily accessible for all, but the cost could be increased slightly and even more dramatically for non-locals. I don't want to see the end of week day hour reduced as this makes it difficult for working people to access the library. Saturday hours could be reduced.	Noted
35	71	Monica Hulme		2	1	3	1		2		Noted
36	71	Loraine Haworth	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	with the 'fuel crisis' hyped up by government and media costs are rising at an incredible rate - object to raising the bar from 5% increase to 6% increase. much more transparency required on council spending	Noted
37	72	Sean Millington	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	For the Haast Jackson Bay River Road, suggest a toll station/booth at the end of Neils Beach for all traffic to pay entrance to Jackson Bay. That's fairer than only charging recreational boat users boat launching fee and parking fees and potentially wharf fees (at present no real access onto the wharf, as old jetty connected to wharf has gone, so repairs will be needed).	Jackson Bay comment ary for LTP
38	73	Hokitika Amateur Swimming Club								See email page 73 - 76 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted
39	76	Malcolm Lawson & John Searle								See email page 76 - 78 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted - Jackson Bay LTP
40	78	Kelly Stevens								See email page 78 - 79 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted - LTP
41	80	Kathryn Bennie								See email page 80 - 81 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted - LTP

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42	81	Lez Morgan	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	Annual Plan 2026/27 like every annual plan before it excludes the real fiscal spending on items that Westland District council does not want to discuss with the ratepayer... Mountain Jade building Wildfoods, cost to ratepayer, despite NOT ONE sitting councillor campaigning on putting this on the ratepayers. Shameful deceit by ALL of you! Consultants Racecourse income Racecourse consultants' fees and future development costs of another playground. The lack of transparency around these items of public interest is unforgivable.	Noted
43	82	Simon Whitworth		2	2	3	2	2	1	We pay way to much	Noted
44	83	Hannah Yeats	2	2						I believe access to the swimming pool outside of 'standard hours' is critically important, given the huge geographic catchment area of the pool, and the fact families need to travel far in order to get to swim lessons etc. Learning to swim is an absolutely crucial skill all children should be allowed.	Noted
45	84	Juliet Adams								See letter page 84 -85 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted
46	86	Tayla Mehrtens	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	The swimming is very important for the children to learn water safety. The pool should remain open so our children keep getting their lessons on how to remain safe in bodies of water	Noted
47	87	Amy Cunningham	2	2	1	3	1	2	2		Noted

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48	88	Louise Morgan	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	<p>I find it absolutely stunning we are still paying funds as ratepayers to set up and encourage Wildfoods within a township that has many ratepayers who are defaulting on their rates, struggling to pay rent and mortgages, struggling to feed and heat themselves and yet we still manage to pass this great purple elephant around the town like a touch rugby ball on the basis that every Kiwi loves it and needs a big piss up annually whilst eating wriggling grubs and listening to mediocre music played by singing nonentities with no other hires for that weekend. If it were Robbie Williams it could be interesting but still likely not worth the ticket.</p> <p>This may not be part of your current proposals concerning the Annual Plan for 2026/27 but are there actually any current thoughts coming out of council chambers as to what council building you are all actually going to be working out of after the next election for council? I mean it is heading towards madness as you do not highlight what building or what upgrades or what exactly you are going to do considering the fact the current building is unsuitable seismically going forward. So any update to this would be good to know so we can all work out what we will be adding to our rates bills going forward. Or will this be something left for the newly elected team in 2027/28 to work out whilst sitting inside a big tent on Cass Square whilst newly elected? Be ever so good to know. See pages 88 - 89 to see comments on individual options.</p>	Noted.
49	90	Swimming Canterbury West Coast								See email page 90 - 91 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted - LTP for pool
50	92	Addie Nolan	2	2	3	3	3	2	1	<p>My children both participate in swimming lessons every week. It's half an hour one way for us and my eldest doesn't get home from school bus until 3.40pm. Shortening the hours would stop my kids from attending swimming lessons as we would not be able to get there in time! There are no swimming lessons available in South Westland therefore my kids would have to stop learning to swim altogether apart from at school with unqualified teachers. The pool closing has been a huge disappointment for myself and my kids as they were doing so well at swimming.</p>	Noted

2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

51	92	Aubyn Wilson-Russ		2		3				I personally believe it is so important for the people of Westland to have access to their swimming pool outside of standard operating hours, whether it be for peoples own health or fitness, rehabilitation or just leisure outside of working hours, the significance of changing the available hours would be huge. Not only this, but as a parent of young children who is still learning to navigate water safety, confidence in the water and swimming - this change would be detrimental. We live in an extremely water dense region and the need to have water confidence and swimming ability is of huge importance! The swimming lessons we have attended at the Hokitika Pool have been so invaluable and it would be such a shame to not have the same access to this as we once did.	Noted
52	93	Stacey Brock		2		2				We wish to express our concern regarding the current closure of our local swimming pool and the proposed changes to operating hours. These decisions could significantly affect the availability of after-school swim lessons, which are already limited due to school hours and restricted pool access times. Reduced hours would particularly impact working families, rural communities, and South Westland families who often rely on later afternoon or evening access because of travel distances and work commitments. It is incredibly important that Council carefully considers the impact this may have on children’s ability to learn to swim. With the next nearest swimming pool approximately half an hour away, many families may simply be unable to access regular swimming lessons due to travel time, costs, and work commitments. This creates a significant barrier to water safety education for local children. The pool also plays a vital role in supporting pathways from learn-to-swim programmes into swim club and competitive swimming opportunities for local children and young people. Most importantly, water safety education is essential in our region. We are a community surrounded by rivers, lakes, and the sea, and access to swimming lessons and regular pool use is critical for building confidence, skills, and safety in and around water. We strongly encourage Council to consider the long-term impact these decisions may have on the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community.	Note

2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

53	94	Linda Harden								1. As the Council have now signed up to be part of the CCO, should the annual plan be spending money on Drinking Water p.13, Stormwater p.14, Wastewater p.14. Would it be more prudent to hold off until the CCO entity is going. 2. The Blue Spur chlorination building renewal cost of \$500 000 seems an awful lot to build a steel shed to house the chlorinator. 3. The current Borrowings of \$44 000 000 p.9. projected to go down to the Projected Borrowing of \$30 000 000 p.32 does not seem to stack up given a rates income of \$27 000 000 p.9, the wages bill of \$1494 per household \$9 200 000 for year (Greymouth Star 30/04/2026) on top of Employee Benefit Expenses p.16 of \$8 500 000. Not to mention the \$5 000 000 earmarked for joining the CCO. 4. Westland have a pretty resilient infrastructure for 3 waters. Does joining CCO mean that we will be paying for GDC and Buller coming up to our standard. eg GDC still have 800 residences dumping their sewer into stormwater. (Greymouth Star 02/05/2026)	Noted
54	95	Michelle Urmson	2	2						With such a small saving relating to option 1, why change the operating hours?	Noted
55	95	Ash		2							Noted

2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

56	95	Camine Riley	2	2		3		2	<p>To the Westland District Council, I do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support the Council’s preferred Option 1. I support Option 2 (maintaining the current hours), or alternatively, a revised operating model that does not unduly impact community users, the Hokitika Swim Club, and the swim school. I am particularly concerned about the significant impact the proposed reduced hours would have on the ability of the Hokitika Swim Club to continue operating effectively. The club relies heavily on volunteer coaches who typically work full-time and are often unable to be poolside before 5:00pm. Reducing late afternoon and evening access would severely limit the training opportunities available to swimmers. The Hokitika Swim Club provides an extremely valuable opportunity for local swimmers to improve their skills, work toward personal goals, compete in regional and inter-regional competitions, and benefit physically, mentally, and socially through participation in sport. The club contributes positively to the wellbeing of many young people and families in our community. The impact of reducing the pool hours extends well beyond Hokitika alone. Without the participation of Hokitika Swimming Club swimmers, the viability of West Coast swim meets would be significantly affected. This would have flow-on effects for the Greymouth and Westport swimming clubs and would ultimately undermine the future of competitive swimming across the entire West Coast region. I am also concerned that the currently proposed reduction appears to disproportionately affect late afternoon and evening users, rather than sharing reductions more equitably across all user groups. This places an unfair burden on swim club members, working families, and school-aged swimmers. I strongly support the development of a more collaborative and flexible operating-hours model that accommodates the needs of all pool users, including early morning swimmers, aqua classes, swim school, and the swim club. A mixed model could easily be developed, with some days operating on earlier start and finish times, and other days providing later afternoon and evening access. I strongly recommend maintaining sufficient late afternoon and early evening pool access to enable the Hokitika Swim Club and swim school to continue providing structured</p>	Noted
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2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

										training opportunities and valuable community programmes. Retaining these hours is essential to ensuring local swimmers continue to have opportunities to improve their swimming, participate competitively, and remain engaged in healthy community sport. Thank you for considering my submission.	
57	96	Hannah Hale	2	2	3		3		2		Noted

2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

58	97	Paul Clement		2							This pool is an essential part of the community. You need to ensure the pool is open for users convenience. This is obviously outside of standard work hours - early mornings, evenings and weekends. Further you need to operate fairly to enable to swim school and swim club to operate to maximum potential, it is essential that all kids have the opportunity to learn to swim, and obviously this needs to again fall at times when parents/caregivers can take them along - when is this? Outside of standard hours!!!! The fact that this change is even being proposed is just dumbfounding! I would lastly add that the status quo is already a reduction in opening hours and it should be returned to what is was before the current changes.	Noted
59	98	Amy Breeze		2		3						Noted
60	98	Sue Davis	2	2	3	3	3	2				Noted
61	98	Ngawai Tahī	2	1	3	3	2	2	2		I believe water safety is important for the community to learn and I understand they can do trainings within the opening hours, BUT...if “after hours” time is required for community trainings, the council needs to accommodate, especially with Hokitika being so close to rivers, lakes and beaches. I don’t know how often the isite gets used by the community but I bet rarely ever. Tourists gain the most from this however I wouldn’t imagine tourists being charged much for this service apart from trinkets and maps. A reduction in hours could save some money. I think we should keep pool access local fees as they are (or slightly increase) but charge tourists extra (pools etc).	Noted
62	100	Theresa Pollock		2							My grandson needs to learn to swim for his neuro diversity, his safety and well being	Noted - fits into discussion around medical reasons for pool

2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

63	100	Arthur Dillon		2	1	3	1	2	2	I believe the miniscule savings proposed and almost insignificant affect on rates is no where near sufficient to justify the proposed reduction in access. Considering we live in an area with numerous wild swimming spots, including fast flowing rivers and often rough sea conditions, I believe access to the pool for general swimming and lessons in a safe and secure area must be considered a priority to allow the development of confident swimmers. Finally, having school age children myself I feel the current hours provide a more accessible facility that better allow children to attend, and do not believe the proposed changes would benefit families in any way. Respectfully, please reconsider this option as I do not feel it offers any meaningful benefits.	noted.
64	101	Colin Wilson	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	As a grandparent and parent, the pool has been the only form available for children to learn to swim and water safety in Hokitika. From what I have seen in the consultation document with the changes planned in the preferred option you have a rate savings of 0.02%. I know every little bit helps although the benefits in my opinion far out way the savings. You have parents as far as Franz and Fox make the effort willing to drive up to Hokitika for lessons. When a group or club sign up to use the pool is it not their responsibility to supervise? That cost of staff for the extra 2 hours for 1 staff member to oversee? Don't make the parents, if they can afford it travel to Greymouth. I noticed several contractors or staff water blasting around Cass Square recently. Of course there is a cost for this, but if these are contractors, could the council not supply water blaster and get a club to do the job for funds and a cheaper rate? Just a thought.	noted
65	102	Reilly and Pamela Enstrom		2						See comments page 102 - 105 of the Public Hearings Agenda	noted - LTP pool info

2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

66	105	Pamela Enstrom	2	2		3				<p>As a parent, I understand that some fee increases may be necessary, but I am concerned that large increases to aquatic programme and lane hire costs could make swimming lessons and activities harder for many local families to afford. For families with multiple children, or those travelling from rural and South Westland areas, swimming already requires a significant commitment of both time and money. I believe learn-to-swim opportunities and aquatic programmes are incredibly important for local children, community wellbeing, and water safety, and I encourage Council to consider more balanced or gradual fee increases that help keep these opportunities accessible for families.</p> <p>Thank you for taking community feedback before making final decisions. From a family perspective, places like the pool and library are more than just facilities — they are important spaces where children learn skills, families spend time together, and people stay active and connected during the colder months. I know there are difficult financial decisions to make, but I hope Council continues to prioritise services that have a strong positive impact on everyday community life.</p>	noted
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2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

67	106	Chloe McBride		2						<p>I would like to formally oppose Option 1 regarding the proposed changes to the Hokitika Pool operating hours. The Hokitika Pool is a heavily used and important facility within our community. It is not just used for casual swimming, but also for swim school, swim club, children’s parties, aqua classes, school programmes, and many other community activities. In a small town like Hokitika, there are limited recreational options available for families and young people, especially during the colder months. The pool provides an important safe, healthy, and social activity for people of all ages. Swimming is also an essential life skill in New Zealand. Reducing access to organised swimming opportunities and after-hours programmes could negatively impact children’s confidence and water safety skills. It also takes away a working income from hardworking community members providing something of huge benefit to our community! The proposal notes that the estimated savings would be approximately \$6,500 per year, equating to only a 0.02% decrease in rates. This is a very small financial saving compared to the significant loss to the community. Many families rely on after hours activities because they work during the day. If all organised activities must finish before standard closing times, participation in swim club, lessons, and community programmes will likely decrease. Facilities like the pool should be viewed as important community investments, not just expenses. They contribute to physical health, mental wellbeing, youth engagement, social connection, and community spirit. The council has also just spent a large amount of money on upgrading the facilities. It makes absolutely no sense to then turn around and limit the use of the pool facilities. I strongly urge the council to keep the current operating model under Option 2 and continue supporting the many groups and families who rely on the pool. Thank you for considering my submission</p>	Noted
68	107	Mark Nicholson	2	2	2	3	3	2	1		Noted

2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

69	108	Maria Puntillo	2	2	1	3	1	2	2	As a family, we were deeply disappointed by the closure of Hokitika pool. Our two children were enrolled to start swimming lessons this term, as there is no offer of swimming classes here in Franz Josef and surrounding areas apart from what they do as part of the school curriculum, which has proven not to be enough. Services in such an isolated area as this are scarce enough as it is. Please continue allowing the use of the pool after school hours.	noted
70	108	Raewynn Patton	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	Option 2 allows several local businesses and clubs to continue. The Hokitika Pool exists because the ratepayers want AND use this facility. Well done WDC for creating a well-loved facility that has created jobs, community, and a very necessary safety asset. We are surrounded by deep and dangerous bodies of water on the West Coast. Continue to allow families to train themselves and children in lifesaving water skills. Allow future sportspeople to train and inspire. The hours are 'existing' and appreciated - not "outside standard operating hours". If staffing is a problem, employ more casual staff. Stagger the hours of operation to allow for 6am to 5pm swimmers one day and 9am to 8pm the next. Don't allow for the learning slide to happen over winter months when lake swims are impossible. Keep up the good work, WDC, and continue to support your flagship facility. This one is way more than a tourist or holiday attraction. It is a community learning centre. By all means close on Christmas Day and Anzac Day but don't drop the ball on this one to the detriment of a life lost through lack of exposure to safe practice. Please don't increase the cost of 60l yellow bags for rural rubbish disposal. The neighbours are already burning their non-organic waste! Please encourage responsible waste disposal not deter it. 60l bags no more than \$5 each please. Cost savings are needed. Thank you for trying.	Noted. Rubbish bags can be pulled into LTP discussion and Freedom Camping discussion , waste management etc. affordability.
71	111	Federated Farmers of New Zealand								See Email page 111 - 116 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Noted

2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

72	117	Ann Jones								<p>I do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support your preferred Option 1.</p> <p>I support other potential alternatives that may achieve cost savings without unduly impacting the Hokitika Swimming Club and the wider swimming community on the West Coast.</p> <p>I believe that the proposed reduction in hours will have wider impacts on the health and wellbeing of local children and young people. Swimming provides an important opportunity for regular physical activity, fitness, social connection, discipline, and participation in organised sport. Limiting access to these facilities risks reducing participation in healthy recreational activities and competitive sport opportunities for West Coast youth. The proposed reduction in hours is skewed towards impacting later afternoon and early evening access which is the key time period for when school children and adults can access the pool after school and work and to access lessons and organised swim club.</p> <p>As a past committee member of Hokitika Swim Club I know that the proposed reduced hours, will significantly impact The Hokitika Swimming Club and Hokitika Swim School. The Swim Club coaches and volunteers typically work full-time and would be unable to be poolside before 5pm and therefore would not be able to fit in the needed 1-2 hour training sessions if the pool was closed at 6pm. This proposed reduction to the operating hours could lead to the demise of the Swimming Club. This would directly impact our young swimmers ability to be involved in this organised sport in both a participation and competitive nature. Hokitika Swimming Club is one of the three clubs that make up the Buller West Coast swimming region and any decision to reduce pool hours and limit Hokitika Swimming Club's ability to operate will have significant flow-on effects for the Greymouth and Westport Swimming Clubs, and consequently for competitive swimming across the entire West Coast region. I believe the current proposed reduction is also designed and skewed towards impacting just the late afternoon / evening users rather than being designed in a more equitable manner across all pool users.</p>	Noted - bring into LTP discussion
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2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

73	118	Glacier Country Tourism Group								See email page 118 - 121 of the Public Hearings Agenda	Acknowledged that this needs to be tidied up as it comes up frequently. A lot of this will need to be considered in the LTP.
74	122	Charlotte Mitchell	2	2	1		2			See pages 122 - 126 of the Public Hearings Agenda for comments (submitted as photos)	Fees to be brought into LTP
75	127	Sheryl Evans	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	See pages 127 - 131 of the Public Hearings Agenda for individual submission comments	Noted
76	132	Kristy Wilson		1	1 & 2	1	1 & 2	1	1	See pages 132 - 136 of the Public Hearings Agenda for individual submission comments	Noted
77	139	Paul & Lynley Truman	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	There are too many to review and compare in order to comment on this individually but many of them appear excessive. While we agree with User Pay for many services, the loss of revenue in Inspections and Administration due, in part, to increased competition from standalone BCAs indicates that Council's fees are not competitive. A reduction in the fees may actually result in increased revenue overall.	Noted - commentary on BCA fees to be brought into LTP discussions.

2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

78	140	Reilly Enstrom	2	2		3				<p>I understand that reviewing fees and charges is necessary; however, I hope Council carefully considers the effect that larger increases can have on everyday families and community participation. Activities such as swimming, recreation, and community programmes are already a significant expense for many households. Keeping these opportunities reasonably accessible helps support healthier, more connected communities across Westland.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Annual Plan. I appreciate the importance of managing costs responsibly, but I also believe strong communities rely on accessible local facilities, recreation opportunities, and spaces that support health, learning, and connection. I hope future decisions continue to consider not only financial savings, but also the long-term social and wellbeing benefits these services provide for Westland families and residents. See page 140 for comments on individual options.</p>	Noted
79	141	Sharon Savage		2	2	2				<p>I do not support option 1 or reducing afternoon/evening hours - my children are in the swim club and the club will not be able to operate before 5pm due to our volunteer coaches working full time as well. We also swim during and after their swim lessons sometimes, and going earlier is not possible for us. I believe a lot of families and children will be impacted by these reduced hours. We have swum at several other pools on the coast and in Christchurch, and the Hokitika admission rates are lower than almost every other pool. Consider raising your single entry rates by \$0.50-\$1, and either hold or marginally increase the 10 visit concession card - this will help transfer some of the pool cost to single user entries (like visitors and tourists) who are not paying rates anyway. I would support other options that worked in with the swim school and swim club for either reduced hours on only certain days, or staggering the hours so that some mornings start later and end later in the day, others start earlier and end earlier if not other way to recoup those funds were possible</p>	Noted

2026/2027 Annual Plan Written Submissions Summary

80	142	Kushla Tapper	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	It makes sense to better align costs with the fees, but not a full user pays model, where it can encourage non compliance. Items where there is a wider community benefit for compliance e.g. waste dumping, animal control etc, should be part general rate and part user pays (fees and charges) Your summary presentation, FAQs, option comparison is very understandable and relatable. Well done.	Noted
81	143	Westport Swim Club									Council resolved to accept the late submission. Noted

04.06.2026 Council Action List

Item No.	Date Added	Item	Action	Completion Target Date	Officer	Current Status	Date and Next Steps	Status
2	26.09.2024	Hokitika Museum Trust Board Formation	Information regarding the formation of a Trust Board		General Manager Business Enablement	Her Worship the Mayor advised that before a Trust is established, there needs to be an understanding of the current management structure, staffing, operational costs, a full set of financial records, including operational costs, the proposed future plans, and the future projections of the Museum.	Conversations in this space are progressing and once the background work is complete a paper will be presented to council.	Open
5	22.05.2025	Lake Kaniere	Request for a round table meeting to discuss issues at Lake Kaniere.		GM District Assets	Various items relating to Lake Kaniere were raised at the 22 May 2025 Extraordinary Council Meeting.	The GM District Assets is expecting the Lake Kaniere Water Testing report from WCRC in the next month or two, once it has gone through their approval process. WDC will then be able to proceed with the community meeting.	Open
9	26.04.2026	Freedom Camping Workshop	Set a new date for the Freedom Camping Workshop	4-May-26	Chief Executive	Original workshop was delayed due to illness and a new date needs to be set.	A date has now been set for 4th May 2026.	Open

# Report to Council



**DATE:** 4 June 2026  
**TO:** Mayor and Councillors  
**FROM:** Chief Financial Officer

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## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – April 2026**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an indication of Council’s financial performance for the month to 30 April 2026.
- 1.2. This issue arises from a requirement for sound financial governance and stewardship with regards to the financial performance and sustainability of a local authority.
- 1.3. Council seeks to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and the achievement of the District Vision adopted by the Council in June 2025, which are set out in the Long-Term Plan 2025–2034. Refer page 2 of the agenda.
- 1.4. This report concludes by recommending that Council receive the financial performance report to 30 April 2026.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1. Council receives monthly financial reporting so that it has current knowledge of its financial performance and position against budgets. A more detailed performance report is presented to the Risk and Assurance Committee (R&A Committee), on a quarterly basis which includes non-financial information against KPI’s adopted through the Long-Term Plan.

### **3. Current Situation**

- 3.1. The information in the report is of a summarised nature, with only permanent variances over \$25,000 having comments. Temporary differences which are mainly budget phasing are not commented on as these will either approximate budget by the end of the financial year, or become a permanent variance which will be noted.
- 3.2. This is the first financial report of the new financial year, and the first report under the nine-year Long-Term Plan 2025–2034. As such, it sets the baseline for monitoring progress against the new budget and strategic priorities.

- 3.3. The financial performance report to 30 April 2026 is attached as **Appendix 1** and contains the following elements;
  - 3.3.1. Financial Dashboard
  - 3.3.2. Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense
  - 3.3.3. Notes to the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense
  - 3.3.4. Revenue and Expenditure Graphs
  - 3.3.5. Funding Impact Statement
  - 3.3.6. Statement of Financial Position
  - 3.3.7. Debtors
  - 3.3.8. Debt position
  - 3.3.9. Capital Expenditure
  - 3.3.10. Dashboard Glossary

#### **4. Options**

- 4.1. Option 1: That Council receives the Financial Performance Report to 30 April 2026.
- 4.2. Option 2: That Council does not receive the Financial Performance Report to 30 April 2026.

#### **5. Risk Analysis**

- 5.1. Risk has been considered and no risks have been identified in receiving the report, however if Council did not receive the report, it could be perceived that there was a lack of financial stewardship leading to reputational risk and conduct risk.

#### **6. Health and Safety**

- 6.1. Health and Safety has been considered, and no items have been identified.

#### **7. Significance and Engagement**

- 7.1. The level of significance has been assessed as being low as the report is for information purposes only.
- 7.2. No public consultation is considered necessary.

#### **8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)**

- 8.1. Option 1: The Council receives the report. This report is to inform Council on the monthly financial position and to encourage financial stewardship.
- 8.2. Option 2: If the Council does not receive the report there will be no oversight of the financial position of Council or whether the costs of Council are being managed in line with budgets.
- 8.3. There are no financial implications to these options.

## **9. Preferred Option(s) and Reasons**

9.1. The preferred option is Option 1.

9.2. The reason that Option 1 has been identified as the preferred option is that the report is administrative in nature and to do nothing could create risks to council. Council would be carrying out its administrative stewardship in receiving the report.

## **10. Recommendation(s)**

10.1. That the Financial Performance Report for 30 April 2026 be received.

**Stephen Lewis**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

**Appendix 1:** Finance Performance Report for 30 April 2026

## Appendix 1



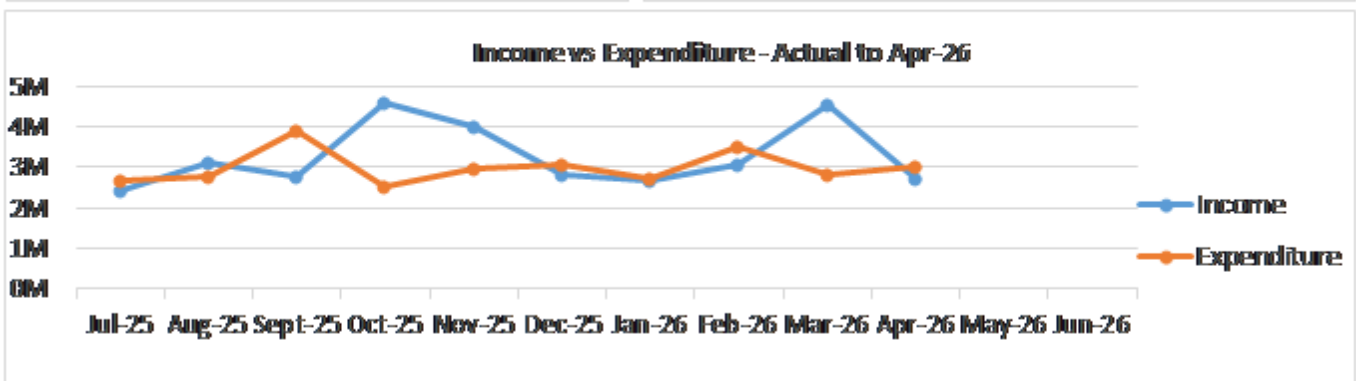
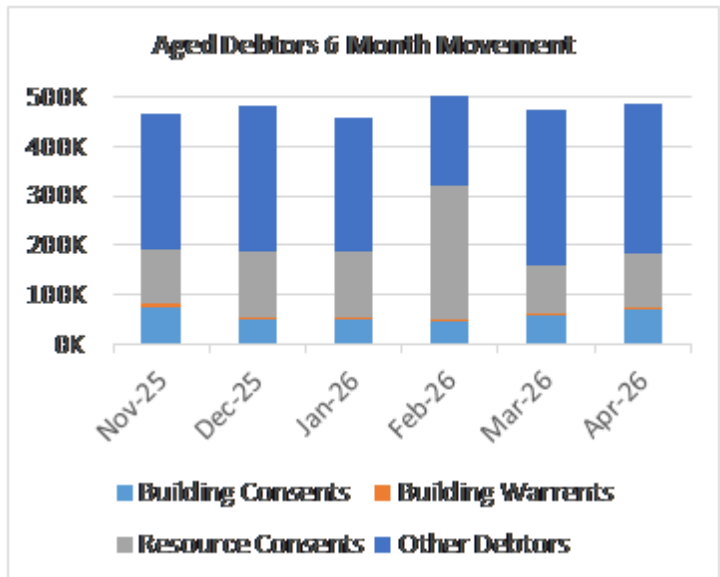
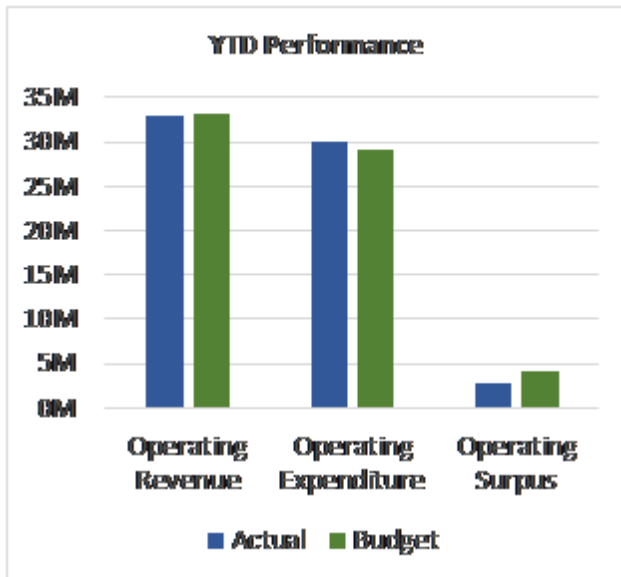
### Financial Performance

Year to 30 April 2026

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# Financial Dashboard



Operating Performance	Actual YTD	Budget/Target	Status
Revenue	\$32,845,106	\$33,207,037	●
Expenses	\$30,056,554	\$29,129,420	●
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$2,788,552	\$4,077,616	●
Balanced Budget Ratio	109.3%	≥100.0%	●
Rates to Operating Revenue	66.2%	65.0%	●

Liquidity & Reserves			Status
Current Ratio	114.3%	≥100.0%	●
Net Working Capital	\$2,862,780	≥\$0	●
Cash & Equivalents	\$8,837,953	Movement	●
Deposits	\$4,000,000	Movement	●

Debt & Borrowing			Status
Total Gross Debt	\$40,000,000	\$40,600,000	●
Net Debt	\$27,162,047	\$36,600,000	●
Liquidity Risk - LGFA	135.6%	≥110.0%	●
Interest to Operating Revenue	2.3%	≤10.0%	●
Interest to Rates Revenue - LGFA	3.6%	≤25.0%	●
Interest Cover Ratio	3.3	≥2	●

Capital Investment & Infrastructure - Essential Services			Status
Capital Expenditure (CAPEX)	\$4,571,680	\$5,244,260	●
Essential Services Ratio	87.2%	≥100.0%	●

## Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenditure

	Notes	Actual YTD (\$000)	YTD Budget (\$000)	Variance YTD (\$000)	Var/Bud %	Full Year Budget (\$000)	Full Year Forecast (\$000)
<b>Revenue</b>							
Rates	01	21,733	21,586	147	0.68%	25,984	25,984
Grants and subsidies	02	6,051	7,237	(1,186)	(16.39%)	25,465	11,103
Interest Revenue	03	492	487	4	0.91%	585	588
Fees and Charges	04	2,790	2,344	446	19.02%	2,774	3,238
Other Revenue	05	1,779	1,552	227	14.64%	1,789	2,006
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>		<b>32,845</b>	<b>33,207</b>	<b>(362)</b>	<b>(1.09%)</b>	<b>56,597</b>	<b>42,919</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Employee Benefit expenses	06	6,584	7,089	(505)	(7.12%)	8,508	7,894
Finance Costs	07	1,263	1,337	(74)	(5.53%)	1,605	1,604
Depreciation	08	7,798	6,836	962	14.07%	8,204	9,358
Other Expenses	09	14,411	13,867	544	3.92%	34,579	18,781
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>30,057</b>	<b>29,129</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>3.18%</b>	<b>52,896</b>	<b>37,638</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>2,789</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>(1,289)</b>	<b>(32%)</b>	<b>3,701</b>	<b>5,282</b>

## Notes to the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenditure

Comments are provided on permanent variances over \$25,000.

### 01 Rates

- The favourable variance is largely attributable to revised charging rates applied to commercial metered water consumers.

### 02 Grants and subsidies revenue

- \$1m is budgeted for the Racecourse Development project; \$1.35m has been invoiced to date for Roothing Network and Water Services work completed this year.
- \$16.4m is budgeted for the Hokitika Airport project; \$1.40m has been received to date. An additional \$600k is forecast to be receivable.
- Transport grants claimed to date total \$2.98M. Capital transport grants are \$0.90M lower than budget, reflecting lower capital expenditure to date.
- Other unbudgeted grants to date include:
  - \$92k has been received relating to waste minimisation.
  - \$70k has been received for the Jackson Bay Wharf project
  - \$43k has been received for the Cass Square Basketball court project

### 03 Interest revenue

- Interest Revenue is on track

### 04 Fees and charges revenue

- Resource consent fee revenue is higher than budget by \$222k due to higher consent volumes and increased complexity (leading to more hours charged).
- Waste disposal levy revenue collected is \$118k higher than budget, reflecting higher waste volumes associated with stronger tourist numbers and cost escalations.
- Rubbish removal revenue received at the Franz Josef (Butlers) and Hokitika transfer stations was \$70k and \$40k above budget respectively, driven by the same factors impacting waste volumes.

### 05 Other revenue

- Non-cash gain on swaps of \$226k recognized this year due favourable movements in interest rates since prior year. Swaps are market driven and also move to par as they move to the maturity date.

### 06 Employee benefit expenses

- Variance reflects vacant positions.

### 07 Finance costs

- Interest expense is slightly lower than budget, reflecting lower-than-expected interest rates.

### 08 Depreciation expense

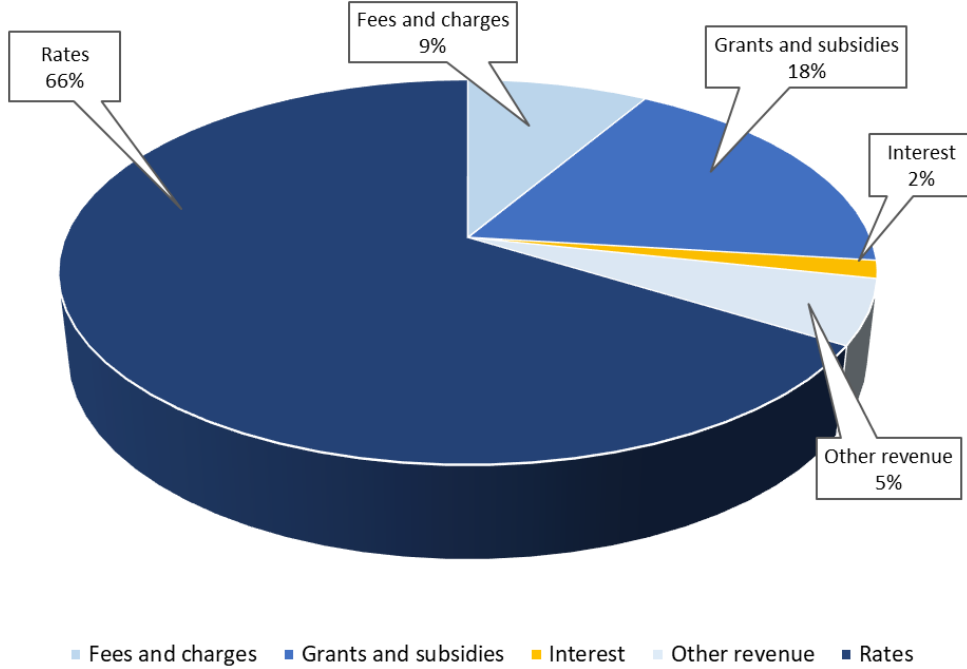
- Depreciation expense is higher than budget as the allowance included in the budget was understated.

### 09 Other expenses

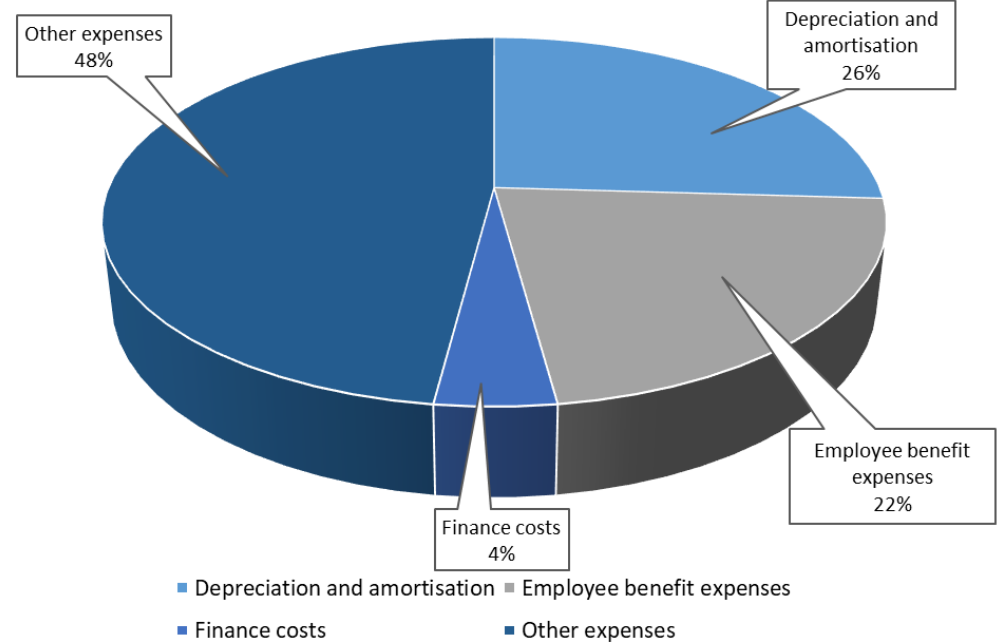
- In Hokitika, there were significantly more water pipe breaks and connection repairs than expected during the year. There were also component failures at the water treatment plant and pump stations. These issues have resulted in an overspend of \$172k to date.
- Several lightning strikes during the year caused damage to water treatment plant equipment and power cables at Fox Glacier and Harihari, resulting in costs of \$111k and \$21k respectively.
- Resource consent processing costs are \$91k higher than budget (refer to note 4 for offset)
- Electricity costs for the Hokitika Water Treatment Plant are \$121k above budget due to increased charges.

## Revenue & Expenditure Graphs

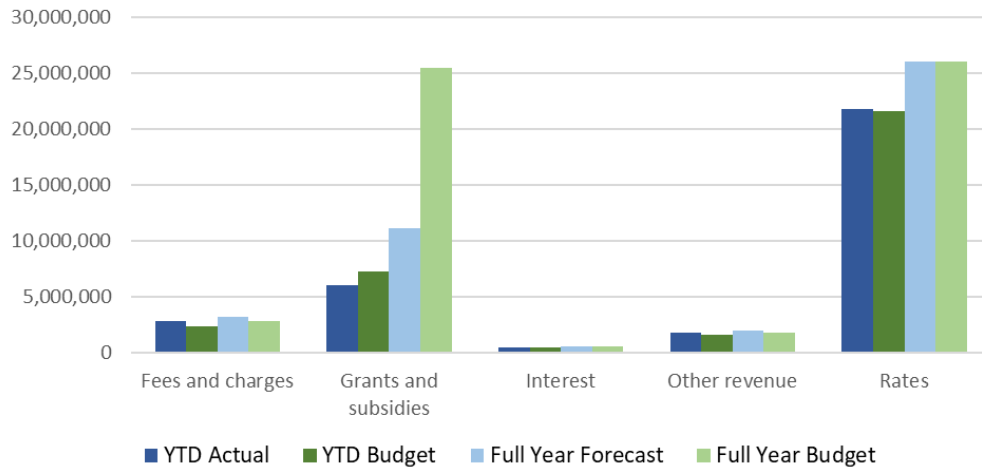
### Operating Revenue Actual Year to April



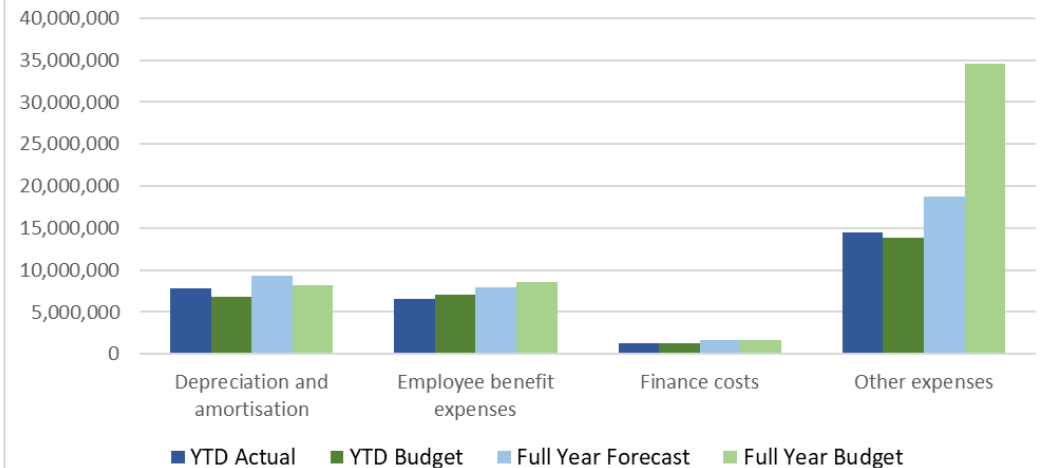
### Operating Expenditure Actual Year to April



### Operating Revenue



### Operating Expenditure



## Funding Impact Statement (Whole of Council)

	<b>YTD Apr 2026 Actual \$000</b>	<b>YTD Apr 2026 Annual Plan \$000</b>	<b>FY 2025/26 Annual Plan \$000</b>
<b>(SURPLUS) / DEFICIT OF OPERATING FUNDING</b>			
Sources of Operating Funding			
General rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	11,056	11,086	13,365
Targeted Rates	10,677	10,500	12,619
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	2,157	2,272	3,408
Fees and charges	2,814	2,379	2,816
Interest and dividends from investments	889	737	835
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	1,357	1,267	1,497
<b>Total Operating Funding (A)</b>	<b>28,950</b>	<b>28,242</b>	<b>34,540</b>
Applications of Operating Funding			
Payments to staff and suppliers	20,994	20,956	43,087
Finance Costs	1,263	1,337	1,605
<b>Total Applications of Operating Funding (B)</b>	<b>22,258</b>	<b>22,293</b>	<b>44,692</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Operating Funding (A - B)</b>	<b>6,692</b>	<b>5,949</b>	<b>(10,152)</b>
<b>(SURPLUS) / DEFICIT OF CAPITAL FUNDING</b>			
Sources of Capital Funding			
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	3,894	5,565	22,057
Increase (decrease) in debt	1,256	-	2,843
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	-	-	1,256
<b>Total Sources of Capital Funding (C)</b>	<b>5,150</b>	<b>5,565</b>	<b>26,156</b>
Application of Capital Funding			
Capital Expenditure:			
- to meet additional demand	161	47	56
- to improve the level of service	3,211	6,093	7,312
- to replace existing assets	3,072	9,813	11,775
Increase (decrease) in reserves	5,399	(4,438)	(3,139)
Increase (decrease) of investments	-	-	-
<b>Total Applications of Capital Funding (D)</b>	<b>11,842</b>	<b>11,514</b>	<b>16,004</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) of Capital Funding (C - D)</b>	<b>(6,692)</b>	<b>(5,949)</b>	<b>10,152</b>
<b>Funding Balance ((A - B) + (C - D))</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

	<b>YTD Apr 2026 Actual \$000</b>	<b>FY 2025/26 Annual Plan \$000</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash & cash equivalents	8,838	6,257
Debtors & other receivables	6,738	3,171
Inventory	228	-
Tax refundable	-	-
Work in progress	-	-
Derivative financial instruments	-	-
Other financial assets	7,012	5,137
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>22,816</b>	<b>14,566</b>
<b>Assets held for sale</b>		
Land held for sale	446	446
<b>Total Assets Held for Sale</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>446</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Council Controlled Organisations	12,480	12,480
Deferred Tax	-	-
Intangible assets	140	94
Assets Under Construction	14,813	17,916
Derivative financial instruments	99	53
Other Financial Assets	3,518	705
Investment property	-	-
Loans to CCO's	-	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	521,547	535,559
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>552,597</b>	<b>566,807</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>575,860</b>	<b>581,819</b>

	YTD Apr 2026 Actual \$000	FY 2025/26 Annual Plan \$000
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors & other payables	777	3,539
Employee benefit liabilities	847	618
Tax payable	-	-
Borrowings	13,800	9,944
Derivative financial instruments	-	-
Other	4,530	1,033
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>19,953</b>	<b>15,134</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Deferred Tax	21	41
Employee benefit liabilities	72	38
Provisions	3,112	3,137
Borrowings	26,200	30,643
Derivative financial instruments	161	180
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>29,565</b>	<b>34,039</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>49,518</b>	<b>49,173</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>526,341</b>	<b>532,646</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	162,035	175,422
Restricted Reserves	12,700	5,524
Revaluation reserves	351,477	351,573
Other comprehensive revenue and expense reserve	130	127
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>526,341</b>	<b>532,646</b>

## Debtors at 30 April 2026

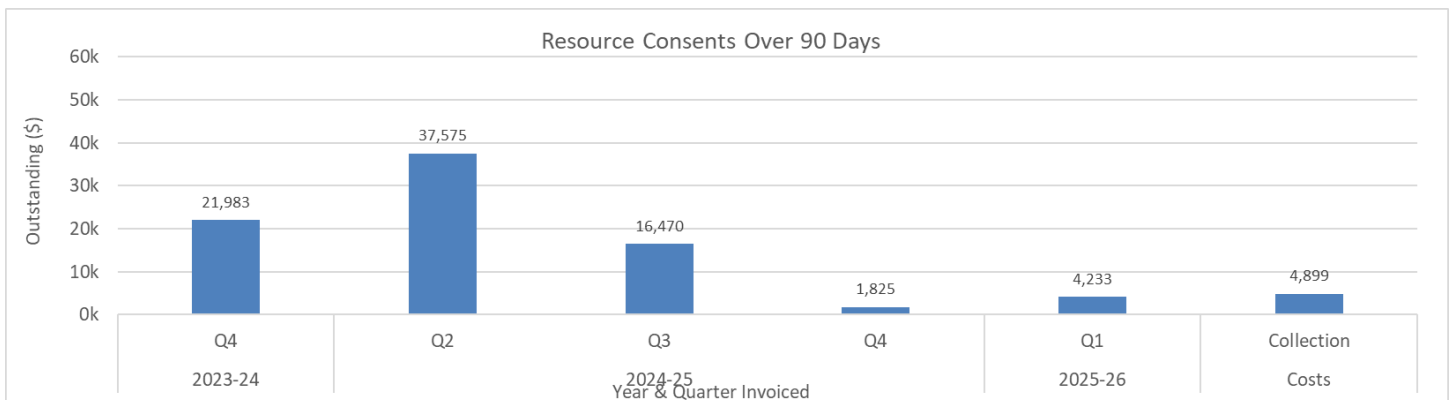
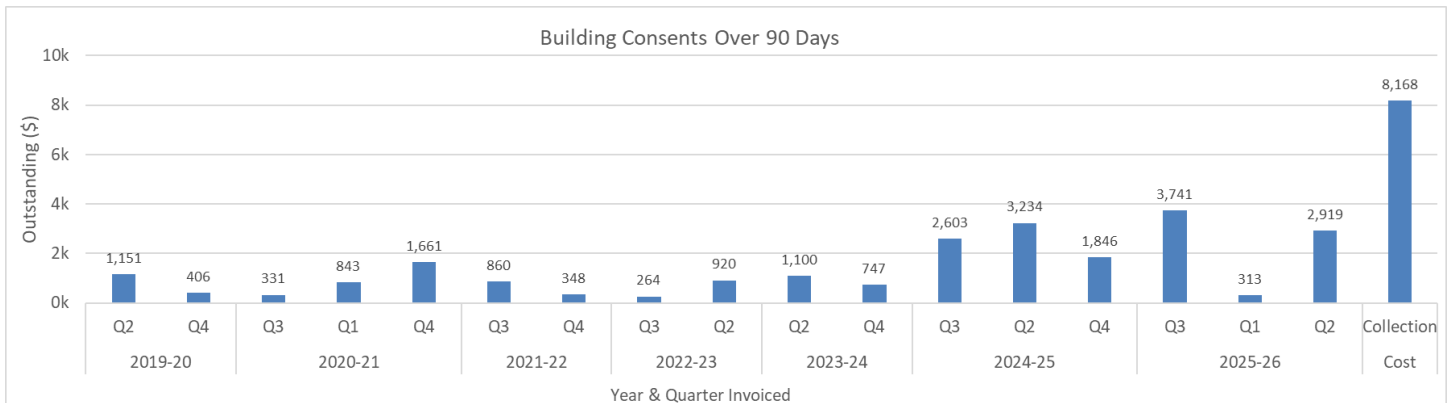
30/04/2026 Current Year					
Type	Over 90 Days	60-90 Days	30-60 Days	Current	Total (\$)
Building Consents	31,454	3,693	13,984	20,347	69,478
Building Warrants	1,229	676	916	(186)	2,635
Resource Consents	85,926	4,611	2,060	17,728	110,325
Sundry Debtors	48,417	6,093	134,515	116,724	305,749
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>167,026</b>	<b>15,073</b>	<b>151,475</b>	<b>154,613</b>	<b>488,187</b>

30/04/2025 Prior Year Comparison					
Type	Over 90 Days	60-90 Days	30-60 Days	Current	Total (\$)
Building Consents	27,389	9,244	5,194	2,355	44,182
Building Warrants	737	779	903	(914)	1,504
Resource Consents	85,348	4,710	21,225	10,729	122,012
Sundry Debtors	65,803	15,183	81,207	118,869	281,062
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>179,277</b>	<b>29,916</b>	<b>108,530</b>	<b>131,038</b>	<b>448,761</b>

Grants outstanding as at 30/04/2026		
Date Invoiced	Project	Total (\$)
31/03/2026	Racecourse Dev - External and main trunk roading network	224,544
14/04/2026	Jackson Bay Wharf - Milestone One	80,500
		<b>305,044</b>

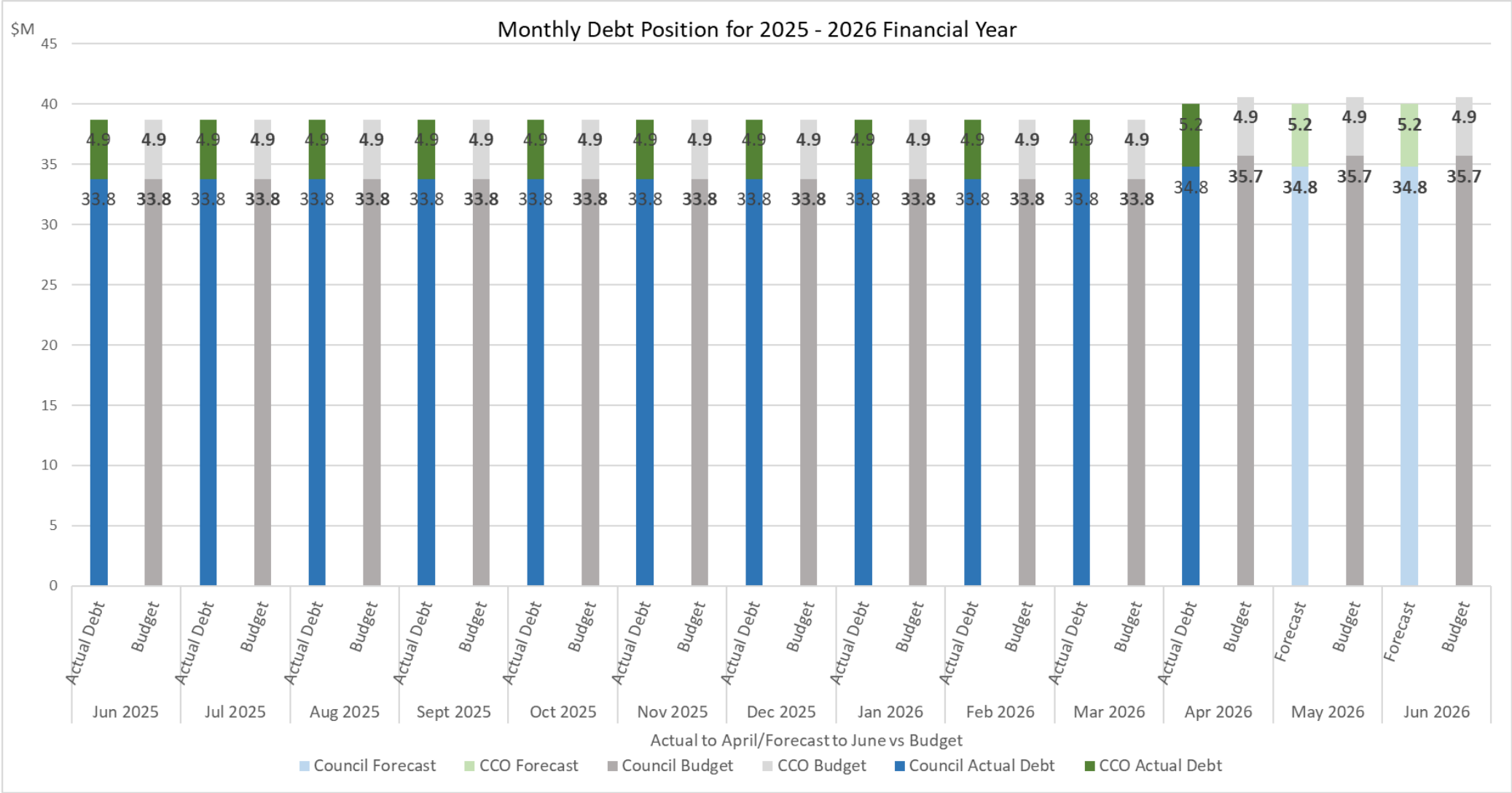


## Rates Debtors at 30 April 2026

<b>Rates Debtors at 31 March 2026</b>		<b>779,220</b>
Instalment	6,643,979	
Less payments received	(873,888)	
Paid in advance change	(1,343,475)	
Previous years write off's	-	
Write off's	(1,002)	
Penalties	-	
Discounts	(508)	
Court Cost	-	
Legal Fees	5,147	
		4,430,252
<b>Total Rates Debtors at 30 April 2026</b>		<b>5,209,472</b>
Receivables included above at 30 April 2026	5,209,472	
Receivables at 30 April 2025	4,387,318	
<b>Increase/(decrease) in arrears</b>		<b>822,154</b>

Rates debtors increased substantially in April as the 4th instalment of the year was invoiced in April. Rates are invoiced quarterly and the majority of payments are due on the 20th month following the invoice date, however we are continuing to arrange more payment plans which spread the rates cost over the year.

# Debt Position



## Capital Expenditure

<b>Capital Projects 2025/26</b>			
<b>As at 30/04/2025</b>			
<b>Project / Activity</b>	<b>YtD Expenses</b>	<b>Annual Plan</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
Leadership	132,177	1,646,021	136,986
Planning & Regulatory Services	57,172	152,770	60,539
Water Supply	1,273,845	1,680,793	1,539,400
Waste Water	498,183	3,284,131	700,609
Solid waste	354,759	955,164	526,480
Storm water	311,606	2,015,529	510,522
Cemeteries	10,975	98,206	16,944
Swimming pools	115,811	1,000,000	577,126
Facilities & Leisure Services - other	1,475,215	1,465,314	1,491,670
Parks & reserves	293,832	1,855,452	357,802
Land transportation	853,537	5,931,823	2,108,138
Capital Projects Brought Forward from Future Years	224,009	0	224,009
Unbudgeted capital expenditure	239,642	0	239,642
CCO Funded Project	602,232	16,380,004	602,232
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,218,985</b>	<b>36,465,207</b>	<b>8,868,091</b>

Note: Of the \$239,642 unbudgeted capital expenditure, \$149,495 is externally funded. The remaining expenditure relates to operational requirements identified during the year.

## Dashboard Glossary

- **Revenue:** Total income from rates, grants, and fees etc.
- **Expenses:** Total costs to run the organisation (staff, maintenance, etc.).
- **Balanced Budget Ratio:** Measures if Council is collecting enough to cover operating costs.

$$\frac{\text{Operating Revenue}}{\text{Operating Expenses}} \times 100$$

- **Rates to Operating Revenue:** Shows how much Council's budget depends on property rates.

$$\frac{\text{Rates Revenue}}{\text{Operating Revenue}} \times 100$$

- **Current Ratio:** Measures Council's ability to pay bills due within the next year.

$$\frac{\text{Current Assets}}{\text{Current Liabilities}}$$

- **Net Working Capital:** The "cash buffer" available for daily operations.

$$\text{Current Assets} - \text{Current Liabilities}$$

- **Cash & Equivalents:** Money in the bank or assets that can be turned into cash instantly.
- **Deposits:** Money held in longer-term bank accounts or term investments.
- **Total Gross Debt:** The total amount of money borrowed.
- **Net Debt:** Total debt less available liquid financial assets and investments.

$$\text{Total Gross Debt} - \text{Cash \& Equivalents}$$

- **Liquidity Risk (LGFA):** Ensures Council have enough cash/credit to cover upcoming debt payments.

$$\frac{\text{Total Gross Debt} + \text{Cash} + \text{Available Credit Lines}}{\text{Total Gross Debt}}$$

- **Interest to Operating Revenue:** How much of Council's total income is "eaten up" by interest.

$$\frac{\text{Interest Expense}}{\text{Operating Revenue}} \times 100$$

- **Interest to Rates Revenue (LGFA):** How much of the ratepayers' money goes toward interest.

$$\frac{\text{Interest Expense}}{\text{Rates Revenue}} \times 100$$

- **Interest Cover Ratio:** How many times your surplus can "cover" your interest costs.

$$\frac{\text{Operating Surplus (before interest)}}{\text{Interest Expense}} \times 100$$

- **Capital Expenditure (CAPEX):** Money spent on building or fixing long-term assets (roads, pipes).
- **Essential Services Ratio:** Compares spending on core infrastructure to how fast that infrastructure is wearing out (depreciation).

$$\frac{\text{CAPEX on Core Assets}}{\text{Depreciation on Core Assets}} \times 100$$

# Report to Council



**DATE:** 4 June 2026  
**TO:** Mayor and Councillors  
**FROM:** Risk and Assurance Committee Chair

---

## Chair's report from meeting of 7 May 2026

### 1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of topics discussed and actions proposed from the Risk and Assurance meeting held on 7 May 2026.

Council seeks to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and the achievement of the District Vision adopted by the Council in June 2025, which are set out in the Long Term Plan 2025–2034.

### 2. Independent Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair opened with a note that the committee will continue to focus on those items identified for priority action during the inaugural meeting, namely Risk Register and financial template reviews.

The Chair advised that a meeting was held with Council's auditors earlier in the week of the meeting, for the purpose of personal introduction and familiarity prior to the independent auditors meeting the Committee at this meeting.

A request was made of Committee members to seek assurance during Draft Annual Plan debates in coming weeks that appropriate consideration has been given to the potential impact of cost variations to Council spending proposals during the 2026/27 financial year. The Committee agreed that the global economic situation is considerably different from the time the Draft Annual Plan was formulated and circulated for consultation.

### 3. Quarterly Financial Report

The Chief Financial Officer presented a detailed report containing information on:

- Department workflow
- Quarterly Financials
- External Audit
- Internal Control Framework
- Capital Funding
- Insurance Performance Measures
- Treasury Report

The Committee noted the collective financial position of Councils Departmental operations for the 9-monthly reporting period.

There were discussions on variations to budget, and on projected year end forecast.

Committee members noted with interest the achievements against performance measures. However, questions were asked as to the need for so many measures and their value to our community, noting in several cases the required time and resource to effect measurement.

Members were asked to again question the need for some of the performance measures during Councils review of its Annual Plan content.

The CFO was thanked by the Committee for his very comprehensive report. Committee members will speak to the recommendation to effect this minor change during today's meeting of Council, noting the matter is subject to a separate paper on the agenda.

Committee members acknowledged the performance review process which will be undertaken at the midpoint of this term.

#### **4. Health and Safety Advisor's Report**

This report for the March/April was received. It contained reference to one high level incident which was immediately resolved by staff who correctly followed the incident reporting process.

#### **5. Rolling Workplan**

Committee expressed satisfaction with the work plan presented for the 12 months through to March 2027. A committee performance review process is scheduled for May 2027.

#### **6. Independent Auditors**

The meeting moved into committee to meet Council's independent auditors Brendan Summerfield and Iain Wood from EY.

Brendan and Iain identified areas of audit focus for the 2026 financial year noting infrastructural assets as an area of high focus with integrity of rates strike, grants and subsidies and non-financial performance reporting as areas of medium focus.

The committee spent some time discussing infrastructural asset valuation for the 2026 Annual Report noting first the impact of the current global situation on oil and bitumen costs (thus impact on our roading expenditure) and secondly the need to undertake a valuation of Three Waters assets given they are to be transferred to a new entity in 12 months. These two matters will be subject to further discussion lead by the CFO at forthcoming council meetings.

The Committee took the opportunity to engage in auditor only time. Staff left during this discussion.

#### **7. Risk Register**

This key item was also discussed during the in-committee portion of the meeting.

At the Committee's previous meeting a significant amount of time was devoted to a review of all items currently in the Risk Register and the process of separation between governance and operations.

During today's meeting revised papers were reviewed with some additional movement of items into the operational category.

The Committee resolved to formally write to the Chief Executive advising the identification of those items deemed operational. These items are to be removed from Council's residual Risk Register. A request will be made of the CE and Management Team to satisfy themselves that Council has appropriate internal control measures in place to mitigate any risk associated with these matters.

The Committee took satisfaction from the amended list of governance risks which will continue to be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

The Committee requested that staff prepare at least two deep dive reports on governance risk matters at each of our quarterly meetings. It was agreed that insurance cover/cost of cover and cyber-attack be those deep dive items for our next meeting.

The Committee thanks staff for the extensive work undertaken on the Risk Register review.

#### **8. Deep Dive Report**

The GM District Assets spoke to his report on capital expenditure progress during the current financial year. This report identified current years projects and referred to the carry over process and the manner that impact on planned 2026/27 projects could be affected due to timing and available resource.

#### **9. Next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Risk and Assurance Committee is 13 August 2026.

#### **10. Recommendation**

1. That the Independent Chair's report from the Risk and Assurance meeting of 7 May 2026 be received.

**David Ward**  
**Independent Chair**  
**Risk and Assurance Committee**

# Report to Council



**DATE:** 4 June 2026  
**TO:** Mayor and Councillors  
**FROM:** Barbara Phillips, Chief Executive

---

## Head Start Pathway – Simplifying Local Government

### 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks Council approval to continue participating in the Government’s Head Start pathway alongside the other West Coast councils as part of the wider Simplifying Local Government reform programme.
- 1.2. West Coast councils have been working collaboratively since late 2025 to consider how the region may wish to respond to the evolving local government reform environment and whether there is value in progressing a coordinated regional approach through the Head Start process.
- 1.3. The Head Start pathway provides an opportunity for councils to work together to explore future local government arrangements through a locally led process and develop an outline proposal for submission to the Department of Internal Affairs by 9 August 2026.
- 1.4. Participation at this stage is exploratory only and does not commit Council to any specific governance arrangement, structural change, or future outcome. Rather, it enables further work to be undertaken to better understand potential opportunities, implications, and challenges for the West Coast region before any future decisions are considered.
- 1.5. This report seeks Council endorsement to continue participating in the regional Head Start process and support the development of a joint outline proposal with the other West Coast councils.
- 1.6. Council seeks to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and the achievement of the District Vision adopted by the Council in June 2025, which are set out in the Long-Term Plan 2025–2034.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. The Government released a draft Simplifying Local Government proposal in November 2025, seeking feedback on options to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and structure of local government across New Zealand.
- 2.2. West Coast councils have been working collaboratively since late 2025 to consider how the region may wish to respond to the proposed reforms.

- 2.3. Under the current Government “Head Start” pathway, proposals for local government reorganisation may only be submitted by territorial authorities, with Regional Councils specifically excluded from formally lodging a proposal.
- 2.4. Following the submission period, the Government introduced the voluntary Head Start pathway, enabling councils to proactively develop and submit a locally led outline proposal ahead of any wider reform process.
- 2.5. The pathway reflects sector feedback seeking greater flexibility and the ability for regions to lead their own discussions and explore options appropriate to their local circumstances.
- 2.6. Under the Head Start pathway:
  - 2.6.1. two or more councils may submit a joint outline proposal to the Department of Internal Affairs;
  - 2.6.2. participation is voluntary, with councils able to move at a pace appropriate to their region; and
  - 2.6.3. outline proposals are required to be submitted by 9 August 2026, with further work and engagement to follow if accepted.
- 2.7. Importantly, participation in the Head Start process:
  - 2.7.1. does not commit Council to any specific governance arrangement or final outcome;
  - 2.7.2. is intended as the first step in exploring and understanding potential future options and implications for the region; and
  - 2.7.3. would require further analysis, community engagement, and future Council decisions before any formal proposal or structural change could occur.
- 2.8. To support the development of the outline proposal and ongoing regional discussions, it is proposed that a smaller governance working group consisting of CEs, the Mayor/Chair and Deputy Mayor/Deputy Chair of each West Coast council be established.

### **3. Current Situation**

- 3.1. West Coast councils are continuing discussions regarding participation in the Government’s Head Start pathway and the development of a joint regional outline proposal.
- 3.2. The current work is focused on enabling councils to better understand the potential opportunities, implications, and challenges associated with future local government reform and what this may mean for the West Coast region.
- 3.3. Participation in the Head Start pathway provides the West Coast councils with the opportunity to continue progressing a locally led process, including the preparation of an outline proposal to the Department of Internal Affairs by 9 August 2026.
- 3.4. Councils that do not participate in the Head Start process may instead become subject to the Government’s later “backstop” reform process following the 2028 local elections.
- 3.5. At this stage, participation in the process remains exploratory only and does not commit Council to any specific governance arrangement, structural change, or future outcome.

### **4. Options**

- 4.1. **Option 1**– Continue participating in the Head Start pathway discussions

Continue participating in the regional discussions and exploratory work associated with the Government's Head Start pathway alongside the other West Coast councils.

- 4.2. **Option 2** – Do not continue participating in the Head Start pathway discussions  
Choose not to continue participating in the current exploratory discussions associated with the Head Start pathway at this time.

## 5. Assessment of Options

### 5.1. Option 1 – Continue participating in the Head Start pathway discussions

#### 5.1.1. Advantages

- Enables the West Coast to continue exploring potential future opportunities and challenges collectively
- Supports a coordinated regional approach to understanding the reform environment
- Builds on existing collaborative relationships across West Coast councils
- Provides an opportunity to better understand potential future governance and service delivery implications
- Enables further engagement and discussion before any future decisions are considered

#### 5.1.2. Disadvantages/Risks

- There remains uncertainty around future reform outcomes
- Participation will require ongoing officer and governance involvement
- Councils are currently managing multiple reform programmes and priorities
- There may be varying views within communities regarding future governance arrangements
- Potential financial implications are not yet known or quantified

### 5.2. Option 2 – Do not continue participating in the Head Start pathway discussions

#### 5.2.1. Advantages

- Allows Council to maintain focus on existing priorities and work programmes
- Avoids committing resources to exploratory work at this stage
- Enables Council to observe how the reform process develops nationally before further involvement

#### 5.2.2. Disadvantages/Risks

- May reduce the region's ability to collectively influence or respond to future reform discussions
- Could limit opportunities to understand potential impacts and options early
- May reduce alignment across West Coast councils regarding future regional considerations

5.3. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report at this stage.

## 6. Preferred Option(s) and Reasons

- 6.1. The preferred option is for Council to continue participating in the Government's Head Start pathway alongside the other West Coast councils.
- 6.2. Continuing participation enables the West Coast councils to work collectively through the initial stages of the Head Start process and progress the development of an outline regional proposal for submission to the Department of Internal Affairs by 9 August 2026.
- 6.3. Participation at this stage remains exploratory only and does not commit Council to any specific governance arrangement, structural change, or future outcome.
- 6.4. The process will enable further work to be undertaken to better understand potential opportunities, implications, and challenges for the West Coast region before any future decisions are considered.

## **7. Recommendation(s)**

- 7.1. That the report be received.
- 7.2. That Council agrees to continue participation in the Government's Head Start pathway process and ongoing regional discussions with West Coast councils regarding Simplifying Local Government reform opportunities.
- 7.3. That Council supports the development and joint submission of an outline proposal to the Department of Internal Affairs within the Government's required timeframe.
- 7.4. That Council appoints the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to participate in the regional Head Start working group alongside representatives from Buller District Council, Westland District Council, and the West Coast Regional Council.
- 7.5. That Council notes:
  - 7.5.1. Participation in the Head Start process does not commit Council to any specific governance model or final outcome;
  - 7.5.2. No preferred governance arrangement has been identified at this stage;
  - 7.5.3. The current phase of work is focused on regional discussions and development of an outline proposal for submission to the Department of Internal Affairs by August 2026;
  - 7.5.4. Further regional work including analysis, options development, stakeholder engagement, and community engagement is expected to continue through subsequent stages of the process; and
  - 7.5.5. A regional working group is being established to support ongoing discussions and the exploration of potential future options.

**Barbara Phillips**  
**Chief Executive**