

AGENDA

RĀRANGI TAKE

NOTICE OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF

COUNCIL

to be held on **Thursday 26 October 2023** commencing at **1:00pm** in the Council Chambers,
36 Weld Street, Hokitika and via Zoom

Chairperson:	Her Worship the Mayor
Deputy & Southern Ward Member:	Cr Cassin
Northern Ward Members:	Cr Neale, Cr Burden, Cr Phelps
Hokitika Ward Members:	Cr Baird, Cr Davidson, Cr Gillett
Southern Ward Members:	Cr Manera
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

We work with the people of Westland to grow and protect our communities, our economy, and our unique natural environment.

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

<i>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!</i>	<i>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!</i>
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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 or the Group Manager Corporate Services Risk and Assurance (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. NGĀ MENETI O TE HUI KAUNIHERA MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes circulated separately via Microsoft Teams.

- **Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – 28 September 2023** (Pages 5-13)

6. ACTION LIST

Simon Bastion, Chief Executive

(Page 14)

7. NGĀ TĀPAETANGA PRESENTATIONS

- **West Coast Emergency Management** (Verbal)
Tony Hart, Emergency Management Officer, West Coast Emergency Management
- **Westland Holdings Ltd – Year End Results** (*Presentation to be circulated separately*)
Jo Conroy, Independent Director, Westland Holdings Ltd (Pages 15-16)
- **Citizenship Ceremony – 3:15pm**

8. PŪRONGO KAIMAHI STAFF REPORTS

- **Chief Executives Quarterly Report** (Pages 17-76)
Simon Bastion, Chief Executive
- **Financial Performance – September 2023** (Pages 77-91)
Cody Nabben, Financial Accountant
- **Māori Representation** (Pages 92-94)
Lesley Crichton, Group Manager, Corporate Services Risk & Assurance
- **Adoption of the Vision & Community Outcomes** (Pages 95-140)
Emma Rae, Strategy & Communications Advisor

9. 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
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1.	Confidential Minutes – 28 September 2023	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.	Hokitika Racecourse 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)

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
2	<i>Other reasons for withholding official information</i> Where this section applies, good reason for withholding official information exists, for the purpose of section 5 , unless, in the circumstances of the particular case, the withholding of that information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. (Schedule (7)(1))
1	Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons (Schedule (7)(2)(a))
1,2	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 (Schedule 7(2)(b)).
1,2	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (Schedule 7(2)(i))

**DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 23 NOVEMBER 2023
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 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 1 PM

The Council Meeting was live streamed to the Westland District Council YouTube Channel and presentations are made available on the council website.

1. KARAKIA TĪMATANGA OPENING KARAKIA

The opening Karakia was read by Cr Neale.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Chairperson	Her Worship the Mayor	
Members		
	Cr Cassin (Deputy)	Cr Baird
	Cr Burden	Cr Davidson
	Cr Gillett	Cr Manera
	Cr Neale	Cr Phelps (via zoom)
	Kw Tumahai	Kw Madgwick

NGĀ WHAKAPAAHA APOLOGIES

No apologies received.

Also in attendance for part of the meeting:
Sally Cox, Senior Project Manager, Joseph & Associates Ltd (via zoom)
Paul Zaanen, Senior Project, and Development Manager, Joseph & Associates Ltd (via zoom)
Jason Mill, Architecture, Graphics and Project Management, Joseph & Associates Ltd (via zoom)
Tony Hart, Emergency Management Officer, West Coast Emergency Management
Claire Brown, Group Manager, West Coast Emergency Management

STAFF PRESENT

S.R. Bastion, Chief Executive; T. Cook, Regulatory Services Manager; L. Crichton, Group Manager: Corporate Services, Risk & Assurance; S. Baxendale, Group Manager District Assets; D. Maitland; Executive Assistant, E. Rae, Strategy and Communications Advisor (via zoom); S. Johnston; Governance Administrator.

3. WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Interest Register had been circulated via Microsoft Teams.

There were no changes to the Interest Register noted.

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

There were no urgent items of business not on the Council Agenda.

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

The Minutes of the previous Meeting were circulated separately via Microsoft Teams.

- **Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes – 24 August 2023**

Cr Cassin advised that an “effective from date” needed to be added to his update to the Interest Register on the previous minutes of 24 August 2023 relating to the Te Tai O Poutini / West Coast Conservation Board, as well as a move from non-pecuniary to pecuniary.

Moved Cr Gillett, seconded Cr Baird and **Resolved** that the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 24 August 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting, subject to the following amendments:

Interest Register detail:	Amendment to be made:
Te Tai O Poutini / West Coast Conservation Board	‘Effective from date’ of 24.08.23 to be added to the Interest Register.
Te Tai O Poutini / West Coast Conservation Board	To be changed from Non-pecuniary to Pecuniary on the Interest Register

The Chair **Approved** that their digital signature be added to the confirmed Amended Council Meeting Minutes of 24 August 2023.

MINUTES RECEIVED FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

- CE’s Review Committee Meeting Minutes – 08 December 2022
- CE’s Review Extraordinary Committee Meeting Minutes – 25 May 2023
- Hokitika Wastewater Treatment Plant – Project Oversight Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes – 12 July 2023

Moved Cr Cassin, seconded Cr Burden and **Resolved** that the CE’s Review Committee Minutes of the 8 December 2022, the CE’s Review Extraordinary Committee Minutes of the 25 May 2023 and the Hokitika Wastewater Treatment Plant – Project Oversight Sub-Committee Minutes of the 12 July 2023 be received.

6. ACTION LIST

Simon Bastion, Chief Executive spoke to the Action List and provided the following updates:

Item	Action	Update
Pakiwaitara Building & Council Offices	Business case and scope of work to be brought to Council after the structural elements of the work have	Another round of proposed discussion to be had at a workshop scheduled for the 17 th October 2023

	been identified, costed and timelines finalized.	
Hokitika Government Building		Report in the Public Excluded session of the meeting today as requested at the August Council Meeting
Hokitika Racecourse Development	Council to be keep abreast of the IAF Application	There is a paper on this agenda on the current status of the project from Joseph & Associates. This item can be removed from the action list.
Central Business District Maintenance	Workshop to be arranged to review how the CBD is maintained.	Workshop for the 4 th October 2023 is scheduled.
Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency	Westland District Council to compile a list of areas with speed issues and send through to Mr Caygill at Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency	Present List includes: Otira – SH73 through village, community have requested 50km/h zone. Hokitika – North End of town, extend 50km/h zone to include Glow Worm Dell parking Hokitika – South End of town extend 50km/h zone to encompass whole bridge. Require confirmation from Council of other areas for consideration. Workshop recently on 14 September 2023. This can now be removed from the action list.

Moved Cr Baird, seconded Cr Davidson and **Resolved** that the updated Action List be received, and items:

- Hokitika Racecourse Development be removed.
- Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency be removed.

7. **NGĀ TĀPAETANGA PRESENTATIONS**

- **West Coast Emergency Management Status Update**

Claire Brown, Group Manager, West Coast Emergency Management & Tony Hart, Emergency Management Officer, Westland, West Coast Emergency Management, provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the following topics:

- **Statistics – Financial Year 2022-2023**
- **Reduction, Readiness, Response, Recovery**
- **Community Response Plans**
- **Community Exercises**
- **Hokitika Community Response Group**
- **EOC Readiness & Capability**
- **Community Assessment Survey**

- **Successes**
- **Challenges**

Claire Brown advised that West Coast Emergency Management is a centralised team that sits within the West Coast Regional Council, and they have a responsibility to each of the District Councils, and their primary focus is supporting the Westland Communities to respond and recover.

Moved Cr Neale, seconded Cr Burden and **Resolved** that the presentation from Claire Brown, Group Manager, West Coast Emergency Management and Tony Hart Emergency Management Officer, Westland West Coast Emergency Management be received.

- **Hokitika Racecourse Development Project Update**

Paul Zaanen, Senior Project & Business Development Manager, Sally Cox, Senior Project Manager, and Jason Mill, Architecture, Graphics and Project Management from Joseph & Associates Ltd joined the meeting via zoom and provided Council with an update on the Working Group, their key tasks and proposed work packages for engagement and planning.

Timeline:

Date	Target Audience	Commentary
Late October 2023	General Public	Provide an update to the Community with changed design and outputs via email and online.
Late October 2023	Target Stakeholders	Opportunity to engage with stakeholders and provide an update on the work packages
26 October 2023	Council	Back to Council with the findings of the Working Group and the Community Broader outcomes that inform the private sector.
November	General Public	Open day – an opportunity for the wider community to engage with the process in relation to the recreation reserve, community space (super lot 4) and the public amenity.
November	Targeted Stakeholders	A design meeting for the recreational reserve will be initiated.
December	General Public	Go back to the Community showcase the feedback received in November, highlight key next steps and provide a timeline for consultation via the Long-Term Plan.
December	Targeted Stakeholders	A further meeting to provide the key stakeholders with an update on design and any final design considerations prior to the Long-Term Plan consultation.

Kw Madgwick requested that in regard to process, could the Working Group directly report back to the Council rather than via the Consultants.

Her Worship the Mayor advised that it was noted.

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

1. The Hokitika Racecourse Development Project Update from Joseph and Associates be received.

**8. PŪRONGO KAIMAHI
STAFF REPORTS**

• **Financial Performance – August 2023**

Cody Nabben, Financial Accountant spoke to this item and advised the purpose of this report is to provide an indication of Council’s financial performance of the month to 31 August 2023.

Cody Nabben advised of the following errors in the document:

Page #	Issue	
Page 44	The statement of Financial Position says 31 July 2023	Updated to 31 August 2023. The figures do represent August 2023.
Page 48	Financial Performance Report	Debt Position is now accurate (compared to last month’s report) and reflects the annual plan and the large amount of capital expenditure Council expects to have over the next year.
	Cr Phelps queried the \$1.884M Capital Expenditure figure and asked for further detail	The Group Manager, District Assets advised he would need to look into this and get back to Cr Phelps.

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

1. The amended Financial Performance Report for 31 August 2023 be received.

• **Projects and Carry Forwards to 2023-2024**

Lynley Truman, Finance Manager spoke to this item and advised the purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the carry forward of funding of projects and operating costs and revenues that were scheduled from previous financial years but were not completed by 30 June 2023.

The Finance Manager advised the following:

Page #	Issue	
Page 55	Racecourse Development \$300k spent as at 30 June 2022	Another \$38k has been accrued to this figure.

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

1. The amended report be received.
2. Council approve the carry forward of funds for the projects and operational costs itemised in Appendix 1 and 2 to the financial year 2023-2024.
3. Council continue with the revision of Emergency Operations Centre, Hokitika Museum, Pakiwaitara Building, Cass Square Playground, The Racecourse Development Project, and Council Headquarters Building
4. Council approve the future allocation of funds for specific purposes as requested by Council.

The Group Manager, District Assets advised that he had received the breakdown of the \$1.884M Capital Expenditure figure as questioned earlier in the meeting and advised that a fair amount of it was Better Off Funding relating to Civil Defence Hubs, also some funds in relation to the Emergency Operations Centre which makes up the totality of the \$1.884M.

- **Hokitika Gorge Lower Swing Bridge**

Scott Baxendale, Group Manager, District Assets spoke to this item and advised the purpose of this report is to confirm the retrospective approval of the Council application for funding from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund Variation to fund the design and building of a new replacement bridge in the lower Hokitika Gorge (Hokitika Gorge Lower Suspension Bridge).

On 29 August 2023, confirmation was sought from Councillors to proceed to a new bridge solution through the Tourism Infrastructure Fund with 100% consensus. As the confirmation from Councillors was by email, the approach taken now needs a formal resolution of Council.

Moved Cr Burden, seconded Cr Cassin and **Resolved** that:

1. The report be received
2. Council confirm the retrospective approval of the application to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund to proceed to building a new bridge for the lower Hokitika Gorge.

- **Annual Dog Control Policies and Practices Report**

Te Aroha Cook, Group Manager, Regulatory, Planning & Community Services spoke to this item and advised the purpose of this report is to adopt the Annual Report on Dog Control Policies and Practices for the year ending 30 June 2023.

Her Worship the Mayor advised that the feedback received from the wider community has been excellent and people are appreciative of the way issues have been handled and advised that Claire Lomax is very highly regarded in the Community.

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

1. The report be received.
2. Council adopts the Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2022/2023.
3. The adopted Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2022/2023 is publicly notified, and made publicly available on Council's website, and
4. The Secretary for Local Government is advised that the Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report 2022/2023 has been published in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, and Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.

- **Motorhome Friendly District Status**

Helen Lash, Her Worship the Mayor spoke to this item and advised the purpose of this report is for Council to confirm if it wishes the Westland District to become a Motorhome Friendly District.

The Mayor advised that Westland District will be known as a Motorhome Friendly District specifically for signed up members of the NZ Motorhome Association and the Association will erect signs to notify motorhome users of this.

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

1. The report be received
2. Westland District Council apply to become an official Motorhome Friendly District for the Westland District.

Moved Cr Gillett, seconded Cr Burden and **Resolved** that the meeting be adjourned for afternoon tea at 3:00pm. The meeting reconvened at 3:11pm in the Confidential Section of the meeting.

9. KA MATATAPU TE WHAKATAUNGA I TE TŪMATANUI RESOLUTION TO GO INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED

(to consider and adopt confidential items)

Moved Cr Gillett, seconded Cr Baird 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 3:11 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.	Public Excluded Minutes – 24 August 2023	Good reasons 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.	Public Excluded Committee Minutes to be Received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CE’s Review Committee Meeting Minutes – 08 December 2022 • CE’s Review Extraordinary Committee Meeting Minutes – 25 May 2023 	Good reasons 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.	District Licensing Commissioner	Good reasons 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.	Hokitika Government Building	Good reasons 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.	Chief Executive's Performance Review	Good reasons 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
1, 3, 5	Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons (Schedule (7)(2)(a))
1, 3, 4	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 (Schedule 7(2)(b)).
1, 2, 5	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (Schedule 7(2)(i))
3	<i>Other reasons for withholding official information</i> 1. Where this section applies, good reason for withholding official information exists, for the purpose of section 5 , unless, in the circumstances of the particular case, the withholding of that information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.
3	Subject to sections 6, 8, and 17 , this section applies if, and only if, the withholding of the information is necessary to— (Schedule 7(2))
3	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; (Schedule 7(2)(f))
4	Maintain legal professional privilege; or (Schedule 7(2)(g))
4	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; or (Schedule 7(2)(h))

Moved Cr Gillett, seconded Cr Burden 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 4.31pm.

**DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 26 OCTOBER 2023
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM**

MEETING CLOSED AT 4.31 PM

Confirmed by:

Mayor Helen Lash
Chair

Date:

26.10.23 - Council Meeting - Action List

Item No.	Date of Meeting	COMPLETED IN PROGRESS OVERDUE	Item	Action	Completion Date/Target Date	Officer	Status
1	26.08.21		Pakiwaitara Building, 41 Weld Street Hokitika Council Office, 36 Weld Street, Hokitika	Business case and scope of work to be brought to Council after the structural elements of the work have been identified, costed and timelines finalized.	Mar 23	CE	The review is still being undertaken. A workshop with Councillors was conducted on 10 August 2023. Council has requested further work on the subject and to bring information back to council and a workshop is planned for the 31 October 2023.
2.	26.08.21		Hokitika Government Building, Sewell Street, Hokitika		Mar 23	CE	A report regarding the Hokitika Government Building including financial figures was brought back to the September Council meeting. Council decided not to proceed with Hokitika Government Building as an option for Council's Headquarters
3	25.05.23		CBD Maintenance	Workshop to be arranged to review how the CBD is maintained.		CE	A workshop with Councillors was held on 4 October 2023 to look at what is involved and what the contract looks like. A report will be brought to Council at a future date to make recommendations on the maintenance of the CBD and parking in town.
4.	28.09.23		Hokitika Racecourse Development Project	Amount spent on Consultants fees to date for the Racecourse Development Project. Also, for Hokitika Racecourse Working Group to report back to Council rather than the Consultants	October 2023	CE	The total costs to date for consultant fees for the racecourse are \$450,502. This includes all costs including the original bid, financial analysis, legal costs, civil engineering assessments including ground conditions, and community engagement. \$148,253 is eligible to be charged to the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund. \$302,248 is chargeable to WDC. Should the Racecourse project not proceed all of the fees will be sunk costs to the Council.

Report to Council



DATE: 26 October 2023

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Joanne Conroy, Chair, Westland Holdings Limited

2022-2023 Year End Results for Westland Holdings Limited

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to formally present the year end results for Westland Holdings Limited.
- 1.2. This issue arises from the statutory requirement for Westland Holdings Limited (WHL) to give Council the option to provide Council with the year end results.
- 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 2021, which are set out in the Long-Term Plan 2021 - 31. Refer page 2 of the agenda.
- 1.4. This report concludes by recommending that Council receives this report.

2. Background

- 2.1. The reason the report has come before the Council is due to the statutory requirement for Council to receive the year end results from Westland Holdings Limited.
- 2.2. The consolidated income for the year ended 30 June 2023 was \$32,137,000, up 9% from the 2021-2022 year. Profit for the year was \$543,000 (before tax and subvention payments). Cost of sales, general expenses and interest payments were all higher than last year.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1. This is an annual presentation to Council.

4. Options

- 4.1. Option 1: That Council receives the report; or
- 4.2. Option 2: That Council does not receive the report.

5. Risk Analysis

- 5.1. Risk has been considered and no risks have been identified.

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 medium.

7.1.1. No public consultation is considered necessary.

8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

8.1. **Option 1** – That Council receive this report. The report will be supported by a presentation by each of the Council Controlled Organisations to provide more detailed information and give Councillor's an opportunity to ask questions, but the results from the previous financial year have been audited and cannot be changed.

8.1.1. There are limited financial implications to this option.

8.2. **Option 2** – That Council does not receive the report and seeks further information from Westland Holdings Limited about aspects of last year's performance.

8.2.1. There are limited financial implications to this option.

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 results from the last financial year cannot be altered. The three CCO's will attend the meeting to provide further information as required.

10. Recommendation(s)

10.1. That the report be received.

Joanne Conroy
Chair, Westland Holdings Limited

Report to Council



DATE: 26 October 2023
TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Chief Executive

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S QUARTERLY REPORT

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on all aspects of what is happening in the Westland District, and update Council on any matters of significance and priority.
- 1.2. 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 2021, which are set out in the Long-Term Plan 2021 - 31. Refer page 2 of the agenda.
- 1.3. This report concludes by recommending that Council receive the Chief Executive's Report dated 20 July 2023

2. Background

- 2.1. The reason the report has come before the Council is due to the need to keep Council informed of any matters of significance and priority.

3. Matters of significance and priority list

The current matters of Significance and Priority are as follows:

The Incoming Government

Whilst the final makeup of the new government is still to be finalised, we can expect a significant change in direction within key priority areas from National based on their 100 Day Action Plan. Key points that come out of the plan that impact on local government are the following:

- Repeal Labour's Three Waters legislation.
- Repeal Labour's RMA 2.0 laws.
- Stop Labour's blanket speed limit reductions
- Introduce a fast-track consenting regime

Whilst the details are yet to emerge, we have an insight into the 3 Waters Policy changes being adopted by the National Government – see **Appendix 2**. All of the above actions will impact council in some form or another.

The Mayors & Chairs & Iwi along with support from the Chief Executives are pulling together a business case for the region and plan to table the plan with the incoming Government once formed.

LGNZ Reporting

LGNZ National Council's most recent meeting recommended providing regular formal updates from LGNZ to member councils. **Appendix 3 is the first of their four-monthly reports. They are designed to help ensure all councillors are across LGNZ's work and able to give feedback**

It's important to National Council that all member councils are fully across the breadth and depth of work that LGNZ is doing on your behalf.

3.1 Affordable Waters Reform

- 3.1.1 The National Party, in the recent election, campaigned on overturning the affordable water reform programme. Following the Labour government's defeat in the 2023 election there is an expectation that the new government will repeal the three waters legislation and replace it with a new model. The National Party outlined that they wished to see the affordable water programme replaced with "Local Water Done Well." They outlined in their pre-election position that they intend to: -
- Repeal Three Waters and scrap the four (now 10) co-governed mega-entities
 - Restore council ownership and control
 - Set strict rules for water quality and investment in infrastructure.
 - Ensure water services are financially sustainable.

Appendix 2 shows the position taken by the National Party prior to the election.

- 3.1.2 Communities for Local Democracy (C4LD) believe that a new model will follow recommendations made by C4LD and may involve the creation of regional CCOs. However, at present it is not clear what the future shape of 3 waters provision will be.
- 3.1.3 Discussions with the National Transition Unit indicate that in the short-term DIA are focussing on the implementation of Entity A which includes Auckland and Far North DC. Whilst the asset data and customer workstreams may continue in Entity I, the finance project and the people domains are not being pursued until things become clearer.
- 3.1.4 The NTU intend to hold the next CE's Forum and Local Transition Team meetings but have admitted that they will have little to say until they understand the new government's position. The Three Waters legislation is still on the statute book and there is an obligation on Councils to cooperate until the legislation is repealed. The NTU are endeavouring to establish what elements of the transition process can be put on hold pending the repeal of the legislation. Westland District Council have been working for some time on the understanding that 3 waters may remain a Council function given a change of government. The draft Infrastructure Strategy includes 3 waters and the Asset Management Plans have also been put together on that basis.
- 3.1.5 Further work is being done to model 3 waters for the next long-term plan. A key issue for Council will be the funding of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant for Hokitika.
- 3.1.6 West Coast Councils are currently putting together a list of key infrastructure projects to present to Government as a part of a bid to access a \$1bn competitive fund that has been signposted by the incoming government. The Wastewater Treatment plant will be a key part of that bid.

3.2 The Hokitika Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

- 3.2.1 The project working Group for the wastewater treatment plant met at the Arahura Marae on September 6th, 2023. The focus of the meeting was to work through the draft material for public engagement sessions which are to be held at the RSA in Hokitika on the 4th and 8th of November 2023.
- 3.2.2 The public engagement will outline the history of the project, the close working partnership with iwi and the current status of the project. This will include sharing the options that are being considered.

Components that make up the 11 Short List Options

Component	Description
Receiving Environments (2)	Ocean (via Westland Milk Products existing ocean outfall) Land (West of airport via Rapid Infiltration Basins / Trenches)
Base Treatment Options (2)	Biological Trickling Filter (to Ocean) Conventional Secondary Treatment (to Land)
Treatment Enhancements (3)	UV Disinfection Membrane Filtration Cultural
Treatment Plant Sites (3)	Existing Site West of Airport Airport

- 3.2.3 Dialogue with Westland Milk Products and Silver Fern Farms continues and conversations with both parties are in good faith and positive in nature.
- 3.2.4 Given the uncertainty regarding the three waters reform programme Stantec have been asked to produce cost estimates on a “worst case” basis to enable Council to put together cost proposals for the Long-Term Plan and any approach to Governments for external funding.

3.3 Three Waters Projects

Chlorination of remaining water supplies

In conjunction with Council staff, Filtec Ltd and Westroads have been installing chlorination units throughout the district in those supplies that are not yet chlorinated. The implementation of chlorination is to meet compliance with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules. Chlorination has now been implemented in Kumara, Arahura and Harihari, Whataroa. It is expected that Haast will be complete by the end of October. This will mean that all of the WDC water supplies will be chlorinated.

Fox Glacier WTP

Marshall Projects are on target for commissioning the new WTP at the end of October. The water treatment plant will consist of membrane filtration (for protozoal compliance) and chlorination. The supply is currently chlorinated. The new water treatment will meet the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules. Taumata Arowai has been kept up to date with the progress of the plant. The township is currently on a permanent boil water notice, which will be lifted once the plant is fully commissioned and operational.

The current budget for the project is \$1.09M. Included in this is Tourism Infrastructure Funding of \$468,000. Total cost year to date: \$752,427

Lutra Database Implementation

Lutra has been working with the 3 Waters Team and various other contractors to implement their compliance tool, Infrastructure Data. The primary focus of this tool will be to report on protozoal compliance at our water treatment plants. While we have the appropriate protozoal barriers in place (except Fox Glacier currently), we have been unable to prove compliance (or non-compliance), which this tool will now report on and feed back to the water regulator, Taumata Arowai. This project is currently 90% complete, with a few minor implementations to go on. This is expected to be completed by year end.

3.4 Solid Waste and Recycling Update

Waste Minimisation



1. Construction and Demolition Waste – Is continuing to be investigated and viability checked in a combined project with Buller, Grey & Regional Councils. The bulk of the funding for this project has been provided through MBIE (Ministry of Business Innovation & Employment) via a grant. Site design and costings are being priced for further funding application & viability confirmation.
2. E-waste continues to be recycled with the Tech Collect pilot program, extending to 31 March 2024. Electrical safety checking and “magpies Nest” resale of electrical goods has been implemented.

Regional Service Delivery (Waste & Recycling)

Combined regional services delivery (Buller / Grey / Westland) is still in the process of feasibility checking. This activity involves a full review and cost benefits on joint services delivery between the three councils. Kerb-side collections of waste, current recycling, and the addition of household glass along with management of transfer stations are part of the scope. Westland has not fully committed to this joint services model and is anticipating the results of this process to assist with decision making via Council.

Butlers Landfill

Development continues at this site. Works undertaken include installing stormwater network drainage and pipes to match current outlets in the new leachate field once operational. Clearance and shaping of the leachate area ready for fencing and planting of hundreds of native trees. Deer fencing is expected to be installed over the next few months and staff will work with schools to involve the community with growing and planting the native vegetation utilized as filters for leachate processing.

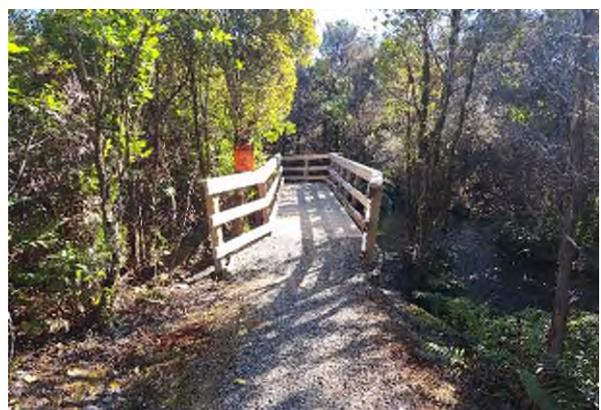


Waiho River Update

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive and Group Manager District Assets attended the public meeting called by West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) at Franz Josef on 11th September 2023. The meeting was to discuss a proposed 10-year plan presented by WCRC to address the growing challenge to the community presented by the aggrading of the Waiho river and the avulsion of the Waiho river into the Tartare River.

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) consisting of experts in river science and river engineering have produced a report “Future Management of the Waiho River.” [Future Management of the Waiho River \(wcr.govt.nz\)](https://www.wcrc.govt.nz). The report outlines the history of the Waiho alluvial fan, the challenges of the increasing aggradation, an options analysis, and a recommendation for action. The key recommendation to the community was to remove stop banks on the south side of the river and to allow the river to naturally flood the land to the South. This would then reduce the rate of aggradation, release the pressure on the north side of the river and consequently would reduce the flooding risk to Franz Josef township. This proposal has huge consequences for the community from a personal, social, economic and wellbeing perspective. It requires significant government funding and interventions. It is recommended that WDC Councilors visit the WCRC website, watch the live stream of the meeting and read the associated reports. WDC wishes to express its solidarity with the Franz Josef community and its commitment to support the township through this difficult period.

3.5 West Coast Wilderness Trail



Kaniere Water Race Bridges

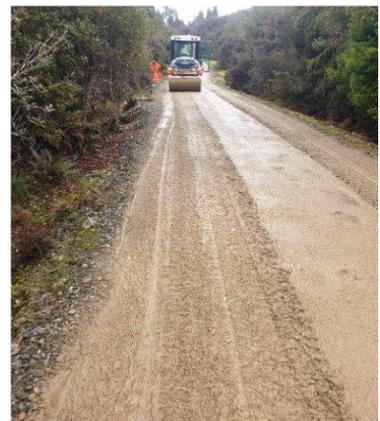
Three bridges are now complete. There were delays with contractor services and engineering practicalities during construction and sign off. However, the result has greatly improved the facilities and riding experience for trail users.

Trail storm damage remediations



Major storms that occurred in May and June caused significant damage to various sections of the cycle trail. The Kaniere Tram box culvert got shifted from its base which caused a collapse of the headwall at either end making the trail impassable. As contractors were implementing the raising of river protection for regional council in a nearby area, they were utilised to undertake repairs and improvements. 100% MBIE funding was secured to undertake these works.

Completion of large areas of remediation have been undertaken since the last report. Drain repairs, culvert and resurfacing were required to be undertaken in the Kawhaka & Kawhaka pass trail sections. 100% funding was also secured for this work through MBIE. Activities were managed via Destination Westland.



Mahinapua Viewing Platform

After extensive design and material availability delays the physical works on the Mahinapua viewing platform is well underway. Materials and a small excavator were required to be air lifted in due to narrow access. Contractor have installed the first row of supporting retaining beams (1.4 meters deep) in really challenging ground conditions. Work is expected to be completed by the end of October.



Kapitia Reservoir Safety Improvements



Works were undertaken and completed on the Kapitia reservoir trail section between Kumara and the Kawhaka intake. This was required due to vehicle / cyclist clashes, accidents, and flooding over the trail. The outer edge of the road was widened to an average of 1.5 meters with supporting rock placed and an additional culvert added to prevent wash out. This project was part of a combination of improvements (Mahinapua Boardwalk design + Larrikins Rd off road) joint funded through MBIE grants. The other separable portions are still in progress.

3.6 Carnegie Building

Budget: \$2,933,848.10

Spent to Date: \$2,863,022

The Carnegie building earthquake strengthening project has been completed and the building has been handed over back to council by the contractors. There are a few minor snags that the contractor is still attending to.

The next stage is to finalise the internal fitout of the building. This is currently in the planning stages and council staff are currently working on designs which will be brought to a future Council meeting.

Works completed to date include:

- Installation of new concrete foundations
- Installation of the new shear walls to all the perimeter and the main internal wall
- Structural steel installation of the vertical bracing to the new shear walls
- Structural steel installation to the ceiling bracing
- Painting of interior, Repairs to broken glazing
- Drilling and installation of the reinforcing to the entry columns
- Electrical services (lighting, emergency lighting and sire protection)
- Completion of parapet works.
- Exterior seal of building
- Exterior clean of building/Windows
- Installation of disability carpark



3.7 Building Options - Council Headquarters and Pakiwaitara Building

A workshop was held with Council on February 27th, 2023. As a result of this workshop further investigation and a pricing review was required for each building option. Final valuations for the buildings have been received and there is another workshop scheduled with Councillors on 31 October 2023.

3.8 Hokitika Swimming Pool

Budget: \$5,530,317 (\$4,420,000 MBIE, PGF, \$690,000 Better Off, \$420,317 WDC Contribution)

Spent to Date: \$3,200,072.77

Construction on the Hokitika pool started on 6 June 2023. All work on the pool hall has been completed and was handed over to Destination Westland on the 9 October 2023. There have been some minor teething issues associated with the boiler tripping out overnight. This was caused by the flow rate through the heat exchanger. A temporary fix has been put in place. The permanent fix will be completed by the 24 October 2023.

Work within the pool hall area includes:

- Installation of a new pool liner
- Construction and commissioning of a new plantroom
- Upgrade to the overflow channel grating and nib wall
- Painting of the walls and bleaches
- Construction of new open showers

- Construction of temporary changeroom facilities

Work on the new entrance, changerooms and reception area will continue until April 2024.

Outstanding work to be completed includes:

- Deferred strengthening of northern wall
- Construction of new reception and changing facilities
- Construction of new entrance

The project is tracking under budget which has allowed some items that had been excluded to be put into the project. This includes painting, replacing the overflow channel and the removal of the old plant room which has been converted to a storage room.



3.9 Cass Square Playground Development

Budget: \$1,010,000.00 (\$500,000 Lottery, \$510,000 WDC Contribution, \$TBC Community Fundraising efforts)

Spent to Date: \$10,139.12

The working group have seen the proposed design options for the new playground. Design and build tenders have now been evaluated and a report recommending a supplier is being presented at Council in confidential session. Two members of the community were involved in the tender evaluation and will be present in the confidential Council session to take questions.

3.10 Racecourse

A report to Council has been prepared on behalf of the working group and is on the agenda for this Council meeting.

3.11 Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

The project is currently on hold.

3.12 Hokitika Beachfront Access Ramp

TIF funding has been received for the beachfront access ramp and the project has started to gain some momentum after a period of standing still. The tender document is currently being prepared and will be due in on 1 December 2023. Construction works is being planned to start in April 2024

3.13 Cass Square Toilets

Installation of the new toilets at Cass Square started on the 26 September 2023 and the construction period is planned to last 2 months.

The dig out has been completed and work on the concrete pad will commence on 9 October 2023.



3.12 Special Purpose Road (SPR)

Following a collaborative approach that WDC and Buller District Council made to Waka Kotahi, Council has been contacted by Waka Kotahi to be advised that the SPR will continue to be funded for another three years at 100% FAR rate. This is a positive result for Council and the rate payers. Council will continue to advocate for this road to be fully funded by Waka Kotahi

3.13 Better Off Funding

Please see **Appendix 1**

4 Other Activities

4.1 Corporate Services

Finance:

The finance team time have been working on the Annual Report and year end final audit. Ernst & Young are continuing to carry out the audit of the report which is due to be adopted at an extraordinary meeting on 31 October.

At the same time, the finance team are also beginning budgeting and policy work for the Long-Term Plan. This is another huge project which will take up significant finance resource to both prepare and audit.

Finance will again welcome the EY (Ernst & Young) audit team to audit the documents before going out for consultation. All this while managing the business-as-usual activities.

Information Technology:

The IT Department have successfully completed several key initiatives that enhance our security, efficiency, and productivity of IT systems within WDC.

The team has successfully completed the firewall upgrade project. We have deployed a new firewall system to address modern emerging threats, helping us maintain a secure network environment.

Linked to this the team have implemented Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) across the organization to control remote access to our systems.

All employees are now required to use MFA to access critical systems and resources when connecting remotely.

The team has rolled out a password management solution to improve password security and simplify password management for employees, & finally the team has migrated its service desk ticketing system to the Cloud. This has enhanced its scalability, reliability, and accessibility.

Information Management:

The IM team has made progress on document management and the disposal of archived files. In line with the Public Records Act & Archives NZ guidelines, physical files are being categorised & a large number have been identified as safe for disposal. Each file is checked against retention and disposal rules before categorisation & review. These files were otherwise representing a cost and risk to the organisation in storing large volumes of duplicate, administrative or obsolete files. These are sent for secure destruction to industry standards.



A small selection of the numerous files/folders approved for destruction.

The Policy Working Group now has a draft lifecycle document and work continues on the audit of the large number of policies published and held in our systems. Expired, missing or duplicate policies are addressed when found and this is increasing our situational awareness surrounding publication and departmental responsibilities.

Separately, the team has welcomed the assistance of a summer intern who is undertaking a cross referencing exercise on our Property Files and Building Consents.

Strategy and Communications

As usual, first quarter of the financial year has been spent putting together the draft Annual Report document and compiling the information for the non-financial performance measures.

The process of creating the next LTP (Long Term Plan) has begun, with two workshops held with elected members and iwi in August and September. Discussions in these workshops allowed elected members to develop their strategies for the Long-Term Plan. An Environmental Scan was commissioned, and the Strategy and Communications Advisor (SCA) undertook a review of the Levels of Service for each activity, alongside the activity managers.

During this period, outside of business-as-usual activities, the SCA has worked closely with Stantec on plans for community engagement for the Hokitika Wastewater Treatment Plant to provide advice and review draft documents.

4.2 Regulatory, Planning & Community Services

Building

Performance in this activity

Community Outcome	Level of service	Measure / Target	Current Performance
Diverse Economy	Timely processing of Building Consents.	100% of building consents processed within 20 working days as per the requirements of the Building Act	Consents issued = 263 93.8% issued within 20-day statutory timeframe
	Timely processing of Code Compliance Certificates	100% of code compliance certificates processed within 20 working days as per the requirements of the Building Act	CCC issued = 198 99% issued within 20-day statutory timeframe

Territorial Functions Activity	
Notices to Fix	17
Building Warrant of Fitness Audits	34 undertaken
Earthquake Prone Building Notices Issued	2
Certificates of Acceptance	3
Certificates for Public Use	3
Swimming Pool Barrier Audits	0

The BCA underwent its Biannual re accreditation assessment in July 2023. This assessment is the tool to determine that the BCA (Building Consent Authority) is meeting its requirements under the Accreditation Regulations. The assessment has highlighted the amount of hard work undertaken regarding consenting, inspections and certifying with a positive result meaning only 6 items needing to be addressed with the bulk of items being an administration change required in the BCA quality manual. Considering the audit items over 100 things that are assessment, this is a hugely positive result. The deadline to have all items reassessed by IANZ is the 20 October 2023 and we are currently waiting for the last item to be approved.

This quarter has seen the TA undertake 34 Building Warrant of Fitness audits across the district.

Earthquake prone notices have had 2 more issued.

Planning Department Update

Applications for resource consents have increased this quarter. Larger scale land use applications for work being undertaken through the Regional Council have contributed to this increase, which are associated with protection works in Hokitika and Franz Josef.

Input into the TTPP (Te Tai o Poutini Plan) progresses. Assistance has been provided to the Okarito community group to submit evidence which supports Councils further submission lodged on the proposed Light provisions. This evidence will be presented at the hearing on the 14th of November.

Collaboration between Grey and Buller Districts is underway to implement new resource consent application forms. These new forms will enable standardisation across the districts and reflect proposed plan changes.

Compliance activities remain steady, with a variety of non-conformance issues currently being investigated. A review of the Compliance and Enforcement Policy is underway to ensure best practice methods remain consistent in practice and to outline updated processes.

Overall, the Planning Department has had an extremely busy quarter. New applications, an increase in TTPP reporting and changes in the compliance space have kept the team busy.

Hokitika Museum Report

Phase I of the Ngā Whakatūranga Project, the earthquake strengthening of the Carnegie Building has been completed and the building returned to the Council. Richard Bullet of RDB Project Management has been appointed to manage Phase II, the building services fit out. Work has begun on developing a briefing document to aid tenders and a working timeframe.

Ongoing exterior improvements have been completed including the painting of safety rails, steps, and the Nurses Memorial sculpture. The exterior lights have been replaced and the ground to the West of the building has been repaired and grass resown.

The Drummond Hall and public toilets have been painted. And the interior door openings have been altered to meet Health and Safety requirements. The roof has had rust removed and leaks repaired and is due to be painted next year.

The Museum Collection Policy and procedures have been reviewed. The de-accession and disposal processes will be presented for discussion with General Manager Te Aroha Cook on her return.

Staff continue to provide a museum presence with external stakeholders by attending history groups' AGMs and monthly meetings. This month staff have been invited to participate in a Hokitika Strategic Workshop with Heritage West Coast. Staff will travel to Murchinson Museum to attend a 1-day Regional Museums Conference as part of their professional development. The museum has invited the Industrial Museum board to morning tea to discuss how we can work together to provide proper care for industry-related objects in the museum's collection.

Progress continues in researching content for the new displays. Regional content, the bedrock of the knowledge base, will be completed by year end. The search has begun for a contract Curator to transform research content into museum experiences. Advertising will begin in mid-November 2023.

A 3-day EMU Expert Knowledge Exchange has been organised with National Services Te Paerangi - Te Papa to aid staff cataloguing the collection. The Te Papa funded EKE program assists small regional museums to access museum experts. The exchange is booked for early November and will focus on developing a user-friendly catalogue manual for staff.

800 glass plate negatives from the Charles Lucas Collection have been digitised by the museum. The images show industry practice and day-to-day happenings in the settlement of Harihari.

Westland District Library Report

Library Spaces – providing safe, inclusive, and welcoming spaces for learning, social and recreational purposes

The library is a multi-use hub, with ongoing collaborations with several national and local organisation that are enabling the community to have easier access to these services. Visitor numbers are still recovering from the pandemic, with slightly higher (av. 3533 people per month) than the same quarter last year (av. 3130 people per month).

Programmes and Events – aiding literacy, learning, social cohesion, and active citizenship

Our regular literacy, social programmes and outreach have supported the celebration of Matariki, NZ Children's Book Awards, Conservation Week, Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, and Mental Health Awareness Month. In addition, the library hosted a children's author visit and Heart Health Checks and STEAM activities for the holidays.



Collections – supporting literacy and providing access to culture, information, and life-long learning

Following some feedback from our younger patrons, our collection management activities have been focused on Children’s fiction, improving the relevance of the collection for our younger readers. E-resource issues continue a trend upwards and feedback from patrons is that long waitlists are preventing them from borrowing more, particularly e-audio books.

APNK Internet Access - providing equitable access to information and enabling digital inclusion

Use of the APNK system has remained similar to the previous quarter and is an important resource to support digital equity in the community.

Community Libraries – providing access to library collections to remote communities

The Community Libraries exist to support access to the collection to communities at some distance from the library in Hokitika. There continue to be difficulties for some community libraries, and they are not currently delivering access to the collection effectively.

Volunteers

There are 32 volunteers contributing over 20 hours/week to support the delivery of library services in the main library and across the district. Their contribution is vital to the delivery of library services and library staff are grateful for their ongoing support.

Responsive to changing community needs

Westland has a higher proportion of people over the age of 65 than the average in NZ. This is set to rise in the future. With this comes an increase in the number of people with Dementia or caring for someone with Dementia. The library is a safe space for people with Dementia and their whanau and offers access to information and programmes to support them. All Library staff have completed the ‘Dementia Friend’ training module offered by Alzheimer’s NZ and the library is now working towards Dementia Friendly Accreditation to enable us to better support people living with Dementia in our community.



Westland Mayors Task Force for Jobs (MTFJ):

The Westland Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) has achieved significant milestones in its efforts to support youth employment and community engagement this quarter. In addition to existing initiatives, the MTFJ has welcomed two new internship team members, Samuel Bastion, and Te Haeata Nikau-Tootell, who will play integral roles in expanding the MTFJ community engagement efforts from a youth perspective. Samuel is involved in interagency community engagement, the Youth Employability Programme, and work experience opportunities within the Council. Te Haeata primarily focuses on youth and community sports engagement through Sport Canterbury and Hokitika Touch Rugby. Both interns will also work with Westland District Councillors to develop a local Youth Strategy and Youth Council.

The MTFJ has successfully supported 20 youths in securing employment since the beginning of the financial year. In addition, seven rangatahi have enrolled and are actively participating in the Westland Youth Employability Programme, with an additional 18 young individuals actively seeking full-time employment through the MTFJ service.

The Youth Employability team will embark on volunteer and work experience opportunities and collaborate with the Westland District Library on a recycling project.

The team's recent activities have been marked by a visit to South Westland, where the primary objective was to connect with local businesses and provide them with up-to-date information on the MTFJ Programme and introduce rangatahi to employment opportunities available in the area.

In response to the needs of the broader community of Westland residents, the MTFJ team introduced study nights at the MTFJ Hub situated at 41 Weld Street. This initiative focuses on bridging the gap between study and connection and providing additional support to those undertaking tertiary and apprenticeship programs. The MTFJ hopes that, over time, this initiative will grow in numbers and offer more support to the community members pursuing higher education and vocational training.

[Photos: “Youth Employability Programme Teamwork Challenge” and “Youth Employability Site Visit Ngai Tahu Forestry”]



4.3 Wadeson Island Development

A celebration was held on the 16 September 2023 at Wadeson Island to highlight the work and efforts undertaken by the various groups and supporters.

The Community was informed that volunteers would be appreciated to help manage future maintenance.



4.4 Community Development and Assistance

The Community Development Advisor has attended meetings and met with several individual and groups regarding funding opportunities, and Township Development All open funding is disseminated to all our Township Community Groups and to other Westland community groups.

Creative Communities

Westland in addition to the six-monthly Funding \$10,167.00, has received CCS Festival Funding \$6,645.37. This has the same creative criteria as the CCS fund, with the added criteria that the festival applying has a history of holding a Festival in the last five years. This is a one-off 2023-2024 Festival Grant. Festival Applications are made on the current Westland CCS application form. Applications for both CCS funds were extended to 20 October.

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

Westland Rural Travel Fund has received increased funding from Sport NZ \$12,825.00 2023-2024

The Committee received 10 applications, and all received an allocation of funding.

Welcoming Communities

Kylie Rose has been appointed to the position of Westland Welcoming Communities Coordinator. In September Kylie attended the Welcoming Communities Coordinators Annual Hui in Christchurch. Kylie is currently working through online training which MBIE and Internal Affairs facilitate. Kylie has had a family into South Westland to Whataroa and Hari Hari. She has met up with many of the established migrant groups and attended the Te Tai o Poutini West Coast Multicultural Council AGM.

Christmas Lighting Fund

This was advertised throughout Westland and received eleven applications, with ten receiving a portion of funding.

Township Development Funding

Ross, Hari-Hari, Franz Josef, Fox Glacier, and Glacier Country Tourism, have completed Accountability Reports, signed 2023-2024 Agreements, and received payments.

The CDA is working with Kumara, Kokatahi-Kowhitirangi, Whataroa, Haast and Okarito to complete the funding process.

Safer Westland

Safer Westland are meeting bi-monthly.

Friday 28 July, presenters:

Vicki Roper, Programme Manager, Takiwai Poutini. Vicki presented on community engagement and feedback across the West Coast on “what would improve your wellbeing and your community?” Vicki also discussed how to address ‘Food Security.’

Radha Nambiar, who is affiliated with Vibrant West Coast, New Coasters, and Te Tai o Poutini West Coast Multi Cultural Council. Radha gave information and led discussion on ‘How are immigrant groups coping with isolation and social connection.’

Coalition members also gave short updates on events and activities.

Friday 29 September presenters:

Chris Efford, Manager at Family Start West Coast/Buller explained the work of Family Start. This is a home-based social work service from Karamea to Haast, working with parents/families from pregnancy to 3 years using a holistic approach supporting children 0 -3 years. Families can self-refer online. Chirs also shared other initiatives: Shared learning training – Family Violence and Sexual Violence response training, this will be open to other agencies. Grandparents raising Grandchildren Group. Positive Parenting & Relationship for Men 10-week course, run by men, evidence-based learning.

Holly Thorpe, Disability Services talked through the Information Service, Supported Learning Programme, Sensory Library Project, and Connecting with Creativity – a programme supporting the elderly.

Coalition members also gave short updates on events and activities.

The Safer Westland Governance Group meet quarterly, next ZOOM Meeting Friday 10 November.

Staffing Update

Incoming and Outgoing Staff (August – October 2023)

Positions Filled:

- 2x Building Control Officers
- Senior RMA Compliance Officer
- Museum Director
- Library Assistant
- Welcoming Communities Coordinator
- 2x Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Interns
- Administration Officer Building Control
- Customer Service Officer

Starting soon:

- Project Manager Operations - 30 October
- Building Control Officer – 30 October
- Asset Strategy and Development Manager – 12 December

Departures:

- Contract Supervisor
- Customer Service Team Lead
- Building Control Officer

Current Vacancies:

- Senior Planner
- Technical Assistant – Three Waters

Training Provided:

- Beginner Te Reo Māori sessions
- De-escalation Techniques Workshop (4 hrs) – 17 staff
- VHF RT Training
- Enhancing Workplace Culture Workshop (3.5hrs) -16 staff
- Civil Defence Emergency Management
- CIMS 4 - 4 staff
- Psychological 1st Aid

Well-being Calendar events:

- Daffodil Day
- Wig Wednesday
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Te Wā Tuku Reo – Māori Language Moment

6. Options

6.1 Option 1: To receive the report.

6.2 Option 2: To not receive the report.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 Risk has been considered and no risks have been identified.

8. Health and Safety

8.1 Health and Safety has been considered and no items have been identified.

9. Significance and Engagement

9.1 No public consultation is considered necessary.

10. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

- 10.1 Option 1 is the preferred option.
- 10.2 There are no financial implications to this option
- 10.3 Option 2 is not the preferred option
- 10.4 There are no financial implications to this option

11. Preferred Option(s) and Reasons

- 11.1 The preferred option is Option 1.
- 11.2 The reason that Option 1 has been identified as the preferred option is that the report enables Council to be kept fully informed of projects and matters of significance that are underway in the Westland District.

12. Recommendation(s)

- 1. That the Quarterly Report from the Chief Executive dated 26 October 2023 be received.

Simon Bastion
Chief Executive

Appendix 1 – Better off Funding

Appendix 2 – Nationals Policy – Local Water Done Well

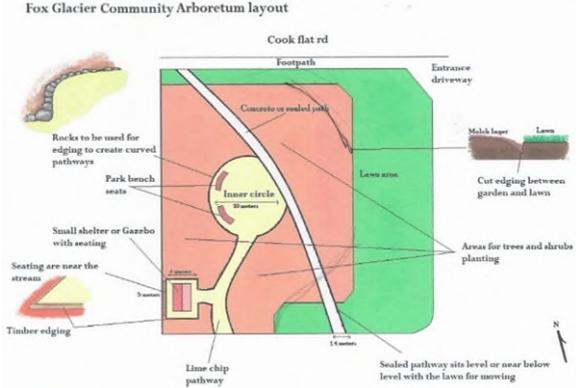
Appendix 3 – LGNZ - Four Monthly Report

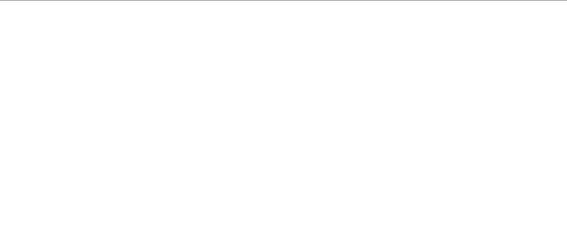
APPENDIX ONE: UPDATE ON BETTER OFF FUNDING PROJECTS

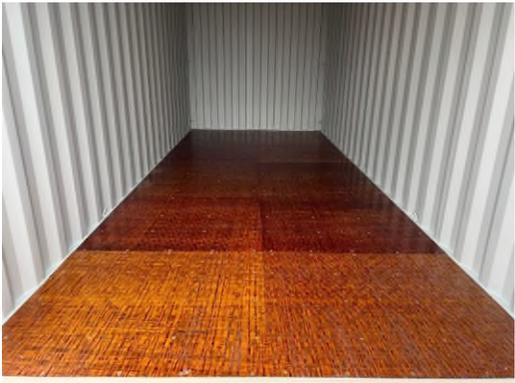
The current funding grant situation is detailed in the below tables separated by portfolio and project.

Community Funding

Project	Project Scope	Project Status	Costs to Date (Excl Gst)	Project update	Photos/Plans
Bruce Bay Community Hall Improvements	Budget Allocation: \$46,035.00 Replace windows. Sand and coat wooden floors. Replace kitchen vinyl.	In progress	\$39,697.36	<p>The halls wooden floors have been sanded and coated.</p> <p>Replacement windows have been purchased. Local contractor Dean Caldwell will be installing these over the coming month.</p> <p>Addisons Flooring have finished laying the new vinyl in the kitchen. The community hall board have purchased and installed a new dishwasher, now making the kitchen a commercial, hygienic friendly kitchen.</p>	

<p>Fox Glacier Memorial Arboretum</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$44,000.00</p> <p>Install new plating, bench seat and parkland shelter.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$1,473.84</p>	<p>Stafan from Sartens Gardens Ltd has designed an Arboretum Garden plan for the Fox Community Hall. The community is now working alongside project overseer Samual blight to request quotes for the works required. E.g., concrete path, garden beds, bench shelter area etc.</p>	 <p>The diagram illustrates the layout of the Fox Glacier Community Arboretum. Key features include: Cook flat rd at the top; Footpath and Entrance driveway; Concrete or sealed path; Inner circle; Lawn area; Areas for trees and shrubs planting; Seating area near the stream; Small shelter or Gazebo with seating; Timber edging; Lime chip pathway; Scaled pathway sits level or near below level with the lawn for mowing; Cut edging between garden and lawn; Mulch layer; and Lawn. A north arrow is also present.</p>
<p>HariHari Civil Defence Plan</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$22,944.00</p> <p>Supply two new water tanks at Guy Menzies Park. Purchase bulk dry food for civil defence container.</p>	<p>Project Complete 31/08/2023</p>	<p>\$18,173.89</p>	<p>The water tanks have been purchased and delivered to site. The HariHari community have organised the final installation.</p> <p>Bulk dry food has been ordered and delivered to site. Community to store these in Civil Defence container.</p>	 <p>The top photograph shows several stacks of red and white 'READYWISE' emergency food supply containers. The bottom photograph shows two large, cylindrical, corrugated metal water tanks mounted on a trailer, parked outdoors.</p>

<p>Lake Kaniere Community Resilience Plan</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$43,633.00</p> <p>Install two new containers to be used for civil defence purposes.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$743.84</p>	<p>The lake Kaniere Civil Defence infrastructure site has been cleared by the community and is now waiting on Westroads to install the gravel pad. Quotes are currently underway for two shipping containers, both of which will be customised to the community's needs.</p> <p>Stop digging will be on site in October to install the screws for the shipping containers to be placed onto.</p>	
<p>Lions Club Lazar Park Hall Upgrade</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$103,628.00</p> <p>Extension to existing Lazer Park Hall.</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>\$17,848.46</p>	<p>The Lazar Park Hall strengthening/extension project has made considerable progress so far. The project is currently waiting for a building consent to start physical works on site.</p>	
<p>West Coast RDA, Arena surface</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$57,234.00</p> <p>Install new indoor arena surface</p>	<p>Not Started</p>	<p>\$37,200.00</p>	<p>The internal materials for the indoor arena surface have been ordered. However, the project is experiencing a delay due to international shipping constraints.</p>	
<p>West Coast RDA, Arena electrical works</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$35,733.00</p> <p>Electrical work for indoor arena.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$22,993.40</p>	<p>Majority of the electrical material has been ordered and have arrived ready for the contractor to install.</p> <p>Due to the overall delay in the arena construction physical electrical work onsite will begin in October.</p>	

<p>Kumara Gentle Annie Track Extension</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$29,115.00</p> <p>Track extension linking Gentle Annie at Sunset Point.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$4,806.24</p>	<p>Samual Blight and Jan Visser visited site in September. Significant progress had been made on site with large sections of the trail being cleared.</p>	
<p>Kumara Memorial Hall Resilience Container</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$39,964.00</p> <p>Install new civil defence container.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$779.68</p>	<p>Quotes are currently underway for the shipping container, of which will be customised to the community's civil defence needs.</p> <p>Stop digging will be on site in October to install the screws for the shipping container to be placed onto.</p>	
<p>Otira Civil Defence Hub</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$14,593.00</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$221.44</p>	<p>Working with Kiwi rail for land use agreement and for Kiwi rail to clear the land for the shipping container.</p> <p>Stop Digging will be on site in October.</p>	

	Install civil defence container alongside some fencing				
Ross Civil Defence Hub	<p>Budget Allocation: \$24,559.00</p> <p>Install two water tanks for civil defence purposes.</p>	Completed October 2023	\$17,459.98	<p>The Ross Community group have been doing a fantastic job at self-managing this project funded by both Better Off Funds and community fundraising efforts.</p> <p>The water tanks and generator have been installed.</p>	 
Whataroa Civil Defence Infrastructure	<p>Budget Allocation: \$78,882.00</p> <p>Install civil defence container and a 50kVA diesel generator.</p>	In progress	\$31,846.81	<p>CAT DE50EO generator ordered. Community to build shed for generator to be installed inside. Purchased order to be raised for ITM.</p> <p>Site visit to Whataroa Fire station to confirm container location complete. Container quote received. Purchase order to be issued once finalised.</p> <p>Stop Digging to be on site in October.</p>	
Total	\$500,000.00		\$193,244.94		

Township Development

Project	Project Scope	Project Status	Costs to Date (Excl Gst)	Project update	Photos/Plans
Hokitika Swimming Pool	Budget Allocation: \$690,000.00 Funding for Hokitika swimming pool project overruns	Project Complete 22/09/2023	\$3,200,072 (Includes \$690,000 from BOF)	Council adopted to reallocate the entire Township Development fund to the Hokitika Swimming Pool. Stage Two of the Hokitika Swimming Pool Project began on 06/06/2023. All works funded by the Better Off funds have been completed. \$690,000.00 fully claimed.	
Total	\$690,000.00		\$690,000.00		

Community Resilience

Project	Project Scope	Project Status	Costs to Date (Excl Gst)	Project update	Photos/Plans
Rapid deployment and communication kits for Fox Glacier, Franz Josef, Hari Hari, Hokitika and Okarito	Budget Allocation: \$65,064.00 Supply Civil defence equipment.	In Progress	\$143,404.92	<p>All satellite communication kit equipment and 19 community Starlink internet kits have been ordered and arrived.</p> <p>It is expected that the Community Resilience projects will be completed by the end of 2023.</p> <p>This project is being internally managed by Westland District Council IT and Civil Defence staff.</p>	
Rapid deployment kit, communication kit and satellite phone for Bruce Bay, Haast, Kumara, Okuru, Waitaha and Whataroa.	Budget Allocation: \$60,600.00 Supply Civil defence equipment.				
Rapid deployment kit, communication kit and VHF communication for Otira	Budget Allocation: \$11,230.00 Supply Civil defence equipment.				
Rapid deployment kit, communication kit, VHF communication and Satellite phone for Arahura, Kokatahi, Kowhitirangi, Lake Kaniere and Ross.	Budget Allocation: \$63,050.00 Supply Civil defence equipment.				
Total	\$200,000.00		\$143,404.92		

Culture and Heritage

Project	Project Scope	Project Status	Costs to Date (Excl Gst)	Project update	Photos/Plans
<p>Westland Anniversary Expended Legacy Digital Initiative</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$200,000.00</p> <p>Fixed term event coordinator and project manager. Event seed funding for 2023 community events throughout Westland. Event program and advertisement.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$23,231.96</p>	<p>Destination Hokitika contracted Zane Smith to lead this project for the community.</p> <p>A recent event included in this body of works was the Otira Tunnel centenary. This event driven by the community was supported with funds from the “150 years of celebration” project. The event had a fantastic turn out.</p> <p>“150 years of connection” branding design completed.</p>	
<p>Hokitika Regent Theatre Upgrade</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$36,000.00</p> <p>Exterior building lighting. Main auditorium LED lighting and display. Interpretation panels</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>Initial project meeting to be held on site between Hokitika Regent Theatre and Westland District Council.</p> <p>Regent theatre has begun work on site.</p>	

<p>Hokitika Town Clock Feasibility Study</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$15,000.00</p> <p>Engineering inspection report on Hokitika Town Clock</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>Engineer to be on site the last week in October.</p>	
<p>Westland Industrial Heritage Park</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$180,000.00</p> <p>Boatshed building and display elements. Heavy machinery display and storage building</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$116,513.00</p>	<p>Kits sets for both sheds have been purchased. Nick Bennet has been contracted to build the sheds. The project is currently paused while it waits for a building consent to be awarded.</p>	
<p>Total</p>	<p>\$431,000</p>		<p>\$139,744.96</p>		

Community Halls

Project	Project Scope	Project Status	Costs to date (Excl Gst)	Project update	Photos/Plans
Carnegie Strengthening Project	Budget Allocation: \$260,000.00	Project Completed 06.10.2023	\$3,886,252.38 \$260,000 BOF	Council adopted to reallocate part of the Community Halls funding to the Carnegie Strengthening Project. Project completed as of October 2023.	 
Fox Glacier Hall	Budget Allocation: \$19,0000.00 Installation of disability access.	In progress	\$608.55	Sourcing local quotes to install three disability parks at the front of the Fox Glacier hall, as opposed to the ones currently on the side of the building.	
Franz Josef Hall	Budget Allocation: \$149,432.00	In progress	\$4,714.10	Working with community to establish next steps forward for project. Seismic Assessment work	

	Seismic Assessment, Temporary propping, and bathroom improvements			will be completed alongside other community halls to reduce overall cost. This assessment will be completed in late October. Electrical safety improvements have been completed at the hall.	
Haast Hall	Budget Allocation: \$56,309.00 Stormwater work, Electrical work, and Seismic assessment.	In progress	\$715.04	Initial project site meeting held. Fire installation quote accepted. Seismic Assessment work will be completed alongside other community halls to reduce overall cost. This assessment will be completed in late October.	
HariHari Hall	Budget Allocation: \$11,697.00 Heat pump drain, fix spouting, investigate ceiling ventilation, tighten roofing screws, seal, and rivet ridging laps.	Not Started	\$252.88	Initial project meeting to be held on site between community hall group and Samuel Blight. Jan and Sam meeting builder on site at the end of October to work through works quoted.	
Civil Defence Welfare Centres	Budget Allocation: \$81,879.00 Conduct Seismic	In progress	\$876.72	Hokitika Boys Brigade Hall, Seaview Hall and Kumara Hall seismic assessments included in this project.	

	Assessments as required to validate suitability			Engineer to complete seismic assessment when visiting the cost at the end of October.	
Grey Power Hall	Budget Allocation: \$45,426.00 Install new windows, curtains, and a new sliding door	In progress	\$366.88	Project manager Samuel Blight has met with committee chair. Replacement windows have been measured and the supplier has committed to having the windows installed by the end of the year.	
Hokitika Regent Theatre	Budget Allocation: \$88,580.00 Exterior maintenance: walls, windows, doors, spouting, downpipes, roller door, external wash and painting.	In progress	\$3,194.20	Repainted the exterior front wall of the theatre, repaired and reglazed the projections room art-deco window. Exterior building scaffolding removed.	
Kokatahi Hall	Budget Allocation: \$46,334.00 Seismic assessment, electrical board, and heating	In progress	\$253.44	Initial project meeting to be held on site between Community Hall group and project manager Samuel Blight. Seismic Assessment work will be completed alongside other community halls to reduce overall cost.	

<p>Kowhitirangi Hall</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$9,290.00</p> <p>Replace some windows at the hall.</p>	<p>Project Completed July 2023</p>	<p>\$8,227.92</p>	<p>Matt Fairmaid has installed some new windows at the Kowhitirangi Hall. Better Off Funding covered the small shortfall left from a lotteries grant.</p>	
<p>Okuru Hall</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$51,860.00</p> <p>Hot Water, stormwater, cladding, seismic assessment</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$10,681.12</p>	<p>Quote for Stormwater drainage, portable water filtration, gas water heating and kitchen auto boiler has been accepted.</p> <p>Seismic report to be completed alongside other community halls to reduce cost.</p>	
<p>Ross Hall</p>	<p>Budget Allocation: \$65,300.00</p> <p>Removal of Asbestos cladding</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>\$0</p>	<p>Cladding sample was taken, and test results came back positive for asbestos. Ross community now working with engineer for a cladding design for the Building consent.</p>	

Waitaha Hall	Budget Allocation: \$16,201.00 Balance needed for Water tanks	In progress	\$4,288.89	Plumber has begun on site. Jan and Sam to visit site at the end of October when travelling down South.	
Whataroa Hall	Budget Allocation: \$7,503.00 Install Two new heat pumps.	In progress	\$420.25	Community has installed handrails and lighting storage with community funding. Projects funds now going to install two heat pumps in the hall. Community gathering quotes.	
Total	\$900,000		\$291,885.15		

The current Three Waters Reform, Better Off Funding Tranche One financial situation is summarised by portfolio below.

Portfolio	Funding Allocation	Spent to Date	Claimed through DIA/BOF portal
Community Funding	\$500,000.00	\$193,244.94	\$66,577.00
Township Development (Swimming Pool)	\$690,000.00	\$690,000.00	\$690,000
Community Resilience	\$200,000.00	\$143,404.92	\$200,000.00
Culture and Heritage	\$500,000.00	\$139,744.96	\$180,00.00
Community Halls	\$900,000.00	\$291,885.15	\$0
Total:	\$2,790,000.00	\$1,458,279.97	\$1,136,577.00

LOCAL WATER DONE WELL



Local Water Done Well

Water infrastructure is facing major challenges. The quality and funding of water infrastructure varies significantly across the country. Some communities operate and maintain efficient, high-quality water services, while others struggle to make new investments against the pressures of council debt caps and run-down infrastructure.

Climate adaptation and resilience planning adds new pressures on community services and finances. There is a pressing need to future-proof our water infrastructure to ensure it is ready for the challenges that climate change presents to an island nation like New Zealand that is heavily exposed to changes in weather patterns and a greater prevalence of severe weather events.

The status quo cannot continue.

Clean, quality water is a fundamental expectation of every New Zealander. But for too many Kiwis, in too many parts of the country, that expectation is not a reality. National believes that must change.

To deliver that change, National will repeal and replace Labour's Three Waters reforms.

National believes better water services are possible – but not with heavy-handed centralisation that strips communities of local control, confiscates their assets, and imposes undemocratic co-governance.

National's plan empowers communities, keeps assets in local control, and maintains democratic accountability to deliver high-quality water services.

National's plan for Local Water Done Well

- 1. Repeal Three Waters and scrap the four co-governed mega-entities.**
- 2. Restore council ownership and control.**
- 3. Set strict rules for water quality and investment in infrastructure.**
- 4. Ensure water services are financially sustainable.**

Labour's broken Three Waters reforms

Labour's Three Waters reforms are based on centralisation and control. Labour wants to confiscate the water assets of every council in New Zealand and transfer those assets to four new co-governed mega-entities.

Labour's model is undemocratic, divisive and won't solve the underlying problems with our water services. Labour believes centralisation will somehow lead to more investment, lower costs, more jobs, and better water – all based on questionable claims about economies of scale.

Centralised control

Labour claims that the only way to deliver better water services is to confiscate assets from local communities and centralise control in four new mega-entities.

The mega-entity model is based on flawed advice offered by the Water Industry Commission of Scotland, which independent New Zealand experts have rejected as using inappropriate assumptions and a flawed methodology that significantly over-estimates the size of the investment deficit.¹ Local councils, who actually own the water assets that Labour are confiscating, have strongly disputed the Government's figures, which in some cases are as much as ten times higher than their own estimates.

In reality, there is no reason why a single entity operating water services in communities as diverse and geographically distant as Nelson at the top of South Island, Wellington at the bottom of the North Island, and Gisborne on the East Coast will have any economic advantages. It will, however, likely mean more bloated bureaucracy and less say for local communities with different needs.

Undemocratic

Labour's model confiscates assets that local ratepayers have paid for over generations. During the reform process, Labour initially told councils their Three Waters reforms would be voluntary, with councils having a say over the future of the water services in the communities they serve.

The Government reneged on that commitment. When Labour finally unveiled their co-governed, mega-entity model, they announced it would be mandatory. To make matters worse, Government documents reveal Labour made the decision to force its Three Waters reforms on councils well in advance of revealing its decision to them.

Labour has given communities no choice whatsoever about how their local water services will be delivered, and it's done so in a manner that has trampled over local democracy.

Co-governance

Labour has allocated half the seats on the mega-entity boards to councils and allocated the other half directly to iwi. Mandating co-governance over a public service in this way is antagonistic, undemocratic and needlessly divisive.

Iwi have rights and interests in water. But it does not follow that the way to give effect to those rights and interests is to confiscate council assets and transfer them to four unaccountable, co-governed mega-entities without giving the local communities who paid for them any say in the matter.

Water is essential to all New Zealanders. What matters is that Kiwis get the services they need and have a voice in how decisions that affect them are made. These are community assets and local communities should determine how they are governed.

¹ For example, see Castalia, "Flaws in Water Services Entities Bill" July 2022
26 October 2023 - Ordinary Council Agenda

National's plan for Local Water Done Well

National believes the mandatory, co-governed mega-entity model is incompatible with the principles of democracy and local ownership, and will not solve decaying infrastructure, burst pipes, environmental issues, or severe funding pressures for many councils.

Kiwis deserve a real plan on water – a plan that delivers more investment in pipes, better quality drinking water, and cleaner waterways and beaches without removing local control and ownership.

The pressures from climate adaptation and the need to rapidly develop new housing are too significant to continue with the current broken model.

1. Repeal Three Waters and scrap the co-governed mega-entities

National will repeal the Government's Three Waters legislation, the Water Services Entities Act, in our first 100 days in office.

This will disestablish the four co-governed water mega-entities, ensuring councils retain ownership and control over their water assets.

2. Restore council ownership and control

Repealing Labour's flawed plan is not enough. The status quo is unacceptable. Change is needed.

National will replace Labour's Three Waters legislation with a new approach that keeps community ownership and delivers high water quality while ensuring there is sufficient investment in water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

Within a year of repealing the Water Services Entities Act, councils will need to deliver a plan for how they will transition their water services to a new model that meets water quality and infrastructure investment rules, while being financially sustainable in the long-term.

The Minister of Local Government will sign off councils' proposals once satisfied they meet these requirements. National will not mandate any specific model for water services onto councils.

Our approach – consistent with our beliefs in localism, devolution and community control – is to establish a clear set of rules based on the outcomes we expect, but to allow councils to meet these rules in the manner they believe is best for their community.

National will adopt the recommendation from Communities 4 Local Democracy (C4LD), representing a large group of councils, and introduce a regulatory backstop as a last resort mechanism to support this policy. This will provide step-in powers for the Government if any council or group of councils are unable to deliver a viable plan that can deliver on outcomes for water quality, infrastructure investment and financial sustainability.

3. Set water quality and infrastructure investment rules

Water quality

National supports the new Water Quality Regulator (Taumata Arowai), which we voted to establish in 2020. National will amend the governing legislation to exclusively target water quality. The Water Quality Regulator will be responsible for the quality of potable water, to ensure Kiwis have access to safe drinking water.

It will also cover wastewater and stormwater, with a goal to reduce or eliminate contamination of local beaches and waterways. New Zealanders should be able to go to the beach or river and swim without the risk of becoming ill.

Infrastructure investment

National will establish a new, independent Water Infrastructure Regulator within the Commerce Commission to work alongside the existing Water Quality Regulator (Taumata Arowai). Water services will be regulated under Part 4 of the Commerce Act, alongside other essential infrastructure such as electricity lines.

The new Water Infrastructure Regulator will have three main functions.

First, it will monitor councils to ensure they are investing adequately in maintaining pipes and upgrading their water infrastructure to accommodate growth. Where councils have allowed their assets to be run down, they will be required to restore them to meet minimum standards. Government will assist councils only where necessary.

Second, the Water Infrastructure Regulator will ensure that water pricing or charges for connection are fair – for communities and councils. Water assets should be self-funding, but communities should never be overcharged.

Third, the Water Infrastructure Regulator will set quality standards for water infrastructure – so communities receive safe, reliable services.

The Regulator will operate a disclosure regime and provide expert, independent advice to the Minister of Local Government.

National will task the Water Infrastructure Regulator with ensuring that New Zealand doesn't fall back into the situation we are currently, with some parts of the country suffering from inadequate water infrastructure.

4. Ensure water services are financially sustainable

In addition to meeting water quality and infrastructure investment rules, National will introduce a requirement for water service delivery models to be financially sustainable.

Financial sustainability means:

- **Revenue sufficiency** – Water services earn sufficient revenues, either directly from users or from rates, to cover maintenance and depreciation of infrastructure.
- **Ringfencing** – Water services stand on their own two feet and do not put pressure on funding for other council services.
- **Funding for growth** – Water services can access borrowing to invest in infrastructure wherever users are willing to pay the cost of services.

Financial sustainability is important for three reasons.

First, because financial sustainability supports safe water for our communities. If councils cannot afford to maintain their pipes and invest in new water infrastructure, it puts safety at risk.

Second, water should not be a financial burden for councils. There should be sufficient levels of revenue ringfenced for investment in water assets. Councils shouldn't underinvest in water infrastructure to fund other services.

Third, delivering economic growth is impossible if councils can't afford the infrastructure. New and upgraded water infrastructure is an enduring barrier to new housing developments. It shouldn't be this way.

Councils will have to show they can meet the costs of infrastructure, including maintenance, depreciation and expected growth, so that pipes do not become a barrier to new development.

It will be up to councils to decide what model they opt for to achieve financial sustainability.



Key Issues

What does this mean for water quality?

Under National's Local Water Done Well plan, there will be strict rules for water quality across the country. This will include drinking water, waterways, and beaches. These water quality rules will be set and enforced by the Water Services Regulator (Taumata Arowai).

Water quality regulation will ensure councils, through their water services operators, are providing clean and safe drinking water. The existence of a national standard for water quality means the public can have confidence in water quality across New Zealand.

The Water Services Regulator (Taumata Arowai) will also be responsible for developing and enforcing rules around the management of stormwater and wastewater. This will include setting standards for acceptable discharge and mitigating environmental risks to rivers and beaches.

The regulator will have a wide range of regulatory powers and the ability to penalise non-compliance with water quality standards. Regulation will also ensure consistency across all 67 territorial authorities.

What does this mean for water pricing?

National will require local councils to present a model for the delivery of water services that is financially sustainable and meets strict rules for water quality and water infrastructure.

National will not mandate any changes to water pricing models or prices. As long as councils can demonstrate that their proposed model for water service delivery is financially sustainable and can meet water quality and infrastructure maintenance requirements, National will approve them.

Councils could choose to implement volumetric water charging, charges for new connections, or have water service costs included within rates. This approach allows councils to tailor their settings to their community and ratepayers.

Where councils already charge for water, shifting to a model that allows them to access long-term borrowing may mean water charges can fall. This is because councils will no longer need to finance long-lived assets from existing cashflow. For other councils, charges might need to increase to meet the need for more investment.

How will National protect consumers?

The new Water Infrastructure Regulator within the Commerce Commission will be responsible for fair pricing and charging of water services, as the Commission already is for other natural monopolies like broadband, electricity transmission, and airports.

These rules will ensure adequate revenue for water services is raised but will not require councils to operate any particular charging mechanism. The role of the Water Infrastructure Regulator will be to ensure that whichever mechanism is being used, it is both fair for consumers and able to meet infrastructure quality and financial sustainability requirements.

How will National ensure investment in water infrastructure?

It is clear that the status quo has resulted in underinvestment in water infrastructure in some parts of the country. For this reason, in addition to ensuring fair pricing, the Water Infrastructure Regulator within the Commerce Commission will also regulate the water infrastructure asset base, with quality standards that ensure proper maintenance of existing pipes, and appropriate investment in new infrastructure.

Councils will need to demonstrate their water service entities are investing sufficiently in their pipes. They will also need to show that the delivery of water infrastructure is not an undue barrier to the development of new housing, particularly in greenfields areas.

In some cases, the requirement to ensure water infrastructure is not holding up the development of new housing means councils may need to gain access to new forms of infrastructure funding and financing. National is fully committed to facilitating this and will work with councils to achieve it.

How will National enforce water quality and infrastructure rules?

Water service providers will have reporting requirements to ensure the two regulators have the information they need to properly monitor standards. The regulators will be in a position to benchmark and assess performance against regulations and, where failures or risks exist, identify plans for improvement.

Disclosure requirements for water entities will include transparent and uniform reporting of investment, spending on maintenance and other costs, and outages. Transparency will contribute to public trust in service delivery and provide confidence that water infrastructure is being maintained and upgraded.

Reporting frameworks will be similar to those that already exist for electricity lines regulation, where the Commerce Commission regulates the 25+ firms providing services.

Does National's plan include co-governance?

National opposes the co-governance of public services and will fully repeal Labour's centralised mega-entities and their prescribed co-governance arrangements.

Under National's plan for Local Water Done Well, councils will retain ownership and control over their water assets, and there will be no requirements for co-governance.

These are community assets, paid for by local ratepayers, and National believes it should be up to local communities and ratepayers to decide how they are governed.

How will this support climate resilience?

There is a pressing need to ensure our water infrastructure is both maintained to an acceptable standard, and future-proofed to ensure we are able to deal with the significant challenges that climate change will present.

The requirement for adequate investment in water infrastructure under a financially sustainable model will allow councils to better plan and prepare for the long-term. The ability to access long-term borrowing to fund long-lived assets will provide greater flexibility to make the necessary investments and upgrades that will be required to deliver water infrastructure that can cope with disruptions to weather patterns and an expected increase in the frequency and severity of significant weather events and flooding.

Who will own and control water assets?

Communities will once again own and control their water assets through their local councils. Councils will publish plans for how they will deliver high-quality water services to their residents in a financially sustainable way. Beyond that, it will be up to local councils to decide how they manage their assets.

For many councils, the requirement to become financially sustainable will mean they need to develop a new model. We expect many will choose, on their own terms, the Regional Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) model proposed by C4LD.

A Regional CCO model would allow for three or more neighbouring councils to own a standalone entity with the ability to access long-term borrowing to invest in long-term infrastructure, without it impacting council balance sheets.

For example, councils in the Hawke's Bay region (Central Hawke's Bay, Hastings, Wairoa, and Napier) presented an independently costed and verified alternative where they voluntarily created a Regional CCO.

The Government rejected this model despite the fact it could address affordability and capacity issues while ensuring clean water for Hawke's Bay, all while keeping assets in local hands. By 2032, it would even deliver those councils and their ratepayers \$18 million in operational savings every year.

We expect a number of councils will choose to form a Regional CCO, but National will not be mandating it, or any other model. If councils can demonstrate an alternative that complies with regulations for both water quality and water infrastructure, and is financially sustainable, National will approve it.

Will councils be able to privatise their water services?

No. The public ownership of water is not up for debate. Councils will not be able to propose water service models that involve privatisation. National's plan is to return water assets to their rightful owners: the local communities who paid for them.

We want local, public control and ownership of water assets, and that's what this plan will deliver.

How will councils pay for water infrastructure?

Under National's Local Water Done Well plan, councils will need to demonstrate they have a financially sustainable model for the delivery of water services that meets both water quality and water infrastructure rules. In practice, this means councils will need to show how their model will fund the necessary infrastructure investments needed to comply with these rules.

For some councils, their current model is already working, and no change is required. For others, this will mean presenting a new model that involves the ability to access long-term borrowing, such as through a Regional CCO co-owned with neighbouring councils that can achieve balance sheet separation. For others, it may simply be a matter of agreeing to increase council borrowing.

It is our expectation that most councils will choose a model that gives them the ability to access long-term borrowing, where the cost of infrastructure investments can be paid down over the life of the asset rather than funding them from existing revenue. This is widely accepted as the best-practice approach to financing long-term infrastructure of this sort.

How much investment is needed?

New Zealand undoubtedly has a water infrastructure deficit. This is why the status quo for water cannot continue. But there is significant uncertainty over the size of that deficit.

Labour has relied on an estimate from the Water Industry Commission of Scotland of \$120 to \$185 billion over 30 years. However, many councils and independent infrastructure experts have strongly disputed these figures.

According to global water infrastructure experts, Castalia, in some cases the Government's estimates are over ten times that of councils' own estimates. For Auckland's Watercare, the Government's estimate for needed investment between 2022 and 2030 was 1.6 times greater than Watercare's own estimate.²

National's plan for Local Water Done Well will address this uncertainty and provide all stakeholders with clarity over the amount of investment needed.

Water entities will be required to demonstrate to the Water Infrastructure Regulator that they have a plan for investing in water infrastructure, and they have access to the funding to deliver it.

What if councils need transitional support?

National acknowledges that communities are starting this reform in different places. Some are ready to make the transition to a sustainable financial model immediately. Others may require some support.

The Water Infrastructure Regulator will provide expert advice to the Government on council proposals for the delivery of water services. Where the Government concludes that a council cannot achieve financial sustainability by, for example, gaining access to long-term borrowing, it will provide limited one-off funding to bridge the gap.

Support will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Crown funding will not be used for the day-to-day delivery of water services, but only for projects needed to transition to a sustainable footing. National believes that restoring local control also means restoring local long-term investment responsibility.

The Government has already allocated \$1 billion in Crown funding to go to councils as part of its Three Waters reforms, but there is currently no requirement for these funds to be invested in water infrastructure.

National will retain this existing allocation, but require that councils use it for making the transition to a financially sustainable model, for example by upgrading water infrastructure, rather than unrelated activities. Funding will be allocated to councils on a needs-basis, but only when other options – like accessing long-term borrowing – have been exhausted.

²Castalia, "Flaws in Water Services Entities Bill" July 2022

Comparison of water service models

	Status quo	Labour's mega-entities	National's plan for Local Water Done Well
Ownership	Ratepayers own their assets.	Ratepayer assets are confiscated and transferred to four mega-entities.	Ratepayers own their assets.
Co-governance	Ratepayers determine the governance of their water services.	The Government mandates co-governance between iwi and councils.	Ratepayers determine the governance of their water services.
Water quality regulation	Ministry of Health was previously the regulator. New rules are being phased in.	Water Services Regulator (Taumata Arowai) is the primary vehicle for water quality regulation.	Water Services Regulator (Taumata Arowai) is the primary vehicle for water quality regulation.
Infrastructure investment & consumer protection	Little regulation for consumers or for levels of infrastructure investment.	Regulator lacks clear focus on infrastructure investment and consumer protection.	Water Infrastructure Regulator will focus on investment in water infrastructure and fair pricing.
Financial sustainability	No financial sustainability requirements for water services.	Assets confiscated into four mega-entities to achieve balance sheet separation.	Councils required to demonstrate financial sustainability, but no specific model mandated.
Water pricing & revenue	Councils choose how to fund water services – rates or charges – but no requirement for revenue to be ring-fenced.	Mega-entities borrow against their own balance sheet. Pay for it with water charging.	Water must have revenue ring-fenced to fund investment. No specific pricing mechanism mandated.



LGNZ FOUR-MONTHLY REPORT FOR MEMBER COUNCILS

// JULY-OCTOBER 2023



Ko Tātou LGNZ.

This report summarises LGNZ’s work on behalf of member councils. It’s designed to be put on your council agenda for discussion and feedback, or you might choose to use it in another way. We will produce this report three times a year.

This report complements our regular communication channels, including Keeping it Local (our fortnightly e-newsletter), providing a more in-depth look at what we do.

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Introduction

At National Council's most recent meeting, we decided to provide regular formal updates from LGNZ to member councils. A number of you have suggested a paper that you could put on your council agenda would be a helpful way to ensure everyone was across our work and able to give feedback. It's important to National Council that all member councils are across the breadth and depth of work that LGNZ is doing on your behalf.

These reports will be provided three times a year, and this first one covers the period July-October 2023.

Our SuperLocal Conference in July attracted record attendance and very positive feedback. Since conference, our energies have turned to a range of matters specific to the period between now and the end of the calendar year: the Future for Local government response, which is part of our broader Choose Localism campaign; preparation of our briefing document for the incoming Government; close liaison and partnership settings with Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, which is having a strategic reset; and numerous other matters that are captured in this report.

This report shows the breadth and scope of the mahi that our small team delivers – with care, commitment, creativity and very high standards.

Ngā mihi
Sam and Susan

Progress on strategic goals

Priority/01

Resetting the relationship with Central Government

Political engagement and government relations

Our political engagement is currently geared towards advancing the Choose Localism campaign. We have released a toolkit for members to use when they're meeting with local MPs so that they can champion localism and galvanise central politicians behind the movement.

Sitting alongside that is also our work to continue influencing election policy from Wellington. In late August, National's Social Development Spokesperson, Louise Upston and candidate for Remutaka Emma Chatterton, met with Susan, Scott and Mayors Max Baxter and Alex Walker from the MTFJ governance group to talk about how we could work with National, if in government, to progress the initiative. The briefing note we sent prior to the meeting emphasised the links between how MTFJ works in practice and the power of localism.

In mid-August, LGNZ also met with the Green Party to brief them about the Ratepayers Assistance Scheme and how it could support their Clean Power Payment Policy. We also took the opportunity to socialise the Regional Sector's flood protection business case with them.

Briefing to the Incoming Government

We've prepared a Briefing to the Incoming Government, which is an opportunity to familiarise the incoming government with local government, our key areas of focus, and to open the door for future engagement.

We are grounding this year's briefing in our Choose Localism campaign. It has two parts:

1. Cover letters tailored to individual ministers explaining how local government can help them, and how the work of local government interacts with their portfolio and priorities.
2. A briefing that covers key information about local government in New Zealand and LGNZ, and sets out key advocacy issues and opportunities for local government – as well as constraints.

It will be vibrant, high level, tailored to the government and ministers receiving it, and based largely on existing information and resources including our Relationship Reset and Policy Priorities documents, which were socialised with political parties in the lead up to and during the campaign period. It will be sent to ministers once a Government has been formed.

Priority/02

Establishing stronger Te Tiriti-based partnerships with Iwi Māori

Te Maruata update

Te Maruata held a whānui hui in Ōtautahi on 26 July as part of SuperLocal. This was a really well-attended hui, with around 70 Māori elected and appointed members, council staff and other key stakeholders in attendance. A key focus for the hui was for whānui members to share their expectations of the Rōpū Whakahaere – including what they want the Rōpū Whakahaere to prioritise focus on over this triennium, and how members want to be kept up to date on that mahi.

Rōpū Whakahaere members are meeting in November and will discuss the feedback that was shared and come up with a plan for actioning it.

Te Maruata are actively engaged in the mahi that LGNZ is doing on Choose Localism and the Future for Local Government. Mayor Faylene Tunui and Councillor Moko Tauariki are the Te Maruata representatives on the Future for Local Government Advisory Group.

With support from Councillor Dinnie Moeahu, we're continuing to hold monthly online wānanga for Te Maruata where whānui members get updates on key kaupapa and/or provide support to one another around issues members might be facing.

Mana whenua relations

We are also setting up a meeting with mana whenua in Te Whanganui-a-Tara to start building our own relationships and understanding of local needs. Tania Hawkins (on our team) and her husband, Hawkins, who is a kaumatua and has provided mihi whakatau at many of our events over the past 18 months, are facilitating this. Hawkins is keen to help build a bridge with mana whenua and walk alongside us as we build our knowledge of te ao Māori and tikanga. We will loop in Te Maruata and our new Māori advisor once they're on board.

Priority/03

Campaigning for greater local decision-making and localism

Choose Localism and Future for Local Government

An overview of this mahi

At SuperLocal we launched Choose Localism, our campaign to breathe new life into localism. The idea was to generate some excitement and optimism amongst our LG whānau as we navigate the



future for local government together. Choose Localism is our compass for the future. All our mahi needs to drive towards a more inclusive, participative and localist future.

The first stage of this work is to galvanise the LG whānui and create a strong consensus position that we can take to Central Government on our vision for the future. The second stage will be our localism showcase, planned for next year. This will include a collection of the best examples of localism being delivered around the motu. It will be designed to open central government's eyes to, and strengthen their view of, the value and capability of local government. The aim is to build confidence that local government can be a trusted partner in this new way of working together. And finally, the third stage, which is about engaging the public, will include our citizens' assembly. While the topic for this citizens assembly needs to be thought through, it is an opportunity to ask New Zealanders what they might need to participate in local democracy. The idea is that it will provide innovative solutions to the increasingly pressing problem of irrelevance and apathy.

Building consensus on the Future for Local Government

Our work to develop a consensus position on the final Future for Local Government report is a key part of our first step in our wider Choose Localism work programme – galvanising the sector. We're making good progress on our approach to building consensus with excellent engagement and input from our FFLG Advisory Group.

We've held one in-person meeting with members on 18 September and will hold another on 2 November. We've also shared a wide range of resources with councils and elected members, including data from the first event. And we've launched an online engagement platform that allows everyone to have their say. After 2 November, we'll develop a draft position with the Advisory Group that will be sent to members on 24 November. Then we are proposing to hold an SGM on 11 December for members to formally vote on whether to agree the position.

The position we develop with members will inform the conversations and negotiations that we'll be having around the future with the incoming government. We're conscious of the need to land on a position that our members are happy with – but that has enough flex to put us in a robust position to negotiate with the incoming government. We know there'll need to be some give and take on both sides.

Our Choose Localism work will pick up aspects of the Panel's final report that local government can get on with implementing now – without the need for legislative change or support from central government.

Priority/04

Ramping up our work on climate change

Next steps

Now that we've finished conversations with several councils about what they think we could be doing in the climate change space, we're pulling together a strategy and plan for this work. With

vacancies in the policy team, we're needing to think carefully about how we manage our limited resources to deliver across a number of priorities. We're also observing how our climate change work (and other policy and advocacy work) closely aligns with our work on Choose Localism – which adds to our leverage.

One of the big pieces of work that we are engaging on is the inquiry into community-led retreat. This inquiry was kicked off by the previous Environment Select Committee. Given strong levels of support for it from across the House, we expect that it will continue regardless of the outcome of the General Election. The Ministry for the Environment has put out two reports setting out issues and options for dealing with the challenge of managed retreat (including how to fund it) that we're analysing and discussing with members. We think this is an area where LGNZ can really add value by driving policy thought leadership on behalf of our members.

We've also submitted on the first round of consultation on a strategy to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure in Aotearoa New Zealand. With the impacts of climate change being increasingly felt around the country, it's clear that critical infrastructure such as roads and water treatment plants are not capable of withstanding more intense and frequent extreme weather events. We will work with DMPC to ensure Councils are heard through the second round of consultation, which is expected in Q1 of 2024.

Support for cyclone-affected councils

We were funded by the Ministry for the Environment to commission Simpson Grierson to provide legal advice to councils in Tairāwhiti and the Hawke's Bay on the voluntary buyout of category 3 land or changes to residential use rights. This advice made it clear that to achieve greater certainty and minimise the risk of legal challenge for affected councils, either amendments to the existing legislation or a new bespoke framework are needed. We wrote former Ministers Robertson (Minister of Cyclone Recovery) and McAnulty to ask for action on this. Their reply acknowledged the changes would minimise risk but did not agree to pre-emptive action. We will raise this matter with the new government at the appropriate time.

We're continuing to engage with DIA on the regulatory relief for councils affected by the severe weather events earlier this year. We had several affected councils attend our zoom meeting for Mayors, Chairs, and Chief Executives with DIA and other government agencies. This largely focused on the recently gazetted Order in Council that enables three-year plans instead of LTPs for eight of the most affected councils.

Priority/05

Delivering and building on our core work

Water services reform

During this reporting period, the Water Services Entities Amendment Bill was enacted. This was the last piece in the previous Government's water reform puzzle. We successfully advocated for several changes to the Bill:

- Setting establishment dates for the 10 entities now requires consultation with affected councils and iwi/hapū. Establishment dates have to be confirmed within six months of the legislation passing.
- References to no-worse-off payments to councils in the legislation were retained.
- When DIA oversight of council decision-making applies has been clarified.
- The potential burden of community priority statements has been reduced.

The outcome of the election has implications for water reform. If there are any changes to the way in which water reform proceeds, we will engage with National Council on that when details are clearer.

Prior to the General Election, DIA and the NTU changed the approach that they were taking to developing constitutions for the water services entities. They started with work with a Technical Advisory Group on the Northland/Auckland entity's constitution. LGNZ's legal advisor has participated in the Technical Advisory Group process, so that learnings from the first process can be shared with other councils. Whether this process continues given the election outcome remains to be seen.

Transport

In August, the Government released its draft GPS Land Transport. We developed a submission with strong input from members. We also launched our Position Statement on Transport in conjunction with the release of the draft GPS Land Transport. The position statement outlines the key policy objectives we will advocate for, including:

- A strategic, long-term approach to planning that joins up central and local government decision-making to address maintenance and climate adaptation needs.
- Sufficient, long-term transport investment that prioritises resilience building, safety and better asset management across both new developments as well as maintenance and renewals.
- Integrated transport and freight networks that support placemaking by connecting our rural communities, towns and cities and making them great places to live and work.
- A transport network that can adapt to the future climate and prioritise decarbonisation.

This provides a good basis for our policy and advocacy work, and we are now working with a newly appointed Transport Reference Group to develop a robust plan for our transport work, which will align with our broader Choose Localism mahi. This work will ramp up following the 2023 general

election, once we know the shape of the next government and have a good understanding of its transport priorities.

Resource management reform

During this reporting period, the Natural and Built Environments and Spatial Planning Acts were enacted. This was a significant milestone. Local government didn't get all the changes that we wanted and some fundamental concerns remain – particularly the reform's impact on local voice. However, LGNZ and the Local Government Steering Group successfully advocated for several key changes, in particular the inclusion of Statements of Community Outcomes and Statements of Regional Environmental Outcomes. This is one mechanism to ensure that there is local input into regional planning decisions. There was also broad support for the introduction of regional spatial planning.

We've been working closely with the Local Government Steering Group and the Ministry for the Environment to support the work that is ramping up on transition and implementation. A lot of this work is technical and targeted at council officers. However, we've been stressing the importance of making sure that elected members are engaged, updated on and involved in appropriate parts of the transition and implementation work.

It's not entirely clear what the change of Government will mean for Resource Management Reform; however, we know that both the National and ACT parties have expressed concerns about the reform, in particular the erosion of local voice and the creation of more complexity and added layers of bureaucracy. LGNZ is support the Local Government Steering Group to develop a briefing to the incoming Minister for the Environment.

If significant changes to the reform are proposed by an incoming Government, some of the thinking we've provided in earlier submissions on both Acts will be useful to inform the position that we take on any changes. Specifically, we've previously said that we see the introduction of regional spatial planning and the need for prioritised work on the Climate Adaptation Act as the most fundamental aspects of the reform. We've also expressed a view that the proposed Regional Planning Committees could be stewards of a planning process, by bringing together input from each individual council in a region and stripping out unnecessary duplication, rather than being responsible for making all planning decisions for individual communities.

We will assess the situation as the makeup of the government and its priorities become clearer and keep National Council involved in any decisions that need to be made.

Remits

The team are working through each of the remits that were passed at the 2023 AGM and coming up with a plan to action them. Due to staff shortages in the Policy Team right now and the need to factor in the outcome of the General Election, we anticipate work on remits ramping up in the New Year.



Other policy and advocacy work

Freedom camping

Following the introduction of the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act, we are working with Simpson Grierson, the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association, MBIE and Taituarā to review and update the model bylaw for freedom camping, and also the good practice guide for councils and tourism operators. The previous guidance was produced in 2018 but is no longer consistent with the new legislation introduced this year. We're on track to have this guidance ready to share shortly.

Emergency management reform

We've developed and shared a submission on the Emergency Management Bill with members. Submissions are due on 3 November 2023, so there'll be plenty of time for members to provide us with feedback on our draft, and to use our draft to inform their own submissions.

Elected member census and survey of voters and non-voters

We're working on completing two research reports, which will be shared with members soon. The first is a report outlining findings from LGNZ's survey of people who voted, or didn't vote, in the 2022 local elections. This survey is one of a series which dates back to the 2001 elections and looks at the profile of voters and non-voters and their reasons for voting or not. The second is the findings from our triennial Census of elected members, undertaken in April/May of this year. The Census provides information on the demographics of elected members and allows us to determine the degree to which elected members reflect the diversity of the communities they represent. It also provides information on elected members' priorities. The information is helpful for our broader advocacy and engagement work, and for policy makers who seek to ensure that councils are both inclusive and relevant.

Media

Choose Localism

As our Choose Localism campaign takes shape, we are using social media and media to build awareness and understanding. You will see more of our work make the connection with localism in the media in the coming weeks.

In August we announced our position on Transport, which is advocating for a transformative approach to address challenges in the nation's transport network. LGNZ highlighted five key actions to address these challenges. The press release, which made a strong case for choosing localism being the answer to our transport woes, was picked up by RNZ, NewsTalkZB and by Inside Government.

Two opinion editorial articles, authored by Susan, called for genuine partnership, where localism is not just a slogan that's talked about, but governments follow through on it. That means central government listens to and collaborates with local councils, respecting their insights and engaging with communities to find the best path forward for major projects like LGWM. One op-ed was run in Inside Government and the other on Stuff.

Progressing remits

At the AGM, the membership passed a remit that LGNZ calls on central government to take action to reduce council audit fees. Advocacy in the media is part of that work. Newsroom published an article that discusses the increasing audit fees faced by local councils in New Zealand and their relevance to

the justice system and local government accountability. The Auditor-General highlights the challenges faced by councils in managing affordable rates and funding community needs.

Support for councils affected by engineering consenting issues

A large number of councils have been affected by alleged fraudulent signing of consenting documents by engineer, Jonathan Hall of Kodiak Consulting. Taupo District Council contacted LGNZ to see if we could help support affected councils.

We held zooms with affected and developed a media plan with input from law firm Rice Speir, which is working closely with several affected councils.

Our media approach is geared towards three key objectives:

- Help de-risk councils – Give councils guidance on best practice while supporting them to drive comms through local channels.
- Reduce pressure on councils – Be a source of support for councils when they need it, enabling them to focus on addressing the situation and supporting their communities.
- Align with advocacy efforts – Liaise with Engineering New Zealand and MBIE to enhance advocacy efforts and demonstrate a cohesive response to the situation.

Conference and Excellence Awards Update

We're already in planning mode for SuperLocal 24, which is being held in Wellington/Te Whanganui-a-Tara in August next year. We'll be working with WCC and mana whenua to make sure we provide a remarkable programme and an even better conference experience than this year.

We're working on the theme and a prospectus, which we're hoping to get out to potential partners and sponsors very soon.

Engagement with members, including sector and zone meetings

We're busy planning for our in-person combined sector hui in November, with the Future **by** Local Government on day one and our usual individual sector meetings on day two.

We've had really good engagement with our email newsletters and direct emails recently. Eighty percent of members opened our first post-conference email and more than 60% opened our Choose Localism email (and 43% of those clicked through to the website). These are astonishing open rates by industry standards so we're consciously working on how we keep them high over the coming months as well as experimenting with a new online participation platform to see if we can encourage greater two-way dialogue online.

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

We've been heavily involved with the management of MTFJ since our Programme Manager departed in early July. We very pleased to have successfully recruited a new Programme Manager who started in October, as well as made a permanent appointment in the MTFJ Advisor role.

We've also been working closely with the Chair and a small subset of the Core Group on governance and the relationship with LGNZ. The Core Group has agreed to establish a Governance Group to help make more efficient and effective decisions and oversee the development of a new strategy for



MTFJ. An external facilitator will help guide this work alongside some insights research by TRA into the value of the programme and where the opportunities lie for growing and strengthening MTFJ in the future.

In September, we met with key National Party MPs from the Hutt to talk about the value of MTFJ as a vehicle for delivering positive social outcomes locally and the importance of sustainable funding for this crucial kaupapa. In the meantime, our 36 Community Employment Programme councils now all have their new two-year contracts and are deep in the mahi of getting rangatahi into work.

Young Elected Members

Our Young Elected Members had a successful hui pre-conference, with just under 40 attendees. Planning is now well underway for the YEM annual hui, which will take place in the Far North this year, from 6-8 December. This will be YEM's first annual hui since COVID, and the theme will be "Anga whakamua: Setting our collective course in the birthplace of Aotearoa".

Beyond the annual hui, the YEM committee are also working on updating and refreshing the YEM kaupapa, and developing a work plan to put this into action. YEM co-chair Alex Crackett is also a part of the FFLG Advisory Group and will bring a YEM-perspective to this work.

Community Boards Executive Committee

Our Community Boards Executive Committee (CBEC) is an engaged group and have had several constructive engagements early this year. Key areas of focus for CBEC include planning the Community Boards Conference, which will be held as part of SuperLocal 2024, and surveying community board members to understand their experience, needs and opportunities to support them.

Sarah Lucas, one of the CBEC Co-Chairs, has joined the FFLG Group and is contributing useful grassroots, community governance perspectives. A key concern for CBEC was the lack of reference in the Panel's final report to the role that community boards could play in local government's future.

Council capability

Ākona

We launched our new Ākona L&D platform and are now focused on building great courses tailored to our members' distinct needs. We've had several new councils join and are openly talking to both Taituarā and CEs to encourage more to come on board. The pricing is prorated so is now below the \$3500 threshold and that seems to be helping.

The new digital platform is performing well, and the three new courses are proving popular. Another six courses are under development, three of which are being co-developed with the councils who requested them. Work on preparing the framework to become a self-assessment tool and basis for a micro credential has begun, with a new sector working group being assembled to help boost the process.

The new Health & Safety course being co-developed with Tararua District Council will offer the sector a bespoke option to the Institute of Directors course, which is both unhelpfully generic and



costly. We expect to continue to enhance and tailor the Ākōna Governance course so that it too may offer an alternative option to expensive IoD offerings.

CouncilMARK refresh

The CouncilMARK programme has undergone an extensive overhaul. The Research Agency (TRA) was commissioned in 2022 to highlight areas the programme is performing well and areas for evolution. Based on these findings we initiated a programme redesign to optimise CouncilMARK and make it fit for purpose within this new local government context. We continued to work very closely with our stakeholders, including elected members, CEs, senior council staff and relevant central government agencies.

Guidance for members

We completed the Guide to recruiting and managing chief executives. This is a comprehensive guide that includes relevant templates, such as a draft employment agreement, performance committee terms of reference, and guidance on performance management.

Work is currently underway on an Elected Members' Guide to Representation Reviews. Shortly, approximately half of New Zealand's councils will be undertaking representation reviews. Many elected members, especially those elected for the first time in 2019 and 2022, will not only have little understanding of the representation review process itself, but also of the choices that they are able to make through that process.

Streetlights Profiles

In June 2022, the Electricity Authority approved a Streetlight dimming profile that when applied by councils will generate significant savings on the energy consumed by LED dimmable streetlights. Without this innovative new profile, some councils that have upgraded their streetlights to include a centralised dimming function may find themselves stymied by Electricity Authority rules that deem them non-compliant. This could lead to penalties being passed on by suppliers, or even their suppliers opting out of offering dimmable streetlighting.

We have been working with the energy retailers and a couple of councils to work through the operational processes and to implement a pricing structure before we can take this offering further to our members. It is estimated that the profiles will save Auckland Transport up to \$1.1m in energy savings, whereas some smaller energy consumers, like Palmerstown North City Council, will have savings in the region of \$18k per year. This will be for the life of the streetlights (usually 25 years) and does not include the carbon savings councils will be able to generate. We have just completed our implementation with Auckland Transport and are working with Christchurch, Wellington and Tauranga for the next implementations.

Moata Carbon Portal

We partnered with Mott MacDonald in 2021 to bring the Moata carbon portal to New Zealand. This is a tool that allows embedded (capital) carbon to be measured and monitored across any capital works programme. It enables councils to account for and reduce carbon emissions generated from water, transport and infrastructure (vertical and horizontal) projects. We have seen spreadsheets



being used to do this that quickly become out of date, with emissions factors varying. The portal allows councils to make real-time decisions that can shape their future carbon emissions and make greener infrastructure choices. The added benefit is that all the models developed in the portal are shareable with other councils and industry players.

Queenstown Lakes and Tauranga have both just completed carbon baselines with Mott MacDonald and we presented the results to QLDC in September. The QLDC baseline is the first carbon baseline that we are aware of in New Zealand that covers all business activities/groups across their entire long-term plan. Tauranga's baseline covered their water services only, with discussion ongoing about including transport next.

Napier have become portal subscribers to add to Auckland's Water Care and Wellington Water, and we are having conversations with Wellington and Nelson about being the next councils to take this up. The Wellington City implementation will be on their transport programme, with Napier using the portal on their water programme.

We are certainly seeing councils becoming more carbon focused – and with the next round of LTP planning underway, it's a perfect opportunity to embed carbon thinking and the Moata portal into the decision-making process.

Libraries partnership

Our Libraries Advisor has continued to engage with councils and their library teams, sharing best practice and advice and advocating for the importance of investing in libraries as vital community hubs. She is preparing a report before her contract ends in June 2024. It will set out the key trends and learnings that she's identified during her time with us.

In August, our Libraries Advisor travelled to Australia with a group of representatives from the library sector to visit Australian public libraries to identify best practice and trends that can be shared with New Zealand's councils and public libraries. This trip was fully funded by the National Library's New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme.

Report to Council



DATE: 26 October 2023
TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Financial Accountant

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – September 2023

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an indication of Council's financial performance for the month to 30 September 2023.
- 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 2021, which are set out in the Long-Term Plan 2021 - 31. Refer page 2 of the agenda.
- 1.4. This report concludes by recommending that Council receive the financial performance report to 30 September 2023.

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), previously known as the Audit and Risk 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. With the inclusion of the sustainability report, it is not necessary to include such detail to Council in the financial report, as the key business indicators are included in the sustainability report. A number of these indicators make up part of the covenants required to be reported half-yearly to the Local Government Funding Agency.

3.3. The financial performance report to 30 September 2023 is attached as **Appendix 1** and contains the following elements;

3.3.1.Sustainability report

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.Debtors

3.3.6.Debt position

3.3.7.Capital Report

4. Options

4.1. Option 1: That Council receives the Financial Performance Report to 30 September 2023.

4.2. Option 2: That Council does not receive the Financial Performance Report to 30 September 2023.

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 September 2023 be received.

Cody Nabben
Financial Accountant

Appendix 1: Finance Performance Report for 30 September 2023



Financial Performance
Year to 30 September 2023

Contents

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Total revenue	Total expenditure	Total surplus/(deficit)
\$8.8M	\$8.41M	\$0.39M
Is -7.33% less than the total budget of \$9.49M	Is 2.75% more than the total budget of \$8.18M	Against a budget of \$1.31M

SUSTAINABILITY

Rates to operating revenue	52.92%
Rates Revenue	\$4.65M
Operating Revenue	\$8.8M
<p>52.92% of operating revenue is derived from rates revenue. Rates revenue includes penalties, water supply by meter and is gross of remissions. Operating revenue excludes vested assets, and asset revaluation gains.</p>	
Balanced budget ratio	104.64%
Operating revenue	\$8.8M
Operating expenditure	\$8.41M
<p>Operating revenue should be equal or more than operating expenditure. Operating revenue excludes vested assets and asset revaluation gains. Operating expenditure includes depreciation and excludes landfill liability and loss on asset revaluations. Year to date revenue is 104.64% of operating expenditure.</p>	
Interest to rates revenue (LGFA Cov.)	2.47%
Net interest and finance costs	\$0.11M
Rates Revenue	\$4.65M
<p>2.47% of rates revenue is paid in interest. Our set limit is 25% of rates revenue. Net interest is interest paid less interest received. 2.47% indicates that interest revenue is less than interest expense. Rates revenue includes penalties, water supply by meter and gross of remissions.</p>	

Interest to operating revenue **1.31%**

Net Interest and finance costs \$0.11M

Operating revenue \$8.8M

1.31% of operating revenue is paid in interest. Our set limit is 10% of operating revenue. Net interest is interest paid less interest received. 1.31% indicates that interest revenue is less than interest expense.

Liquidity Risk (LGFA Cov.) **156%**

Gross debt \$26.82M

Undrawn committed facilities \$3.98M

Cash and cash equivalents \$10.97M

The liquidity risk policy requires us to maintain a minimum ratio of 110% which is also an LGFA covenant. Council's current liquidity risk is 156%.

Essential services ratio **30.41%**

Capital expenditure \$0.55M

Depreciation \$1.82M

Capital expenditure should be equal to or more than depreciation for essential services. Year to date capex is 30.41% of depreciation. Essential Services are Water Supply, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Roothing.

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenditure

	Notes	Full Year Forecast (\$000)	Full Year Budget (\$000)	YTD Budget (\$000)	Actual YTD (\$000)	Variance YTD (\$000)	Var/Bud %
Revenue							
Rates	01	19,149	19,266	4,772	4,655	(117)	(2.45%)
Grants and subsidies	02	8,673	9,843	3,797	2,627	(1,170)	(30.81%)
Interest Revenue	03	479	268	67	278	211	313.54%
Fees and Charges	04	2,465	2,376	593	683	89	15.05%
Other revenue	05	1,382	1,091	262	552	291	110.95%
Total operating revenue		32,148	32,844	9,492	8,796	(696)	(7.33%)
Expenditure							
Employee Benefit expenses	06	6,257	6,274	1,568	1,552	(16)	(1.04%)
Finance Costs	07	1,243	1,130	283	395	112	39.78%
Depreciation	08	9,331	9,331	2,333	2,333		0.00%
Other expenses	09	15,772	15,643	3,997	4,126	129	3.23%
Total operating expenditure		32,603	32,378	8,181	8,406	225	2.75%
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		(455)	466	1,311	390	(921)	(70%)

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

01 Rates

Variance is due to revenue from metered water charges being lower than forecast.

02 Grants and subsidies

Of the grant revenue received to date, \$1.5M relates to the swimming pool grant invoiced in July. \$542k relates to grant for works done by Transport. Please note that capital grants are generally subject to the underlying project meeting specific criteria before they are awarded.

03 Interest Revenue

Interest on swaps is \$115k over budget, while the rest of the variance is attributable to interest from our term deposits and the current account. The positive variance of \$211k more than offsets the adverse increase of \$112k in finance costs against budget.

04 Fees and charges

Building and resource consent numbers are higher than anticipated. This is offset by the variance in planning and building costs as the processing continues to be outsourced.

05 Other Revenue

Non-cash gain on swaps is \$204k above budget. Assuming interest rates do not continue to increase at the rate they have done over the last year, these gains will slow down. Unbudgeted cost recoveries relating to 3-Waters total \$88k.

06 Employee benefit expenses

Salary cost is relatively on track with budget.

07 Finance Costs

While finance costs are over budget by \$112k due to higher than expected interest rates, these costs are more than offset by interest revenue, as noted above.

08 Depreciation

Depreciation has been accrued to budget pending completion of 2022/23 asset revaluations.

09 Other expenses

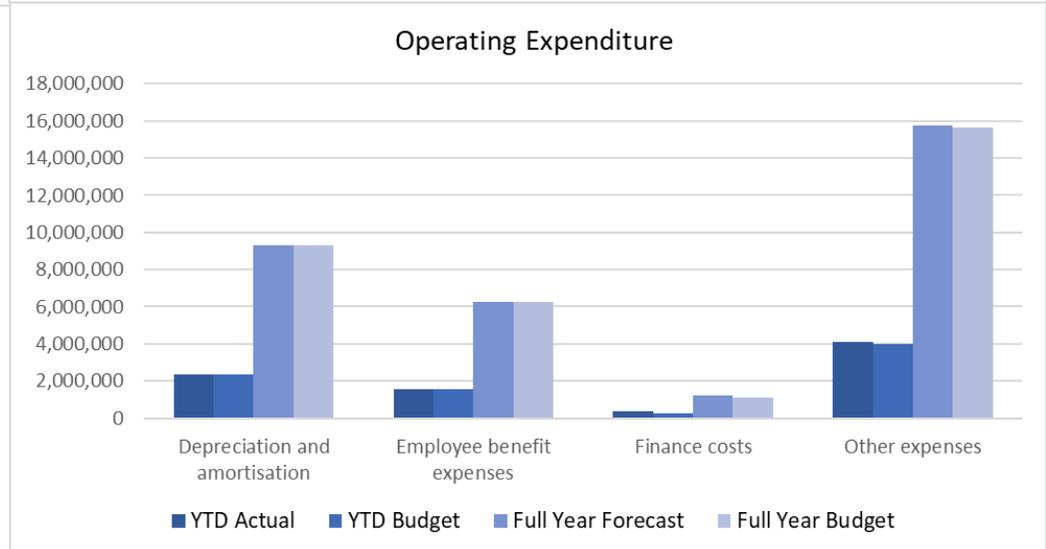
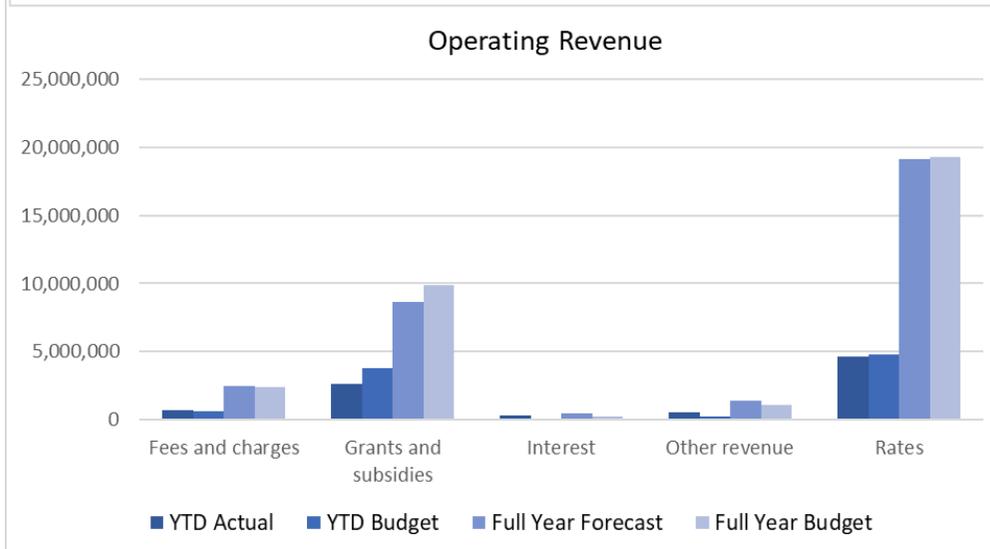
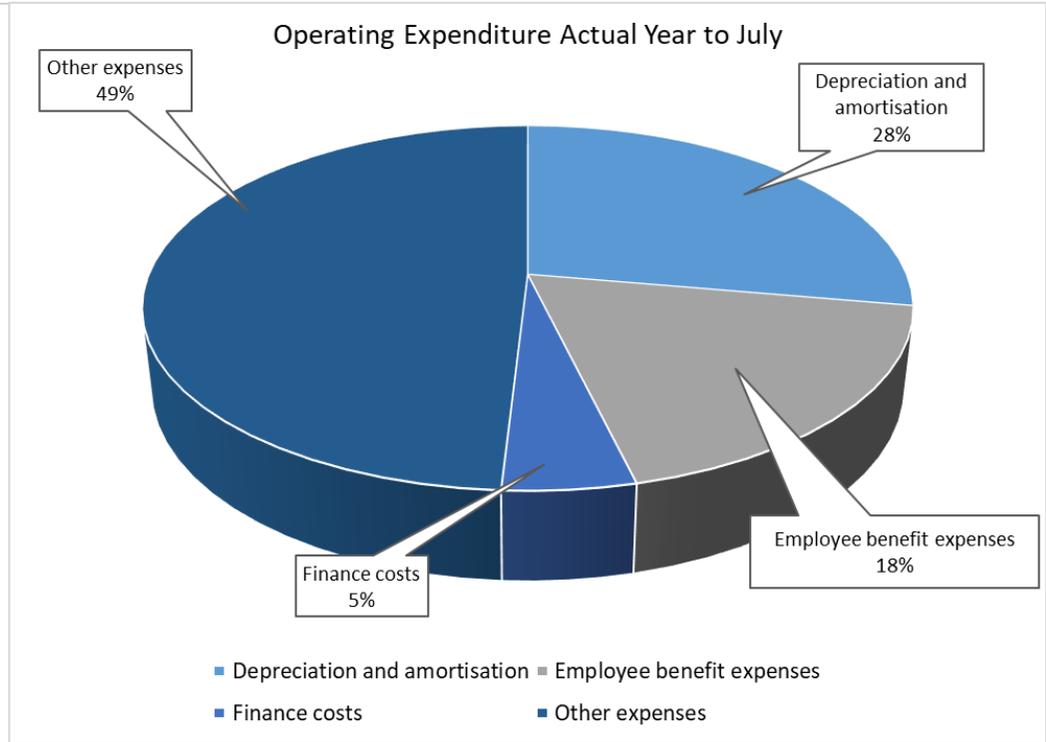
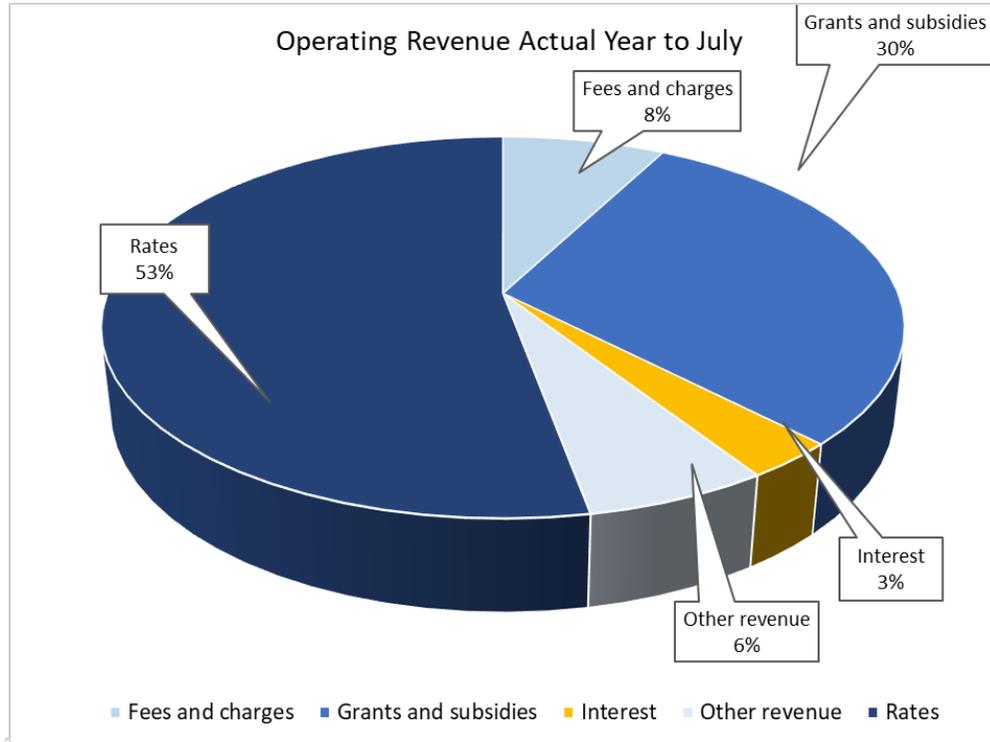
Roading maintenance (including drainage and asset network maintenance) is collectively over by \$107k. This is partially funded by the Transport claim mentioned in note 02. 3 waters transition consultancy is \$45k over - offset by recoveries mentioned in note 05. \$41k consultancy fees related to the HQ appraisal. Contractors used in processing building and resource consents over budget \$49k - offset by variance mentioned in note 04.

Statement of Financial Position

	At 30 September 2023 \$000	Annual Plan 2023/24 \$000	Actual 2022/2023 \$000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	8,101	4,311	8,378
Debtors & other receivables	3,718	3,135	2,809
Tax receivable	-	-	-
Derivative financial instruments	29	12	53
Other financial assets	3,100	-	48
Total Current Assets	14,948	7,458	11,288
Non-current assets			
Council Controlled Organisation	12,695	12,695	12,695
Deferred Tax	176	137	176
Intangible assets	151	225	151
Assets Under Construction	11,790	10,781	9,571
Derivative financial instruments	1,244	493	1,052
Other Financial Assets	627	771	553
Property, Plant and Equipment	513,587	516,239	515,928
Total Non-current assets	540,270	541,340	540,126
Total Assets	555,219	548,797	551,414
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Creditors & other payables	2,313	2,863	4,001
Employee benefit liabilities	682	507	521
Borrowings	3,000	-	3,000
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-
Other	2,600	1,475	595
Total Current Liabilities	8,595	4,846	8,116
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred Tax	-	-	-
Employee benefit liabilities	30	36	30
Provisions	3,335	2,821	3,335
Borrowings	26,818	36,180	23,818
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	30,183	39,038	27,183
Total Liabilities	38,778	43,883	35,299
Net Assets	516,440	504,914	516,115

	At 30 September 2023 \$000	Annual Plan 2023/24 \$000	Actual 2022/2023 \$000
Equity			
Retained Earnings	173,020	179,854	172,693
Restricted Reserves	10,073	6,481	10,073
Revaluation reserves	333,170	318,402	333,170
Other comprehensive revenue and expense reserve	177	177	177
Total Equity	516,440	504,914	516,115

Revenue & Expenditure Graphs



Debtors 30 September 2023

30/09/2023					
Type	Over 90 Days	60-90 Days	30-60 Days	Current	Total (\$)
Building consents	51,945	12,705	20,961	33,327	118,938
Building Warrants	480	1,600	1,440	2,594	6,114
Resource consents	13,630	3,200	5,091	24,375	46,296
Sundry debtors	36,093	1,500,351	301,591	76,556	1,914,590
Grand Total	102,147	1,517,856	329,083	136,852	2,085,938
30/09/2022					
Type	Over 90 Days	60-90 Days	30-60 Days	Current	Total (\$)
Building Consents	12,782	1,978	4,874	16,267	35,900
Building Warrants	450	1,800	2,364	1,769	6,383
Resource Consents	531	14,901	1,313	9,055	25,800
Sundry Debtors	54,151	89,983	147,905	1,773,487	2,065,527
Grand Total	67,914	108,662	156,456	1,800,578	2,133,610

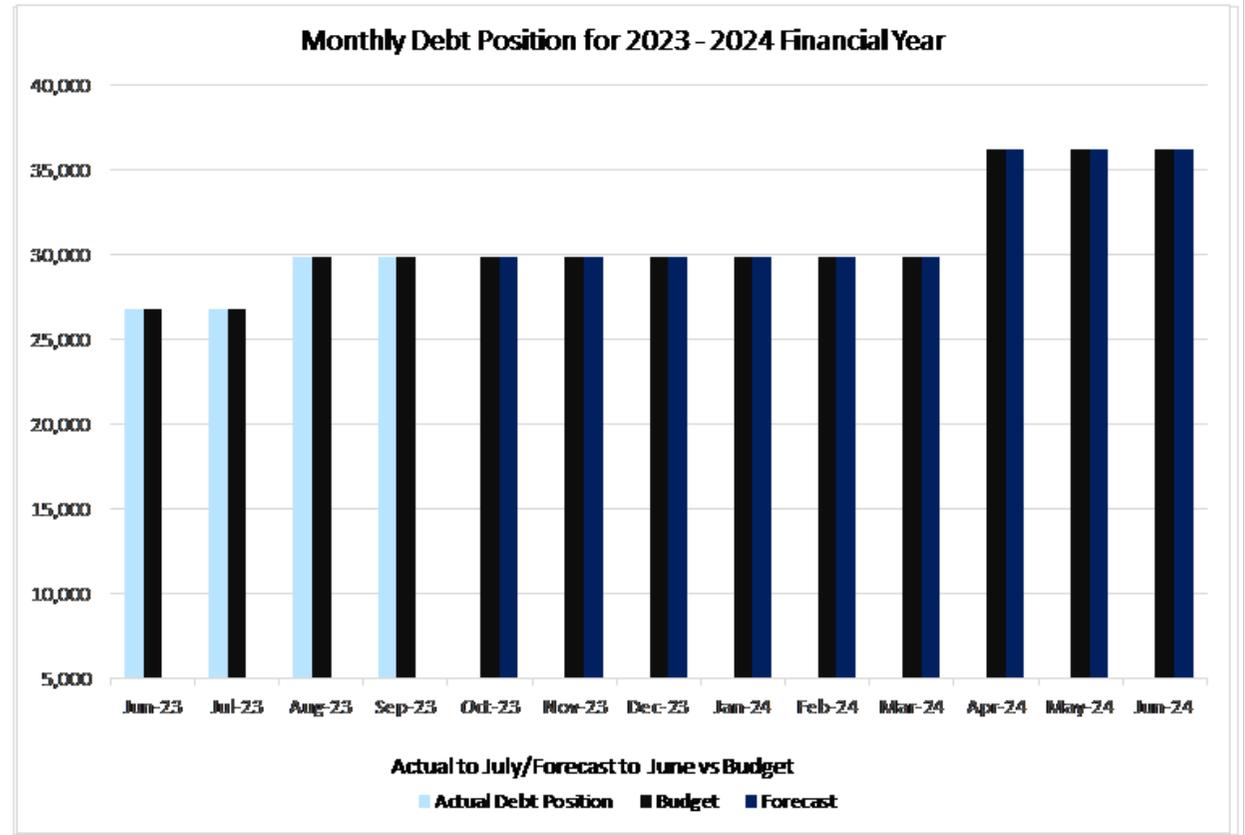
Rates Debtors 30 September 2023

Rates Debtors at 31 August 2023	725,468
Rates instalment	-
Less payments received	(513,656.87)
Paid in advance change	174,795.89
Previous years write off's	315.22
Write off's	(1,717.00)
Penalties	16,397.85
Discounts	(11,461.72)
Court Cost	-
	(335,326.63)
Total Rates Debtors at 30 September 2023	390,141.71
Arrears included above at 30 September 2023	390,142
Arrears at 30 September 2022	440,702
Increase/(decrease) in arrears	(50,561)

Debt Position

Debt Position 2023/2024 (\$000)													
	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
Actual Debt Position	26,818	26,818	29,818	29,818									
Budget	26,818	26,818	29,818	29,818	29,818	29,818	29,818	29,818	29,818	29,818	36,180	36,180	36,180
Forecast					29,818	29,818	29,818	29,818	29,818	29,818	36,180	36,180	36,180

Forecast Debt Position for 2021-2022 Financial Year	
Forecast as at	Jun-23
Opening Balance	26,818
Loan funded capex forecast	12,362
Forecast repayments 2023-24	-3,000
Forecast balance June 2024 per AP	36,180



Capital Expenditure

Capital Projects 2023/24

As at 30/09/2023

Project / Activity	YtD Expenses	Carry f/wd + Annual Plan	Forecast
	\$0	\$0	\$0
Leadership	13,964	512,049	512,049
Planning & Regulatory Services	59,589	1,959,694	1,959,694
Library & Museum	18,725	1,102,751	1,102,751
Water Supply	173,359	1,954,047	1,954,047
Waste Water	57,739	1,586,805	1,586,805
Solid waste	11,395	822,760	822,760
Storm water	10,960	228,340	228,340
Cemeteries	16,245	98,150	98,150
Swimming pools	925,826	2,197,950	2,197,950
Facilities & leisure services - other	166,505	3,068,416	3,068,416
Parks & reserves	366,929	6,960,127	6,960,127
Land transportation	312,032	3,741,538	3,741,538
Unbudgeted capital expenditure	7,668	0	0
Funded Projects	18,585	0	0
Total	2,159,520	24,232,628	24,232,628

For full details, please refer to report from District Assets.

Report to Council



DATE: 26 October 2023
TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Group Manager, Corporate Services and Risk Assurance

Māori Representation

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to make a decision on establishing a Māori Ward as per the Local Government Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) s19Z, 19ZH and schedule 1A.
- 1.2. This issue arises due to the requirement by the LEA for a council to resolve to establish Māori wards.
- 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 2021, which are set out in the Long-Term Plan 2021 - 31. Refer page 2 of the agenda.
- 1.4. This report concludes by recommending that Council does not establish a Māori ward and continues with the status quo.

2. Background

- 2.1. The reason the report has come before the Council is due to the requirement to consider Māori wards in the six yearly representation review.
- 2.2. Currently Westland District Council (WDC) holds a Manatu Whakaaetanga (Partnership agreement) together with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti WaeWae, and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio together known as Poutini Ngāi Tahu.
- 2.3. This allows for voting rights on Council Committees and non-voting rights on Council.
- 2.4. Under the LEA only elected members can have voting rights at Council.
- 2.5. A letter was sent to both Te Rūnanga o Ngāti WaeWae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio to provide WDC with their preferences for either the establishment of a Māori ward or to continue with the Manatu Whakaaetanga, at the time of writing this report a response has not been received.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1. The current situation is that no Māori wards have been established for WDC.

- 3.2. There are currently only two South Island Councils that have established Māori wards. There are more in the North Island.
- 3.3. Due to the population of the Westland District, only one Māori ward may be established at large. Populations are determined by Stats NZ. Stats NZ calculate both the Māori electoral population and the general electoral population. These can also be found on the Local Government Commission’s website.
- 3.4. There is a set calculation for determining the number of members to both Māori and general wards as per LEA clauses 2 and 4, Schedule 1A.
 - 3.4.1. For Westland District Council;

$$Nmm = \frac{mepd}{(mepd+gepd)} \times nm$$

Where:

- nmm – number of Māori ward members
- mepd – Māori electoral population or estimated Māori electoral population of the district
- gepd – general electoral population or estimated general electoral population of the district
- nm – proposed number of members of the territorial authority (other than the mayor)

nmm **0.60 rounded 1**
 mepd 660
 gepd 8160
 nm 8

- 3.5. Any resolution on the establishment or not of Māori wards must be made by 23 November 2023 and this decision will then be reflected in the representation review to be progressed next year.

4. Options

- 4.1. Option 1: That Council resolve to establish a Māori ward.
- 4.2. Option 2: That Council resolve to continue with the status quo and do not resolve to establish a Māori ward.

5. Risk Analysis

- 5.1. Risk has been considered and the following risks have been identified;
 - 5.1.1 reputational and compliance risk by not following the procedure in the LEA.

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 moderate.
 - 7.1.1.No public consultation is considered necessary at this stage as the decision today is administrative and will be included in the representation review which is required to be consulted on.

8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

- 8.1. Option 1 – That Council resolve to establish a Māori ward.

8.1.1. The following financial implications have been identified. Elected Members remuneration and allowances.

8.1.2. Currently there are two iwi representatives on council committees and council, if a Māori ward is established, the population statistics of Westland would only allow for one representative. The representative would be elected through the formal election process.

8.2. Option 2 - That Council resolve to continue with the status quo and do not resolve to establish a Māori ward.

8.2.1. Currently both Te Rūnanga o Ngāti WaeWae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio have representation on the council and council committees if a Māori ward is established one partner to the agreement would not have formal representation on council.

8.2.2. Currently there are no financial implications to this option.

9. Preferred Option(s) and Reasons

9.1. The preferred option is Option 2.

9.2. The reason that Option 2 has been identified as the preferred option would ensure fair representation at WDC council and committee meetings.

10. Recommendation(s)

10.1. That the report be received.

10.2. That Council resolve to continue with the status quo and do not resolve to establish a Māori ward.

Lesley Crichton

Group Manager, Corporate Services and Risk Assurance

Report to Council



DATE: 26 October 2023
TO: Mayor and Councillors
FROM: Strategy and Communications Advisor

Adoption of draft Council Vision and Community Outcomes

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to adopt the draft Council Vision and Community Outcomes for the Long Term Plan 2024 – 2034.
- 1.2. This issue arises from the requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) for community outcomes to be described in a Council’s Long Term Plan (LTP).
- 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 2021, which are set out in the Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031. Refer page 2 of the agenda.
- 1.4. This report concludes by recommending that Council adopt the draft Council Vision and Community Outcomes, outlined in Appendix 1 to the Report, for inclusion in the Draft Long-Term Plan 2024-2034.

2. Background

- 2.1. The reason the report has come before the Council is due to the requirement in Schedule 10, Part 1, cl. 1 of the LGA that:

“A long-term plan must, to the extent determined appropriate by the local authority, describe the community outcomes for the local authority’s district or region.”
- 2.2. Councils undertake a review of Community Outcomes to begin each LTP cycle. This allows Council to develop their long-term strategy for the community. The Mayor and Elected Members participated in two workshops in August and September 2023 to consider their long-term strategy and vision for the community. These workshops considered the aspirations of Elected Members for the community, and if the current Vision and Community Outcomes remained relevant.
- 2.3. The Mayor has made the draft strategy available to Elected Members for comment and amendments have been made following discussion and consideration at the workshops.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1. The current situation is that a draft Vision and Community Outcomes has been developed, based on the four well-beings prescribed in s 10 of the LGA. Full details are attached in appendix 1.

3.2. Council also commissioned an Environmental Scan from Dot Loves Data that provides a fact-based overview of the environment in which the Council operates. The Environmental Scan gathers information about the social, economic, environmental, cultural and regulatory landscape, situated within a local, national and international context. This is attached as appendix 2.

3.3. Council proposes to adopt the Vision: “By investing in our people, caring for the environment, and enabling investment, growth and development we will enrich our region and the people that reside here.”

3.4. Council has identified the following Community Outcomes for adoption:

- Sustainable environment
- Diverse economy
- Embracing our culture
- Live and play
- Resilient infrastructure.

4. Options

4.1. Option 1: Council adopts the draft Vision and Community Outcomes for inclusion in the draft LTP 2024 - 2034.

4.2. Option 2: Council makes further amendments to the draft Vision and Community Outcomes and adopts the amended version for inclusion in the draft LTP 2024 – 2034.

4.3. Option 3: Council does not adopt the draft Vision and Community Outcomes.

5. Risk Analysis

5.1. Risk has been considered and the following risks have been identified:

5.1.1. Legislative non-compliance: If Council does not adopt Community Outcomes then it is not complying with the LGA.

5.1.2. Reputation risk: Council’s reputation in the community could be damaged if the community perceive that the Council does not have a long-term strategy for the well-being of the district.

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 medium. While there is a requirement under the legislation to adopt community outcomes, any changes to these could impact Councils levels of service. The strategy contained in the community outcomes gives the Council a basis to promote their vision and priorities.

7.1.1. Public consultation is considered necessary. The draft Vision and Community Outcomes will be included in the LTP 2024 – 2034 and the community will have an opportunity to comment as part of this process. This allows the community to understand the strategy within the context of the full LTP 2024 – 2034.

8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

8.1. Option 1 – Council adopts the draft Vision and Community Outcomes for inclusion in the draft LTP 2024 - 2034.

This ensures that the updated strategy will be included and meet the requirements of the LGA.

8.1.1. There are no financial implications to this option.

8.2. Option 2 - Council makes further amendments to the draft Vision and Community Outcomes and adopts the amended version for inclusion in the draft LTP 2024 – 2034.

8.3.

This ensures that the updated strategy will be included and meet the requirements of the LGA.

8.3.1. There are no financial implications to this option.

8.4. Option 3 - Council does not adopt the draft Vision and Community Outcomes.

Council can choose not to adopt the draft strategy. Council could agree to carry over the Vision and Community Outcomes adopted by the previous Council for the 2021-2031 LTP into the 2024 – 2034 LTP. However, it is not an option for Council not to adopt any form of Community Outcomes as this is a legal requirement.

8.4.1. There are no financial implications to this option.

9. Preferred Option(s) and Reasons

9.1. The preferred option is Option 1. Council adopts the draft Vision and Community Outcomes for inclusion in the draft LTP 2024 - 2034.

9.2. The reason that Option 1 has been identified as the preferred option is that this reflects the strategy of the current Council and meets the legislative requirement of the LGA.

10. Recommendation(s)

10.1. That the report be received.

10.2. That Council adopts the draft Vision and Community Outcomes in appendix 1 for inclusion in the draft LTP 2024 - 2034.

Emma Rae
Strategy and Communications Advisor

Appendix 1: Draft 2024 Vision and community outcomes
Appendix 2: Westland District Environmental Scan Sept 2023

Vision

By investing in our people, caring for the environment, and enabling investment, growth and development we will enrich our region and the people that reside here.

Our aspirations, values and role

- Active leadership
 - Council works with integrity and honesty building the respect and confidence of the community.
- Togetherness
 - Building strong relationships and partnerships with stakeholders, encouraging citizens to play an active role within their communities for success.
- Future proofing
 - Safeguarding our unique natural environment and cultural heritage to support communities' resilience in the face of social, economic, and environmental challenges.

Community Outcomes

Sustainable Environment

Goals

Reduce the human impact on the environment, while enhancing and protecting the unique natural environment of the Westland District.

This community outcome seeks to improve environmental outcomes and support the community to embrace a culture of sustainability.

Focus areas

- Support sustainable waste management practises.
 - We will develop, lead, and promote sustainable waste management practises.
- Care for the environment
 - We will plan proactively for climate change, promoting and supporting low-carbon, low-energy practises.
- Encourage biodiversity.
 - We will support strategies, plans and policies to enhance and protect and celebrate the district's flora, fauna, and ecosystems.

Diverse economy

Goals

Enable a prosperous economy that supports and celebrates local businesses success, encouraging both traditional and innovative businesses so that our community thrives.

This community outcome seeks to support a thriving community and economy for the security of future generations.

Focus areas

- Collaboration

- We will collaborate with other stakeholders to achieve common outcomes and realise external funding opportunities.
- Sustainable growth
 - We will ensure that development is sustainable, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Innovation
 - We will support innovation and new opportunities for diversity within and from traditional Westland industries.

Embracing our culture

Goals

Enabling a rich cultural life for our citizens where people feel welcomed and have civic engagement.

This community outcome seeks to ensure that all voices are enabled and heard, power is more evenly distributed, and the community can share its strengths.

Focus areas

- Enabling community
 - We will support initiatives that involve caring for community members at all life stages to reduce isolation and promote inclusion.
- Partnership
 - We will ensure that engagement with iwi promotes partnership, participation, and protection.
- Open to innovation
 - We will support the community to enable community ownership of new initiatives and opportunities.
- Community pride and participation
 - We will actively encourage the community to take part in opportunities for democratic participation and education and grow community pride through sharing and documenting of local history.

Live and play

Goals

Westland is a place where communities are safe and healthy; a unique and enjoyable place to live with affordable, accessible social and cultural facilities.

This community outcome seeks to ensure that we provide the infrastructure and opportunities that support our communities and enhance people's health and wellbeing.

Focus areas

- Healthy and safe
 - We will support community projects that enhance community safety, health and wellbeing for all.
- Active lifestyles
 - We will support opportunities for walking and cycling, connecting our communities safely.
- Community spaces
 - We will develop and maintain community spaces that encourage active participation, reduce social isolation, and enhance wellbeing.

Resilient infrastructure

Goals

Investing in the future with careful, considered planning of projects which support the growth, development and wellbeing of our communities and environment.

This community outcome seeks to ensure that communities are less vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change and critical transitions are considered for longevity.

Focus areas

- Responsive planning
 - We will ensure that we will plan our infrastructure to reduce communities' vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.
- Forward focus
 - Our investment in infrastructure will meet the future needs of the community in an affordable manner.
- Data driven decision making
 - Our decisions will use good quality data and good practice to enable high quality decision making.
- Communities first
 - We will engage with our communities to develop infrastructure solutions that meet the communities needs now and into the future.



Environmental Scan

Westland District Council

September 2023



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1. Introduction

The Westland District Council was formed in 1989 from the amalgamation of Westland County Council and Hokitika Borough Council. It is a territorial local authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002. Westland District has a resident population of approximately 8,810 people, the majority of whom live in Hokitika. Other significant settlements include Fox Glacier, Franz Josef Glacier Waiiau, Kumara, Whataroa, Ross, Harihari and Haast. Significant economic contributors include the tourism and dairy industries.

Westland District Council is seeking an Environmental Scan that provides a fact based overview of the environment in which the Council operates. The Environmental Scan gathers information about the social, economic, environmental, cultural and regulatory landscape, situated within a local, national and international context.

The purpose of the Environmental Scan is to provide Westland District stakeholders and constituents with information that Westland District Council can use to assist with developing the Council's Long Term Plan, as well as asset and infrastructure management planning. An Environmental Scan promotes consistency across council activities and provides good information on future trends to support good decision making.

DOT has approached the Environmental Scan by dividing information into the following themes:

- Mega trends
- Social Wellbeing
- Economic Wellbeing
- Environmental Wellbeing
- Cultural Wellbeing; and
- Regulatory Scan.

The consideration of the four wellbeings stems from the requirements of the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act for territorial authorities to promote community wellbeing. This means that local authorities are responsible for improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of their communities. Each section will analyse recent trends and provide commentary on possible implications for Westland District Council.



2. Mega Trends

These Mega Trends have been identified by PWC as deep and profound trends, global in scope and long-term in effect, that are likely to impact all nations on earth in the coming decades. Below we have outlined how the Megatrends have evolved in recent years, what future they may create in 2030, and what questions they will present.

Mega Trend	Implications for Westland District
<p>Climate Change: While organisations and decision makers are seeking to reduce carbon emissions, greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere are worsening, global temperatures are rising, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more severe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased frequency of extreme weather events ○ Loss of housing from extreme weather events ○ Difficulty in obtaining insurance or the increased cost of insurance ○ Increase in cost of living; food, water, energy insecurity ○ Employment and business change due to the energy industry present within or close to Westland District. ○ Job creation through investments in climate technology
<p>Technological Disruption: Transformative technology changes such as the introduction of Artificial Intelligence will change the way the public and private sectors operate. It is likely to lead to significant changes in the labour market and the way people work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significant capacity enhancement allowing people to achieve more with less effort ○ Disruption to the labour market (loss of jobs from automation and/or pressure to upskill) ○ Loss of privacy ○ Increasing disinformation and misinformation ○ Growing mental health issues ○ Competitive differentiation through technology ○ Increased spend on digital transformation ○ Mismatch between required and available skills ○ Increased cyber risk
<p>Demographic Shifts: The median age in most countries around the globe is increasing, but at different rates and from a different starting position. This demographic change is causing some countries' social systems to break down and a lack of workers in critical areas, whereas other countries face</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Labour market shortages due to a mismatch between available and required skills ○ Lack of relevant skills in the workforce ○ Youth unemployment ○ Slow-down of consumption-based sectors ○ Conflicts related to a multi-generational workforce with differing views on work and the world



<p>skyrocketing un- and under-employment, weakening economies from emigrating citizens, and strain on social safety nets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pressure on fixed income ratepayers (e.g. superannuitants) and the burden of infrastructure investment being placed on younger generations.
<p>Fracturing World: The geo-political environment is fracturing as North America, Europe and Asia compete for influence, with many other nations aligning around them. As a result countries are increasingly turning their focus inwards, prioritising their national resilience and localisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pressure for boycotts and taking a stand on 'political' issues ○ Disruption of global supply chains ○ Difficulty of doing business in a world of conflicting rules and regulations ○ Pressure for global businesses to be deeply embedded in key countries.
<p>Social Instability: Pressure is arising from social media, which is accelerating social and economic polarisation, disruption, demographic change, and eroding trust. This could lead to societal unrest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pressure to increase reporting transparency ○ Responsibility to take care of wider needs of employees ○ Shrinking upward mobility for those in more deprived communities ○ Loss of trust between constituents and local authorities.

3. Social Wellbeing

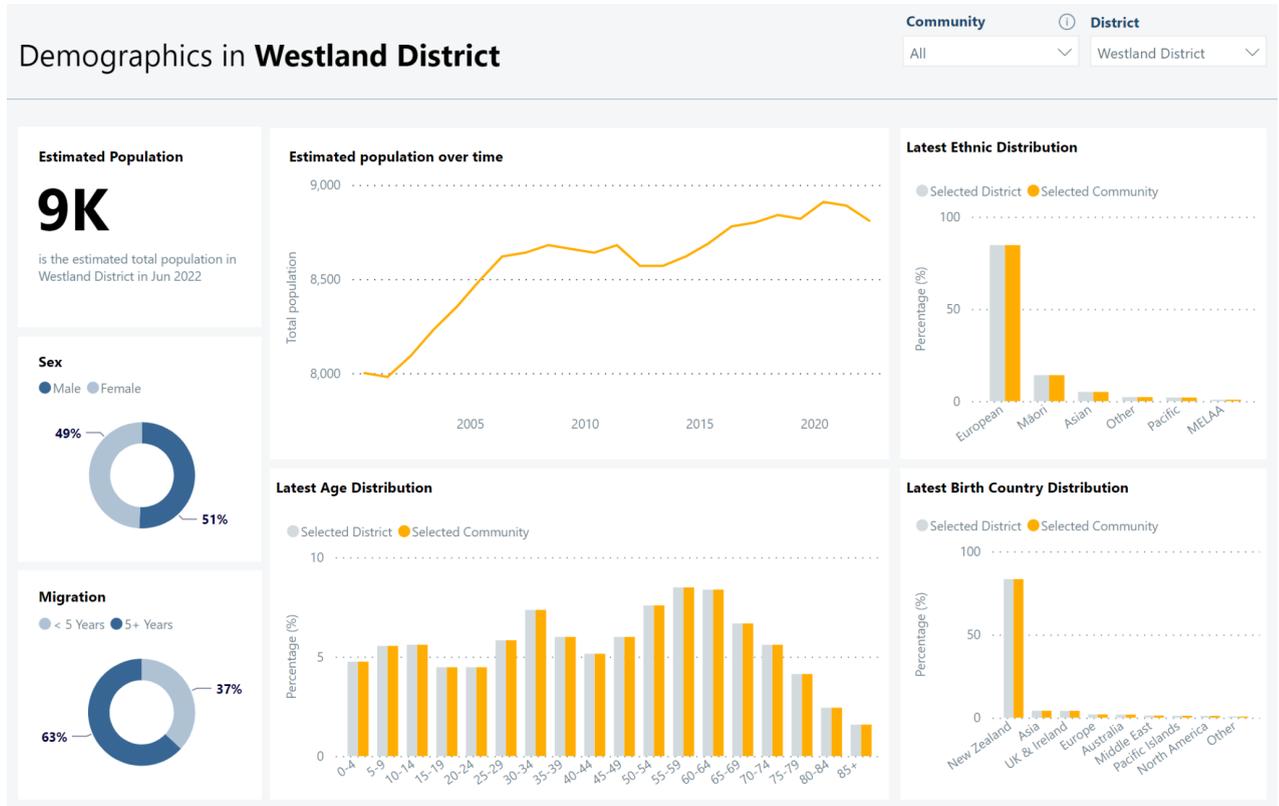
3.1 Population Demographics

Westland’s population experienced slow but steady growth, from 7,980 in June 2001 to 8,810 by June 2022, an increase of 10.4%. This compares with similar levels of growth in Grey District and a declining population in Buller District.

Over the same time period New Zealand experienced a 33% population growth, with much of this growth occurring in urban centres such as Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch,

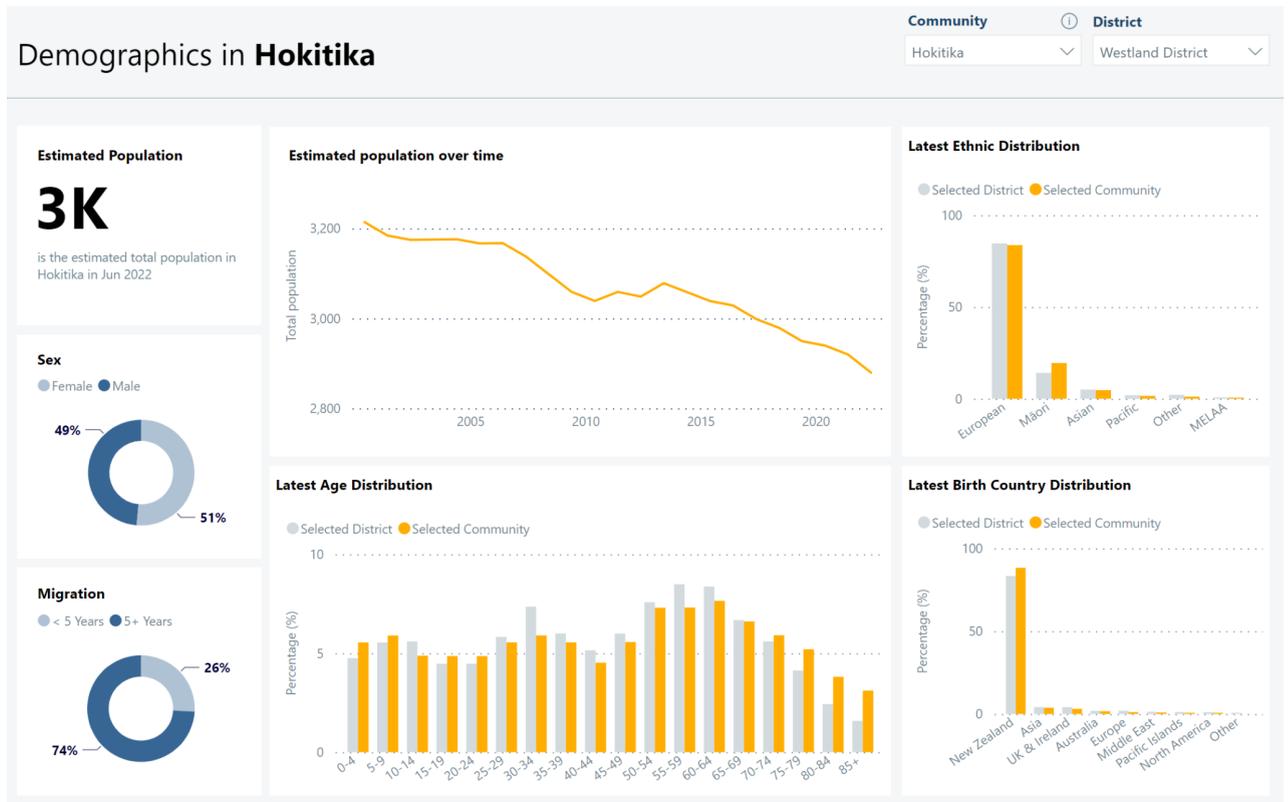


Hamilton, Tauranga, and, more recently, destination locations the Queenstown Lakes District and Central Otago.



Westland skews predominantly towards an older, more European demographic, relative to the rest of New Zealand. 85% of the population reports European heritage, with 14% Māori. In comparison, the New Zealand population benchmark is 70% European, 15% Māori, 15% Asian and 8% Pasifika, noting that individuals can have more than one ethnic group they belong to.

Housing development on the fringes of Haast and Hokitika is leading to slight changes in the local population in these townships. 400 people have, for example, moved from Hokitika to rural Hokitika to make the most of new housing development.



Based on Stats NZ's medium population growth forecast, Westland's population is expected to decline by 500 people between 2023 and 2048.¹ Of New Zealand's 16 regions, the South Island's West Coast region is the only region forecast to have a declining population during that period. All other 15 regions are expected to grow.

Territorial authority area ¹	Projection ²	Population at 30 June						Population change 2018-2048	
		2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	Number	Average annual ⁴ (percent)
Westland district	High	9,100	9,400	9,620	9,760	9,850	9,900	800	0.1
	Medium	8,860	8,900	8,860	8,750	8,580	8,360	-500	-0.1
	Low	8,620	8,410	8,110	7,740	7,310	6,840	-1,780	-0.2

A change in the demographics is also expected to occur, with the median Westland age expected to increase from 34.2 years in 1996 to 52.2 years by 2048. 30% of Westland's population is expected to be aged 65+ by 2048, compared with 11% in 1996.

¹ <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/subnational-population-projections-2018base2048-update/#territorial>

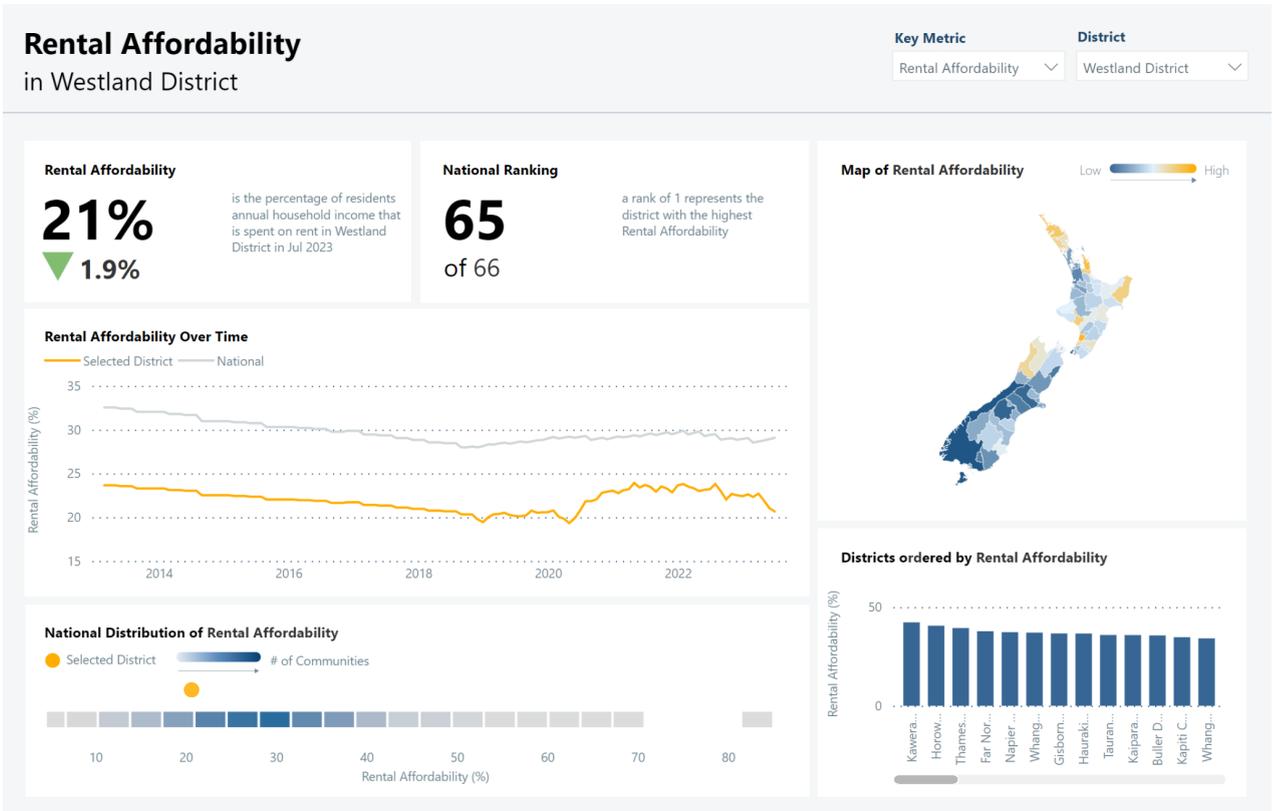


Territorial authority area ¹	Year	Population ² by age group (years), at 30 June					Components of population change, five years ended 30 June				Median age ⁷ (years) at 30 June
		0-14	15-39	40-64	65+	Total	Births ³	Deaths ⁴	Natural increase ⁵	Net migration ⁶	
Westland district	1996	1,980	3,080	2,420	960	8,430	34.2
	2001	1,710	2,580	2,720	970	7,970	510	360	150	-610	37.8
	2006	1,660	2,670	3,230	1,030	8,580	480	330	140	490	39.8
	2013	1,580	2,420	3,240	1,320	8,570	530	300	230	-320	42.4
	2018	1,450	2,580	3,220	1,580	8,830	480	320	160	100	44.2
	2023	1,370	2,500	3,090	1,900	8,860	430	360	80	-50	45.6
	2028	1,290	2,450	2,920	2,250	8,900	400	410	-10	50	46.8
	2033	1,180	2,240	2,930	2,510	8,860	370	460	-90	50	47.8
	2038	1,100	2,110	2,890	2,640	8,750	340	510	-170	50	49.1
	2043	1,040	2,020	2,920	2,600	8,580	330	550	-220	50	50.9
	2048	980	1,880	2,950	2,540	8,360	320	580	-270	50	52.2

3.2 Housing

Westland's housing profile presents mixed results. Westland housing is strongly affordable, but sits slightly below the national average in terms of quality.

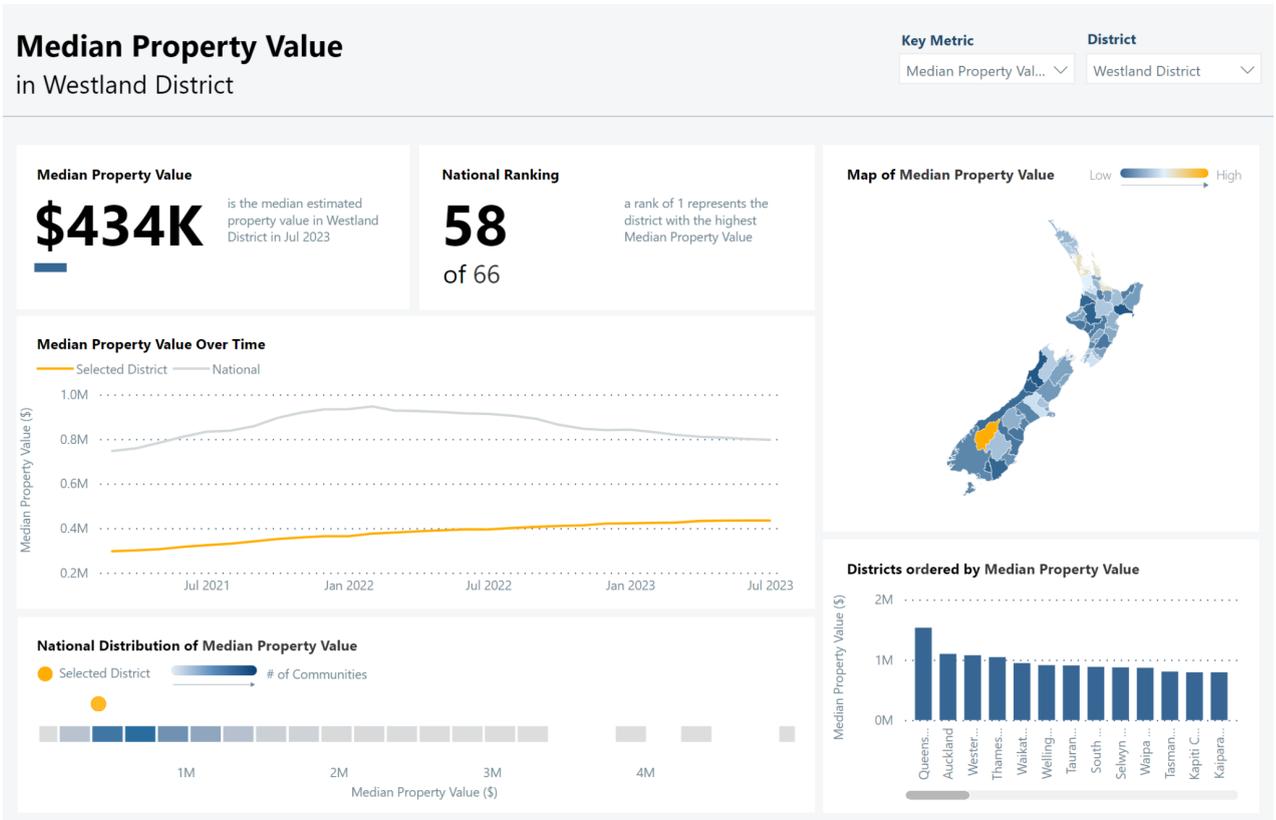
Westland has the second highest rental affordability of any district in New Zealand, sitting behind Southland District only. The average Westland household spends 21% of their income on rental accommodation, compared with 29% nationally.



Within Westland District there are currently 161 entire homes and 36 private rooms listed on Air BnB. The average Westland listing has 198 bookings per annum.

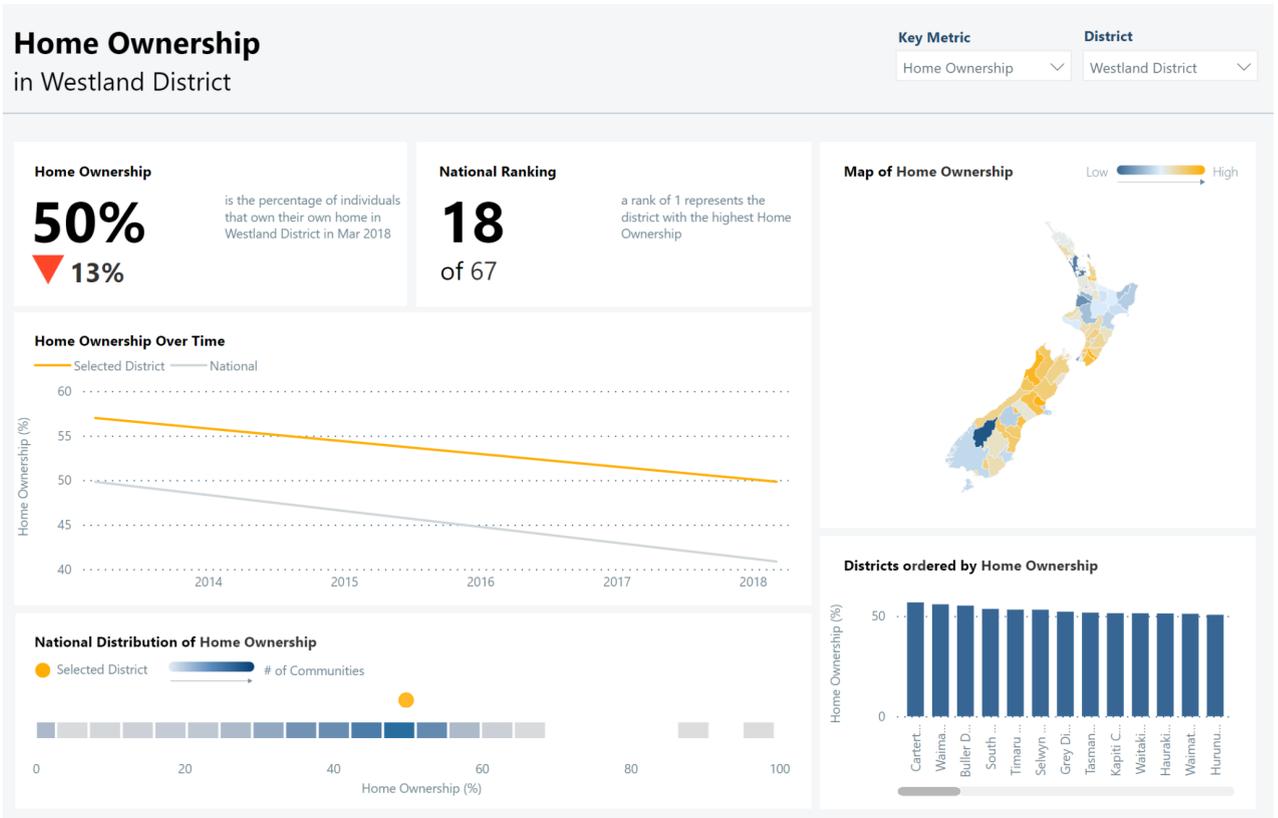
This compares with 315 private rental accommodation providers in Westland District, based on the number of active bonds lodged with MBIE Tenancy Services recorded in July 2023. The number of private rental properties available for rent has declined since July 2015, when 345 private properties were available for rent, but has remained static since July 2018, when 316 private properties were available to rent.

The median property value in Westland is \$434,108, compared with \$796,424 nationally. This ranks Westland as the 8th most affordable district in New Zealand based on price and the seventh most affordable district based on the property price to income ratio.



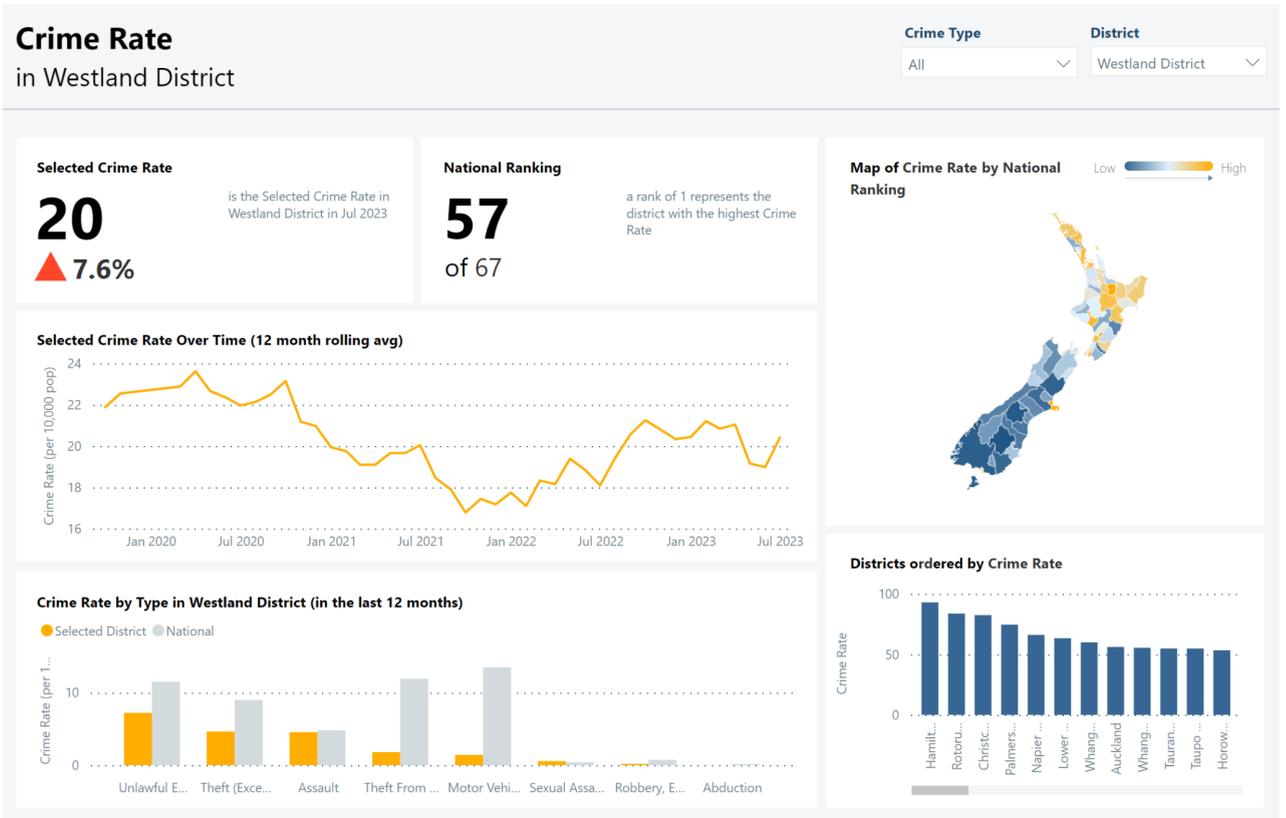
5% of Westland homes are deemed mouldy by their inhabitants. This ranks Westland homes 23rd highest for mouldy homes of all districts in New Zealand and therefore higher than the national average.

50% of individual Westland residents own their own home, which is higher than the national average of 41%. The home ownership trend is on a steady decline however, both locally and nationally, with Westland's home ownership rate declining from 57% in 2013, while the national rate has declined from 50%.



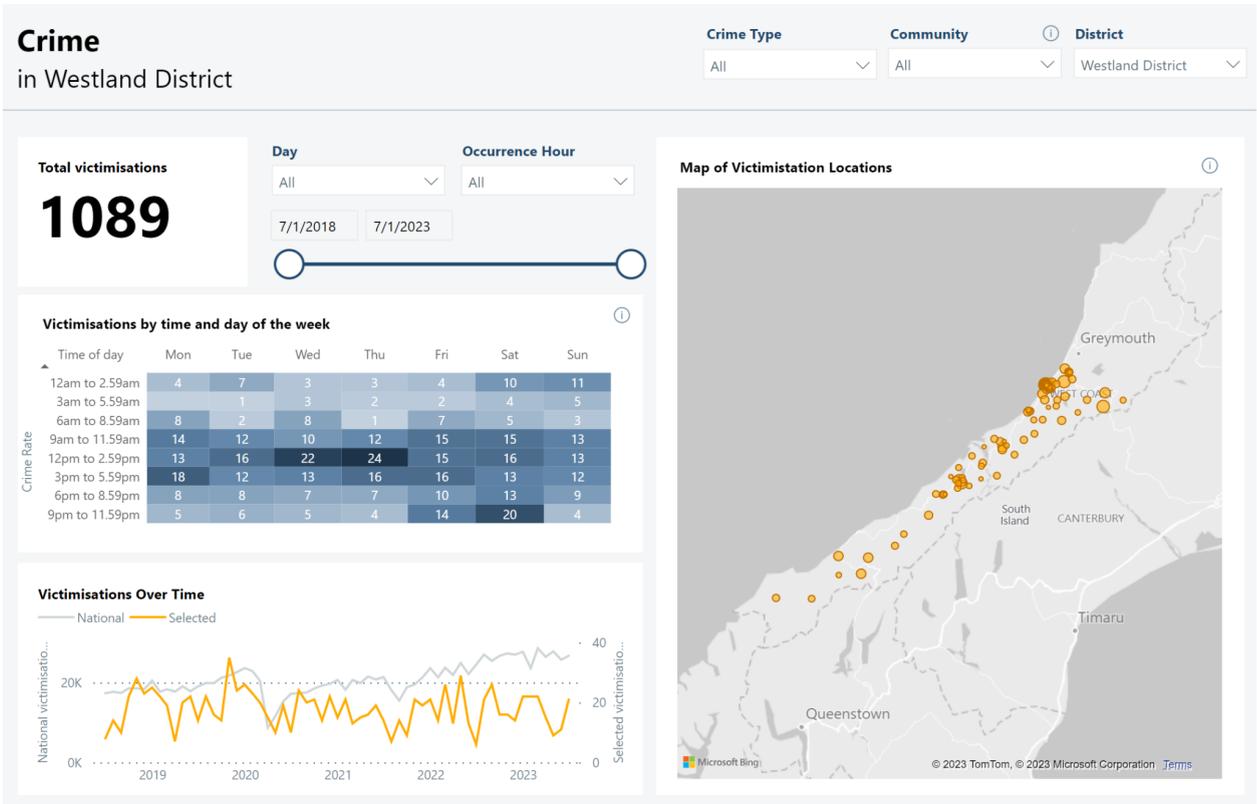
3.3 Crime

Westland has one of the lowest crime rates of any district in New Zealand, with a static crime rate of 20 victimisations per 10,000 population, measured as a rolling over the 12 months to July 2023. This compares to a static crime rate of 93 in Hamilton, the area with the highest crime rate in New Zealand. Westland ranks 10th of terms of the lowest crime rate of all districts in New Zealand.



As the cost of living has increased since January 2022, we have seen increasing crime in Westland and nationally, with the crime rate increasing from 17 victimisations per 10,000 people per month to 20 in July 2023. This still sits well below the national average of 52 victimisations per 10,000 people per month.

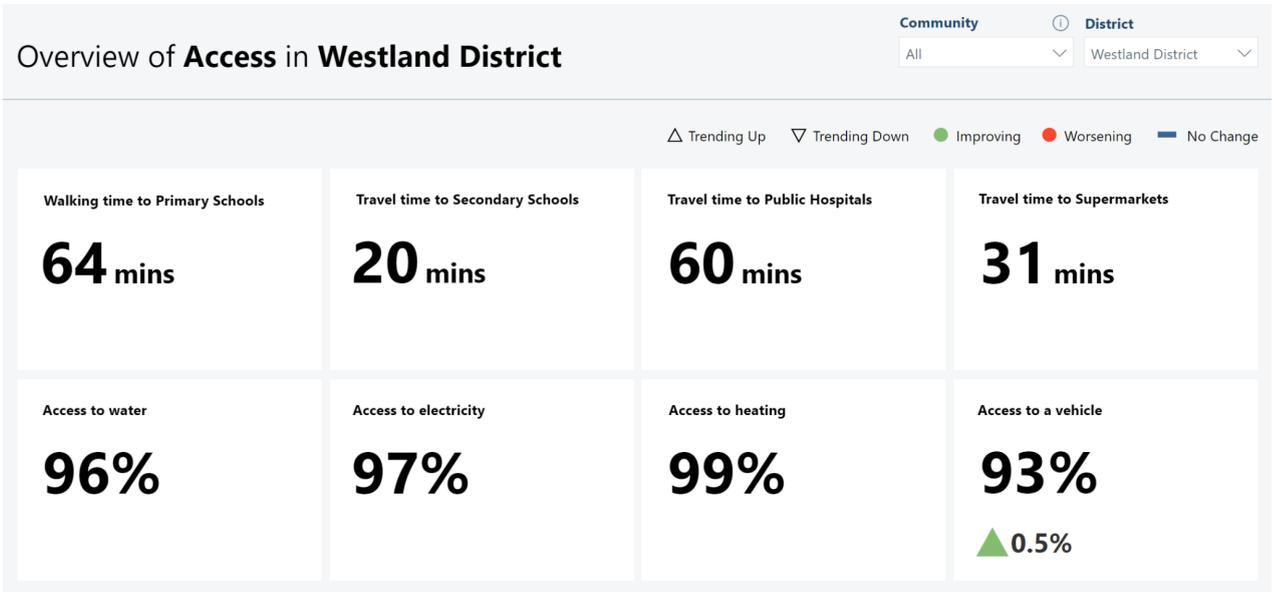
The chart below displays Westland crimes by timestamp and location for the past five years to July 2023.



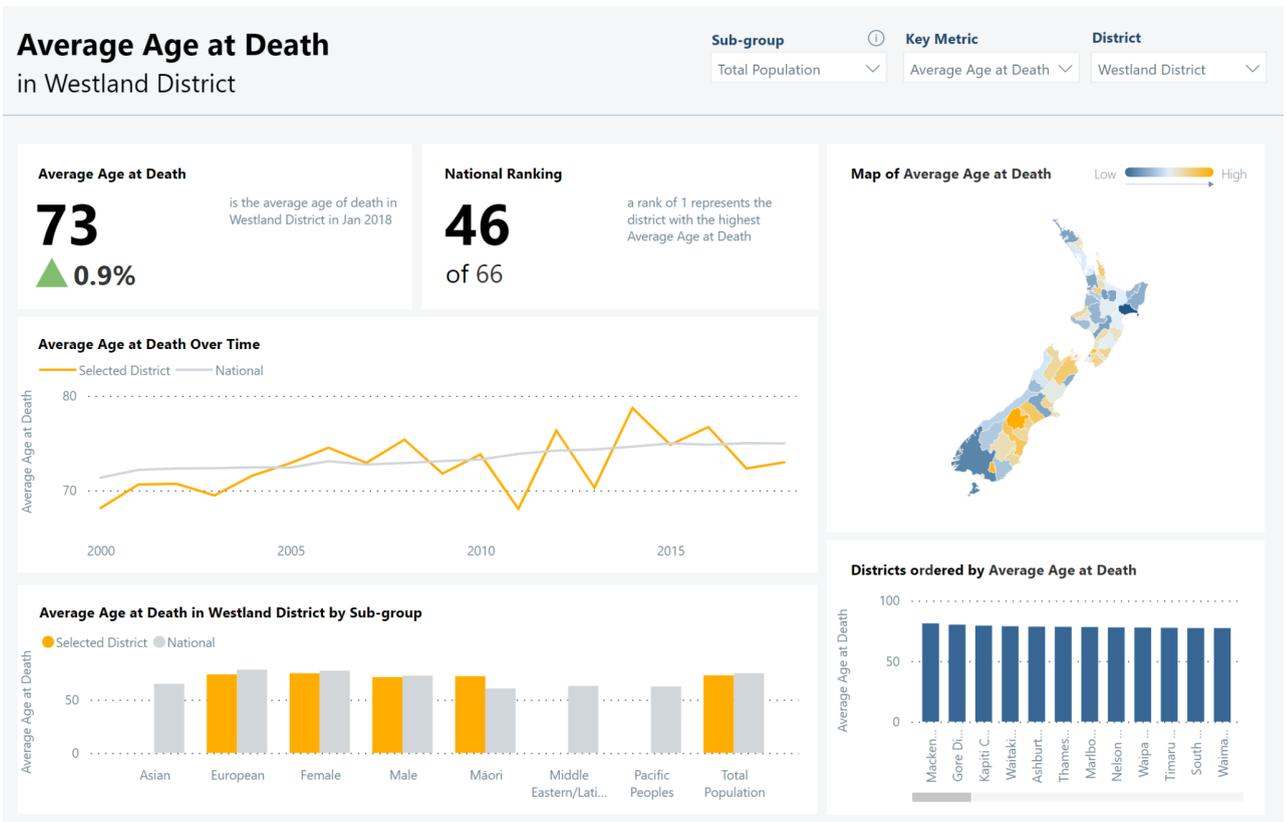
3.4 Health

Westland residents have poorer access to medical services due to the size and remoteness of the district relative to larger urban populations.

The average travel time for a Westland resident to a public hospital is 60 minutes. This compares with 24 minutes in Buller, 15 minutes in Grey District or 9 minutes in Christchurch.



In terms of health outcomes, Westland has a lower average age at death compared with the national average, higher cancer mortality and lower child mortality. The average age of death for Westland residents is 73, compared with 75 nationally.





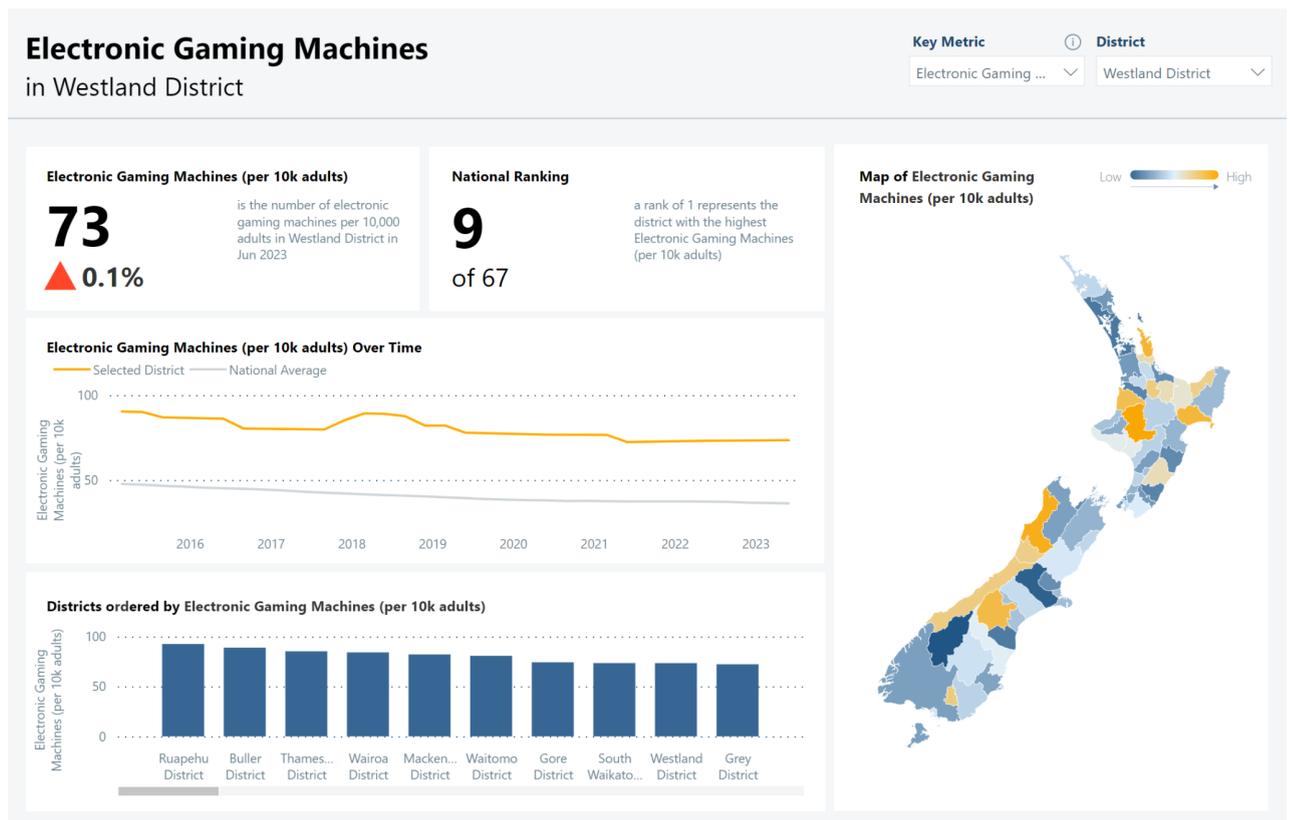
Perhaps due to the more restricted access to medical services, the cancer mortality rate for Westland residents is higher than the national average at 195 mortalities per 100,000 people during the period between 2003 - 2018, compared with 121 nationally.

The child mortality rate of Westland of 193 per 100,000 people for children under five years old is well below the national average of 277.

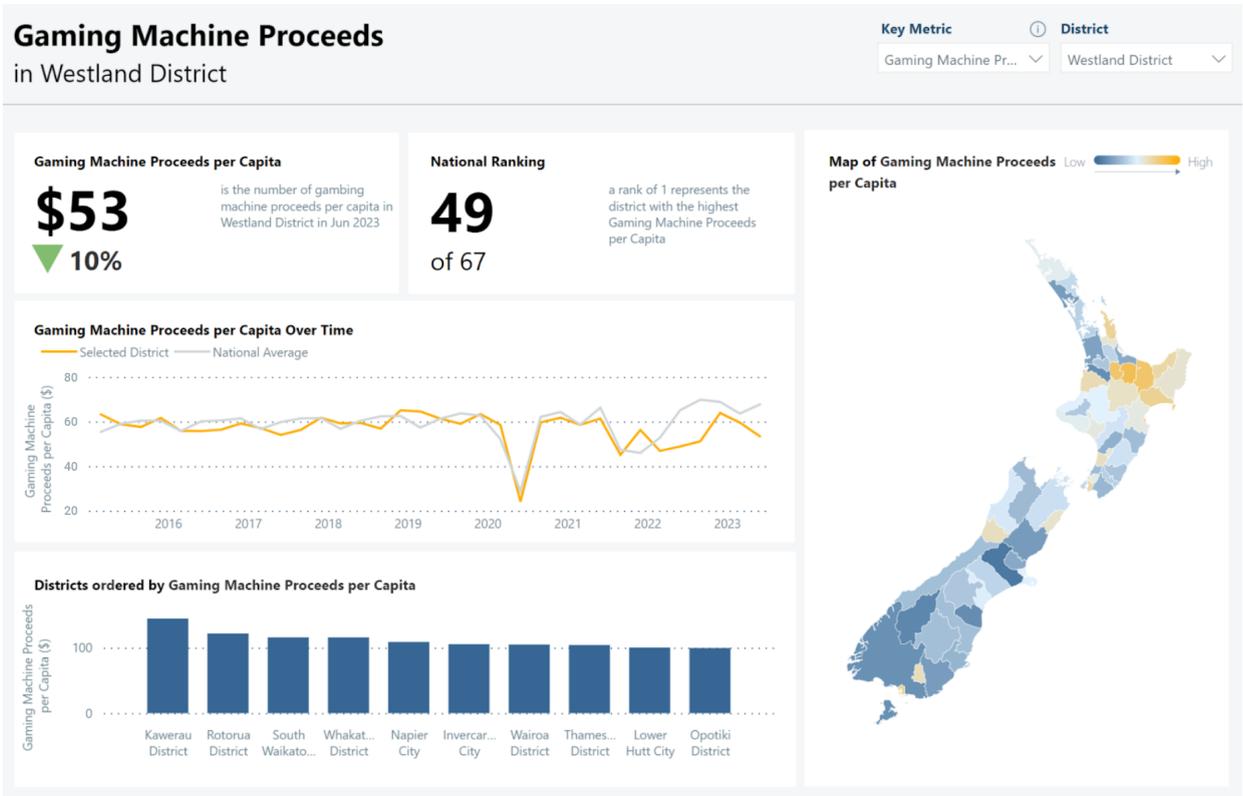
3.5 Gambling

Westland’s gambling spending levels are similar to the national average, despite having more gaming machines per capita of population than most other districts.

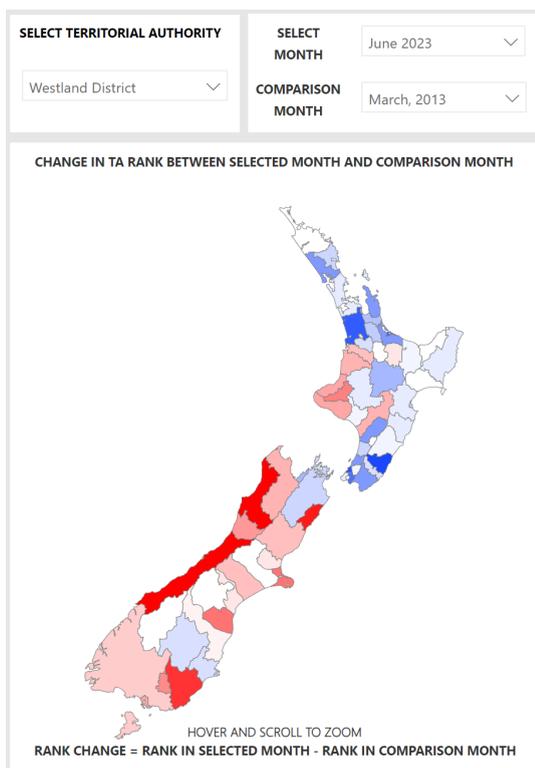
Westland has 73 electronic gaming machines per 10,000 people, more than double the national average of 36.



This has not translated into increased gaming spend however, with Westland’s per capita net gaming spend being \$53, compared with \$67 nationally.



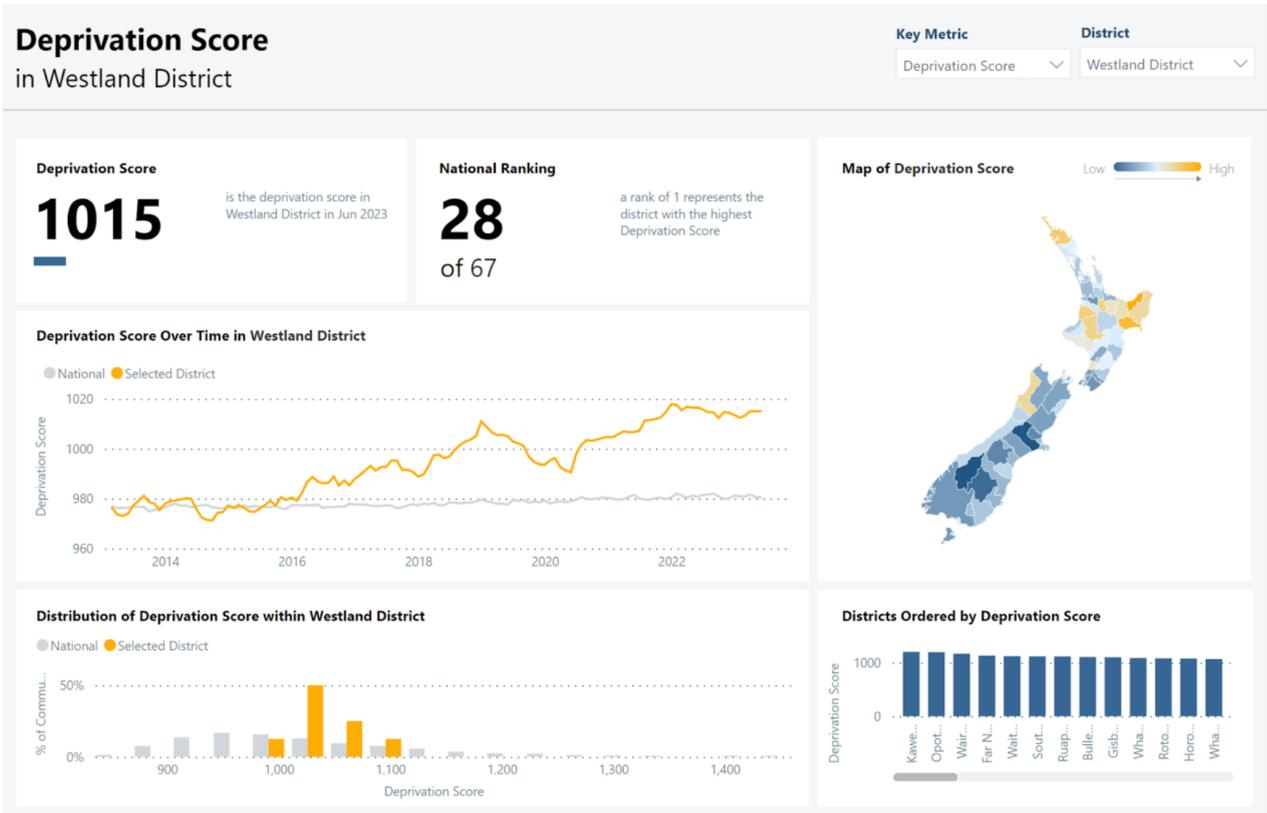
3.6 Deprivation



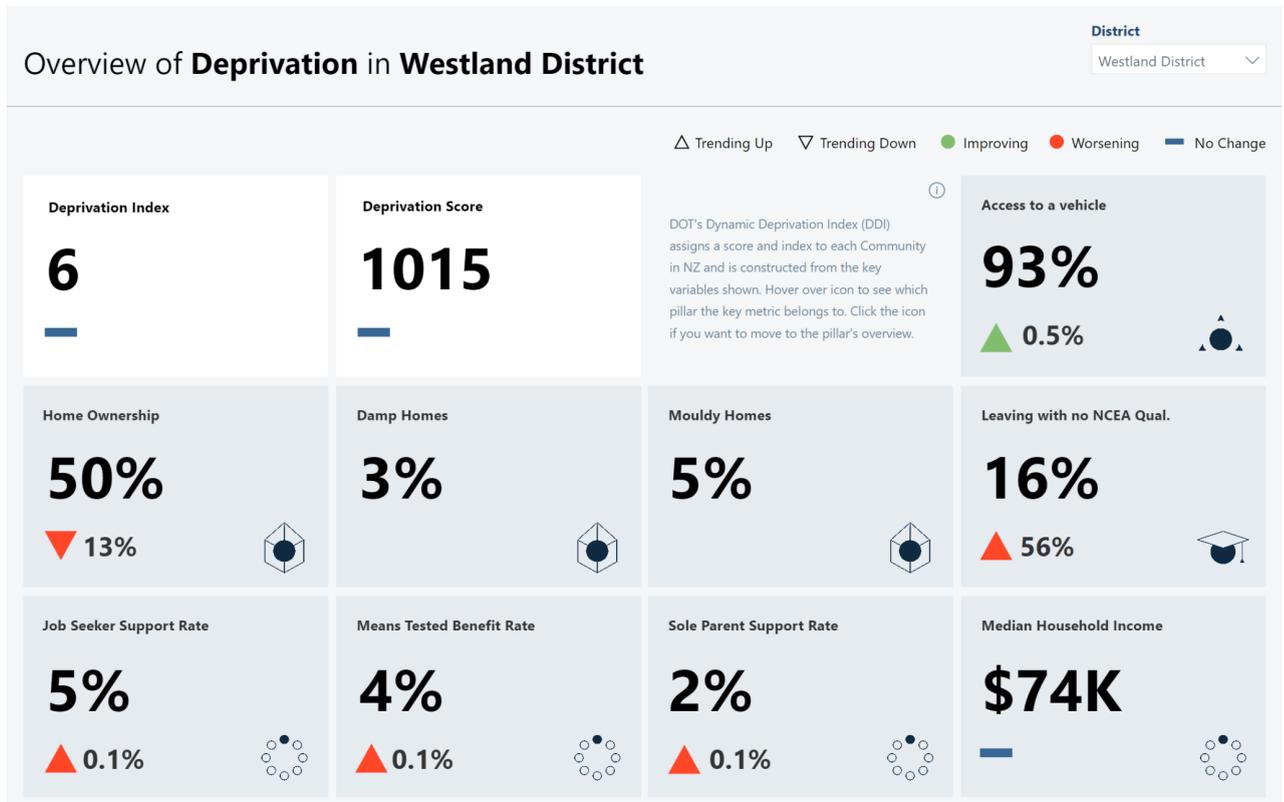
It is important to note that Westland and all other West Coast districts are showing a trend of heightening deprivation, relative to other regions in New Zealand. This is evident in the adjacent chart, which highlights in dark red those districts whose deprivation is increasing.

The increasing level of deprivation has been evident in Westland, Buller and Grey Districts since 2013. In 2013 Westland District ranked the 16th least deprived territorial authority in New Zealand. It now ranks 40th, a relative drop of 24 ranking places.

Correspondingly, we see reduced deprivation in provincial areas within reasonable proximity to Auckland and Wellington, driven by more affordable housing and proximity to employment.



Westland District’s relative decline has been due to an increased number of benefit recipients (with 11% of the working age population now receiving a benefit), reduced household incomes, lower educational attainment and lower levels of economic growth.



3.7 Social Wellbeing Implications

Population Trends: Westland's slow population growth and the projected decline in population could have several implications. A decreasing population may affect the demand for local services and could impact local employment levels and incomes. Strategies to attract and retain residents may be necessary to counter this decline.

Housing: While Westland offers strongly affordable housing, the issue of mouldy homes and declining homeownership rates suggests the need for improvements in housing quality. Addressing these housing challenges is essential to ensure residents have access to safe and comfortable living conditions.

Crime: Westland's low crime rate is strongly positive, but recent increases in crime and increasing deprivation levels may indicate future challenges. Local Police and community organisations may need to work together to address the factors contributing to rising crime.

Health: Longer travel times to medical services and variations in health outcomes highlight the need for improved healthcare accessibility and outcomes in Westland. Investments in healthcare infrastructure and services may be required to address these disparities.



Gambling: Despite having more gaming machines per capita, Westland does not experience significantly increased gambling spending. Westland District Council should continue monitoring and regulating gambling activities to ensure they do not lead to negative social consequences.

Deprivation: The increasing level of deprivation in Westland is a concerning trend. Efforts should be made to address the factors contributing to this rise, including supporting local economic growth, improving educational attainment, and providing assistance to benefit recipients to enhance overall community well-being.

4. Economic Wellbeing

The economic forecast for New Zealand over the next eighteen months indicates a continuation of slow growth, primarily due to the need for high-interest rates to combat persistent inflation.² Internal inflationary pressures persist, and to curb inflation, interest rates are expected to remain unchanged for the next year. This high-interest-rate environment is likely to limit economic growth, with an anticipated quarterly growth rate of just 0.4% in the coming year. Concurrently, the unemployment rate is forecasted to increase to 5.4%, while wage growth is expected to decline from 6.9% in June 2023 to 3.7% by June 2027.

Nonetheless, there is a more optimistic outlook for the future. After this period of sluggish growth, annual inflation is predicted to return to levels within the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's target by December 2024. Subsequently, interest rates are expected to gradually decrease from late-2024, likely ushering in a gradual economic upturn and a reduction in the unemployment rate starting in mid-2025. Challenges persist for households and businesses, as subdued house price growth and a softer labour market are anticipated to hinder household wealth and incomes, constraining household consumption. For businesses, rising costs and tepid domestic demand may curtail investment, although the North Island weather event rebuild could provide some relief.

The outlook for real government consumption remains relatively stagnant, and the export sector faces difficulties due to global growth constraints, driven by high interest rates in many countries. These global factors are expected to weigh on export demand and prices, resulting in a slower reduction of the current account deficit, which is projected to reach 4.3% of GDP by December 2026, nearing historical averages. Overall, New Zealand's

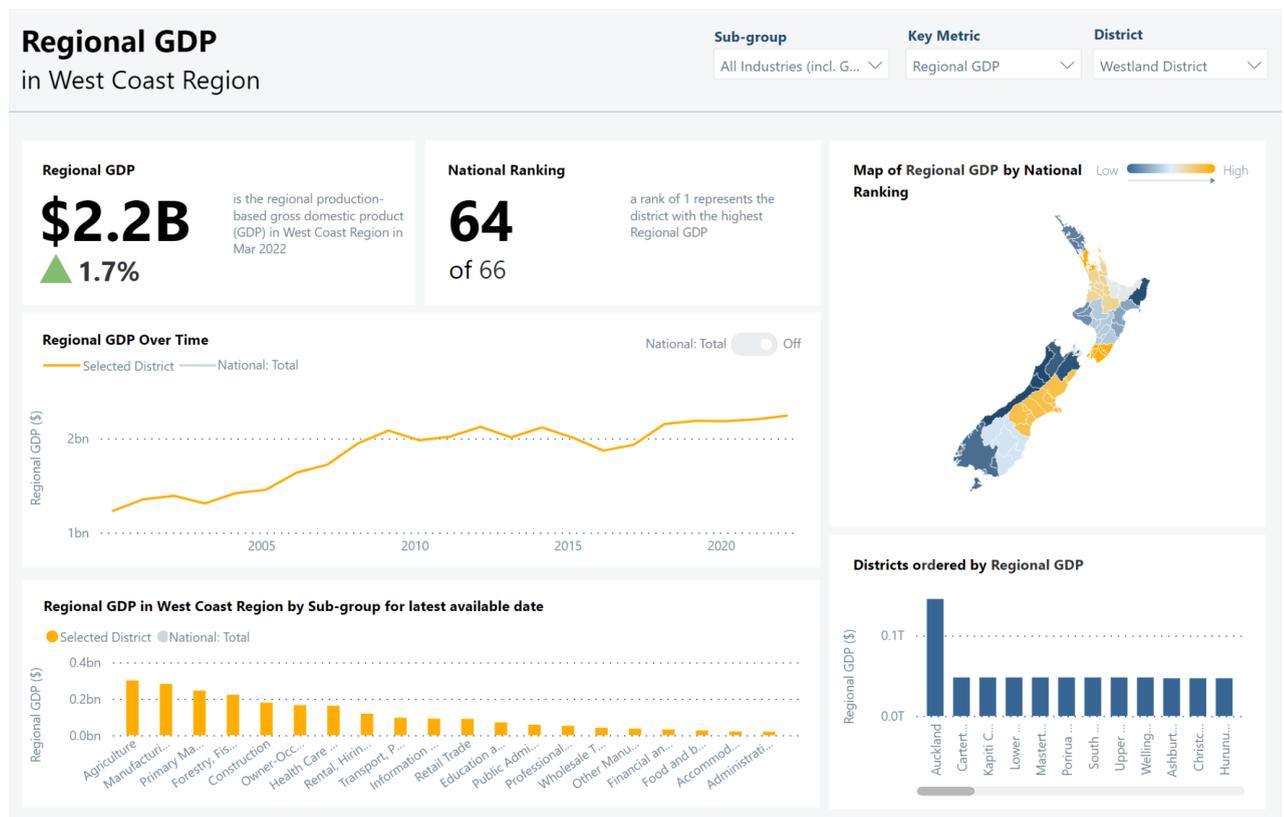
² Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Update 2023, <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-09/prefu23.pdf>



economic landscape presents a mix of challenges and opportunities, with gradual improvements expected in the medium term.

Locally, with resource-rich land and waters, Westland's economy is supported by forestry and fishing sectors, with agriculture, tourism and manufacturing also major contributors to regional GDP. Due to the international and national context described above, we expect a challenging environment for Westland's primary sector. Tourism from international markets, coming off a Covid enforced zero base, will build towards pre-Covid levels over the next three years however.

4.1 Regional GDP



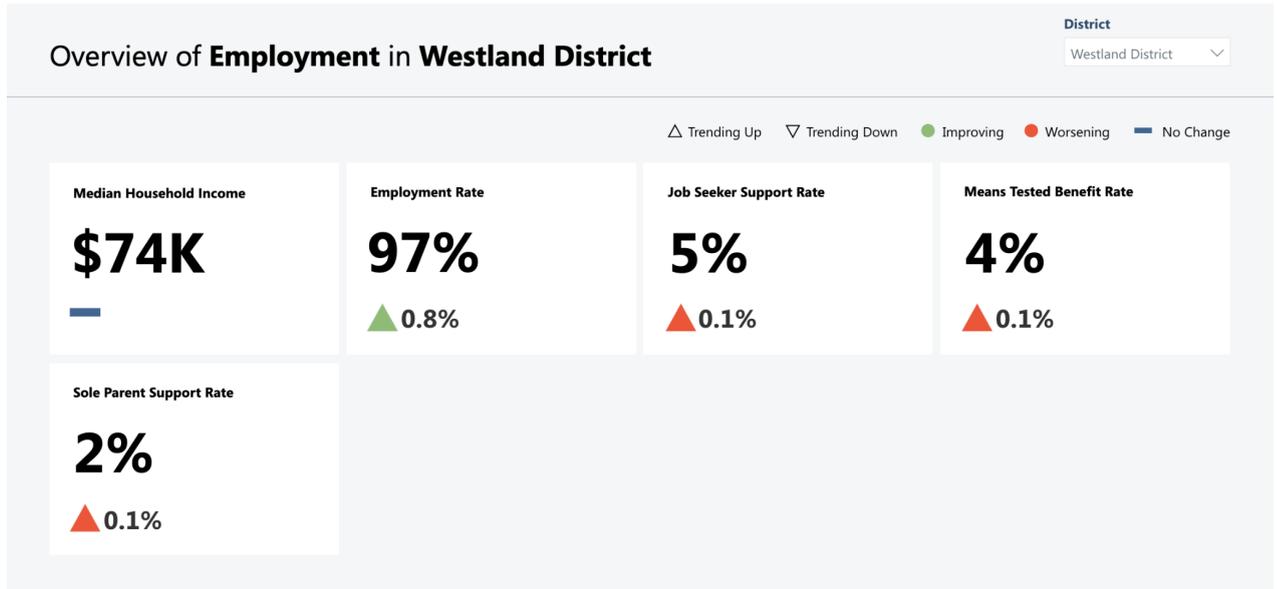
As of March 2022, the West Coast Region has a regional GDP of \$2.2b, compared with \$1.2b in March 2000. The largest sectors by GDP output are agriculture (\$301m), manufacturing (\$281m), primary manufacturing (\$245m), forestry and fishing (\$222m) and construction (\$179m).

The West Coast Regional GDP per capita as of March 2022 is \$68,000, compared with \$75,000 nationally. As a comparison with other regions, the regional GDP per capita is \$66,000 in Otago, \$72,000 in Canterbury, \$77,000 in Southland and \$49,000 in Northland.

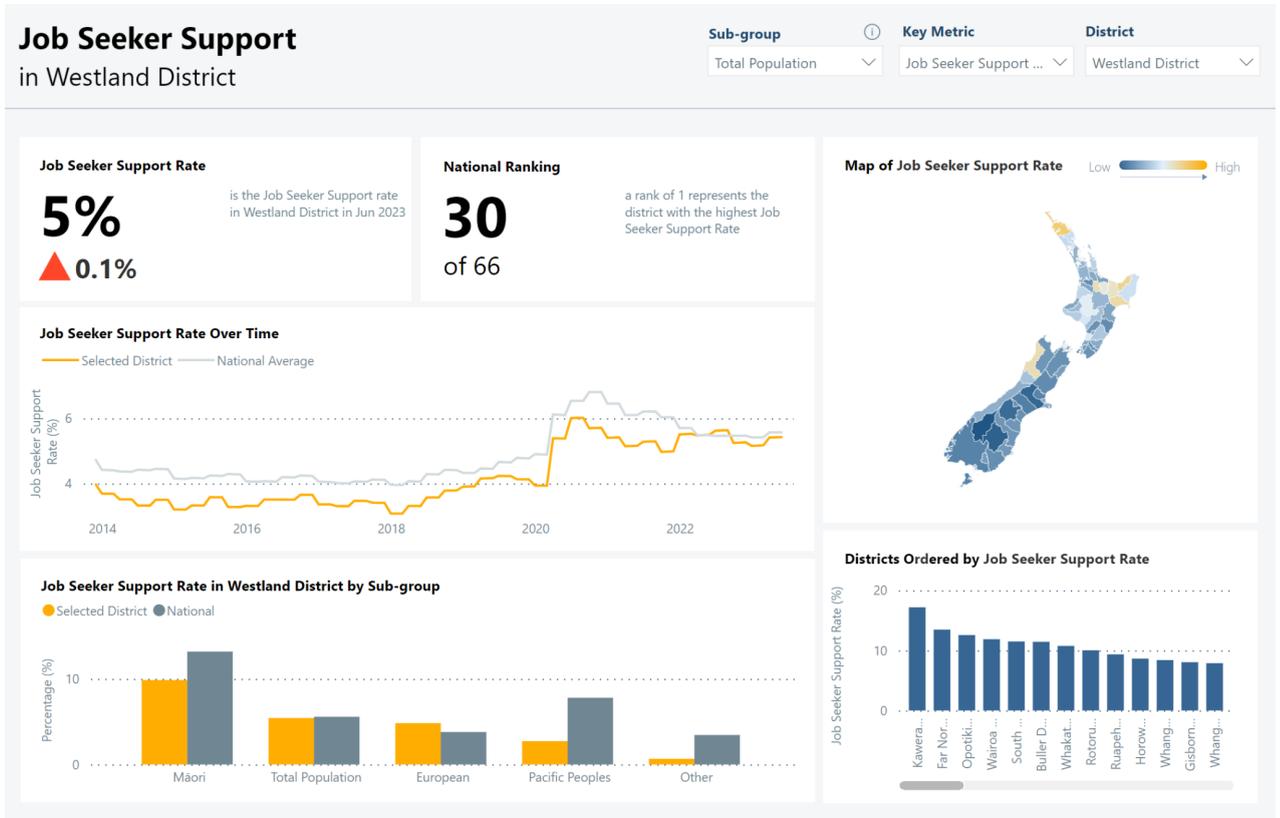


4.2 Employment and Business Growth

4.2.1 Employment



97% of Westland’s working age population is in full- or part-time employment. However, there is a significant portion of the population who are underemployed, with 5% of Westland’s working age population receiving the Job Seeker Support Benefit (30th highest of 66 territorial authorities), 4% receiving a Means Tested Benefit and 2% receiving a Sole Parent Support Benefit. Westland Māori are experiencing weaker employment outcomes than their ethnic counterparts, with 10% of the Māori working age population on Job Seeker Support.

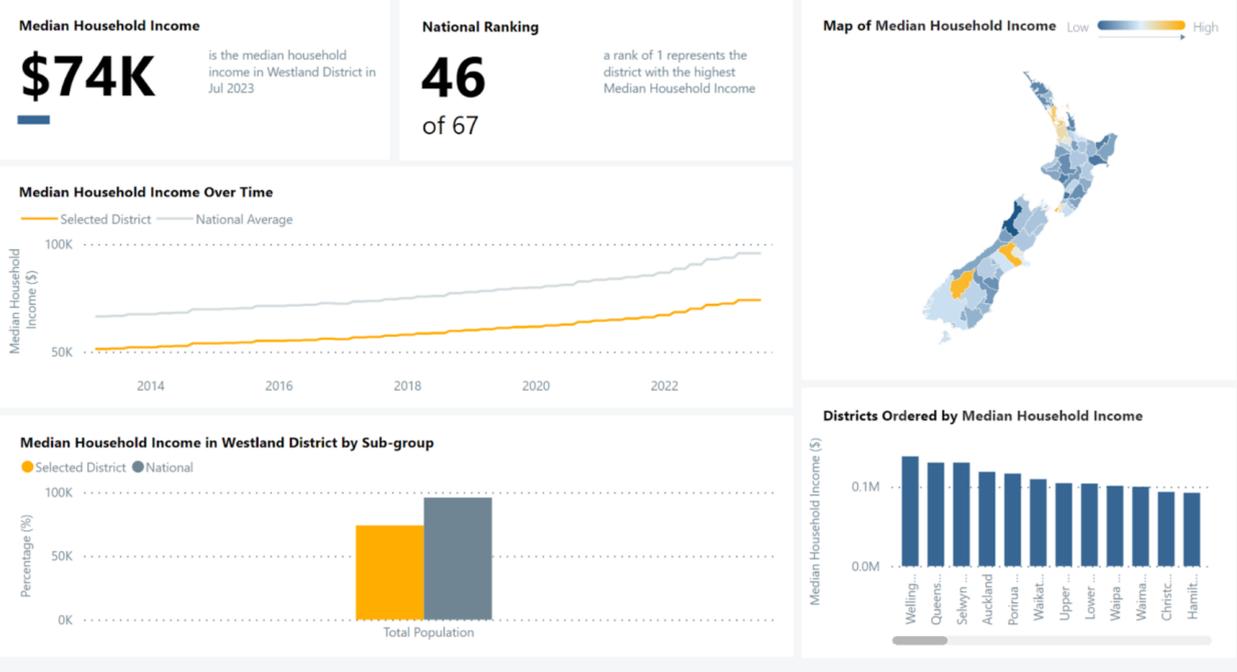


The median household income for Westland at July 2023 is \$74,020 compared to \$95,784 nationally, which reflects the lower local wages of the primary and secondary industries.



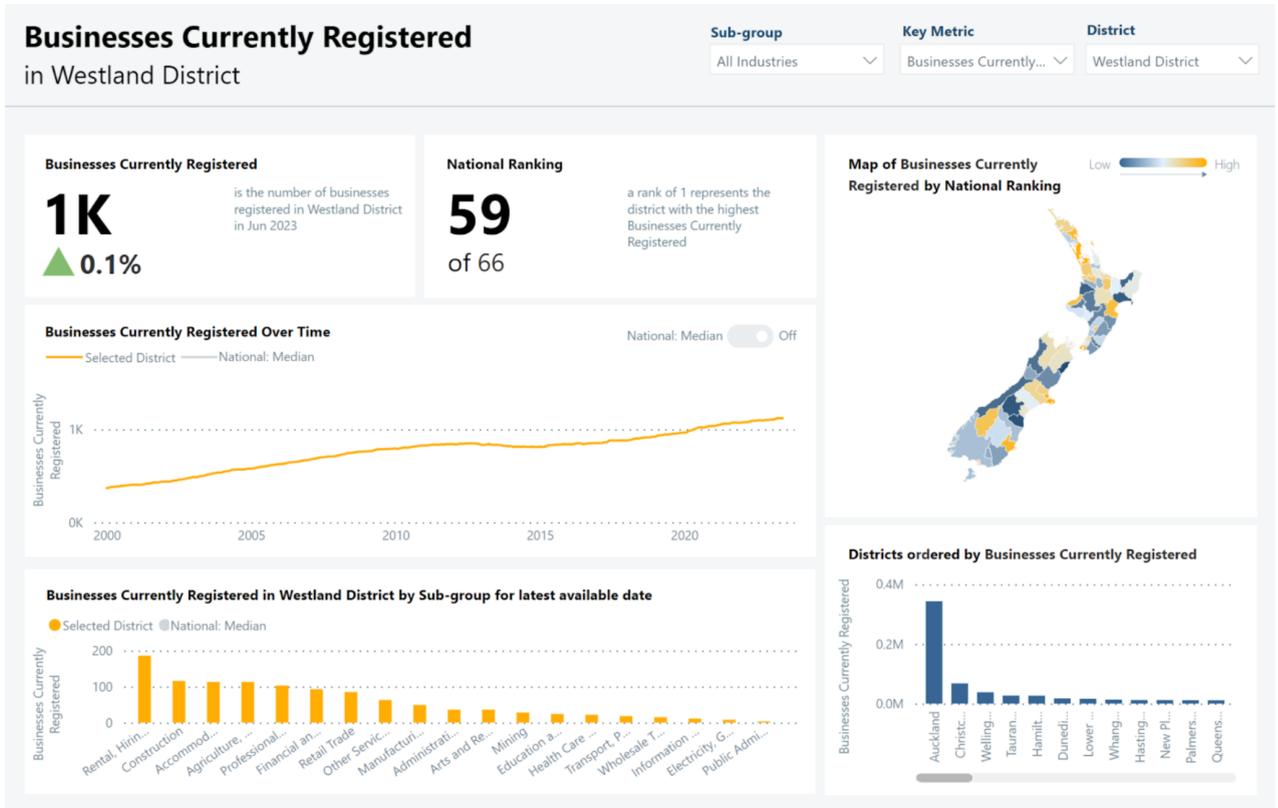
Median Household Income in Westland District

Sub-group: Total Population | Key Metric: Median Household I... | District: Westland District





4.2.2 Business Growth



There are currently 1,120 registered businesses in Westland. The largest sectors by sub-group are Rental, Hiring and Real Estate (although this category has declined considerably since 2011); Construction; Accommodation Services; Agriculture and Professional Services. Agriculture and Accommodation Services remain subdued, while 30 new Construction businesses were registered in the last 3 years.

4.3 Tourism

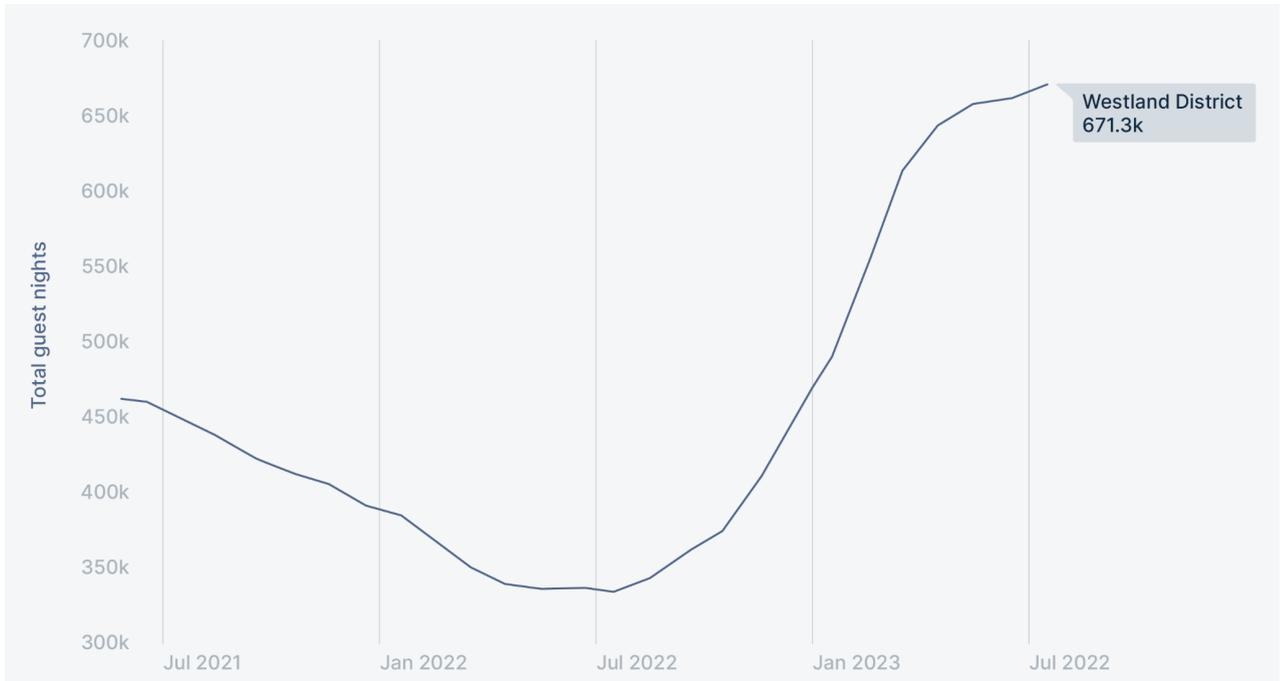
During 2022 domestic and international tourism contributed \$97m to the Westland economy, which made up 14% of Westland's GDP.

The total number of guest nights was 671,300 for international and domestic tourists to July 2023, based on a 12 month rolling sum. This shows steady growth following the relaxation of Covid restrictions and the resumption of international travel. We expect 2024 tourism guest nights to surpass the pre-Covid peak, once Chinese tourists begin to return in force.

Domestic tourism is now surpassing pre-Covid levels in Westland and during the summer peak is contributing in excess of \$6m per month to Westland's economy. By origin, the majority of spend is coming from Canterbury, Otago, Auckland, other districts within the



West Coast, and Wellington.



Domestic Tourism Spend in Westland District

Sub-group: All Regions excludin... | Key Metric: Domestic Tourism S... | District: Westland District

Domestic Tourism Spend

\$3.2M

▲ 22%

is the spend by domestic visitors from the selected region of origin in Westland District in Jul 2023

National Ranking

53

of 67

a rank of 1 represents the district with the highest Domestic Tourism Spend

Map of Domestic Tourism Spend by National Ranking

Low → High

Domestic Tourism Spend Over Time

Selected District (orange line) | National: Median (grey line)

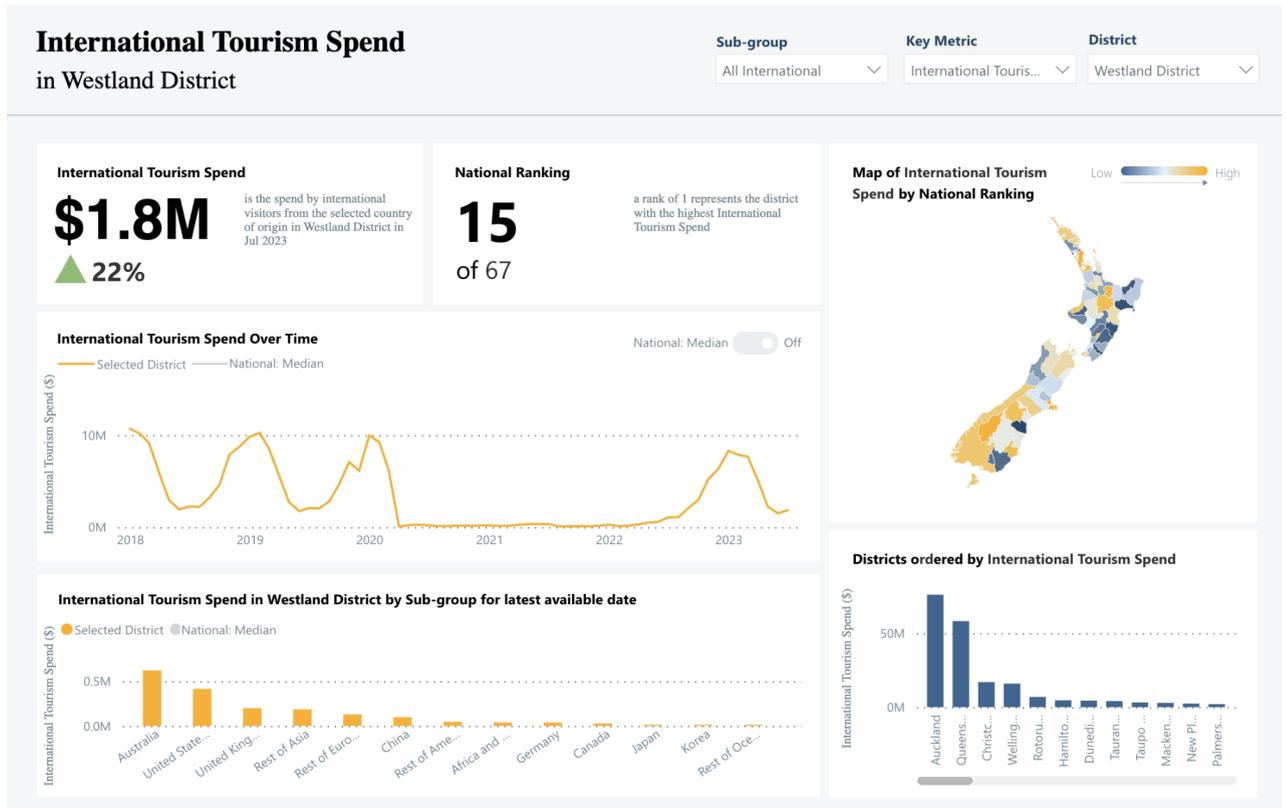
Domestic Tourism Spend in Westland District by Sub-group for latest available date

Districts ordered by Domestic Tourism Spend

International tourism is being driven by visitors from Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom, with Chinese tourists not expected to return to the New Zealand market



until late 2023. The Tourism Export Council is forecasting 3,339,444 international tourists to visit New Zealand by YE May 2025, which is slightly lower than pre-Covid levels in 2019. The forecast national tourism spend for the YE May 2025 period is \$13,298bn.³



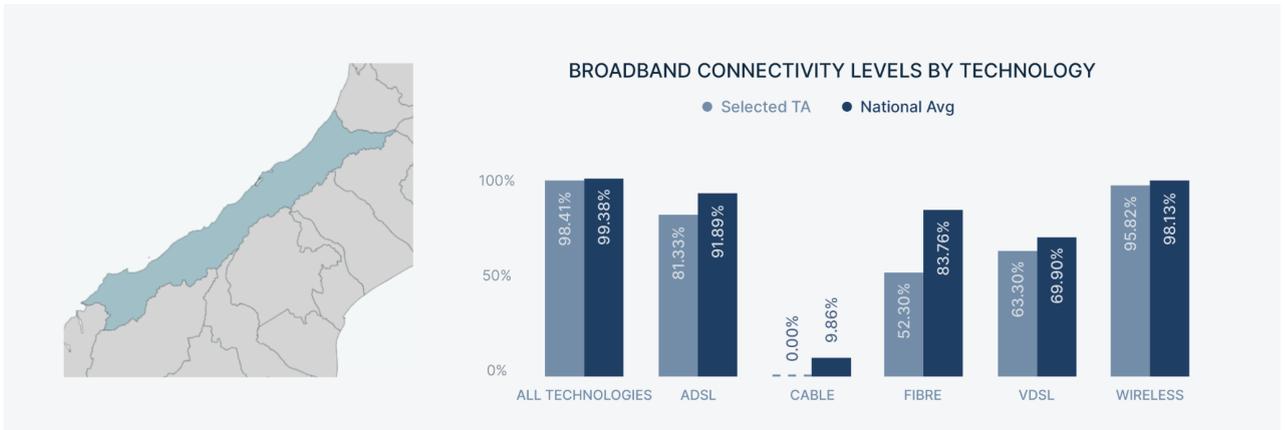
4.4 Internet Access

There are two aspects to consider for internet access: a) internet connectivity and b) internet uptake. 98.4% of Westland residents have internet connectivity, with the most widely available technology being wireless at 96%. 52% of Westland households have access to fibre, which due to Westland’s large geographical area and remoteness is below the national average of 84%.

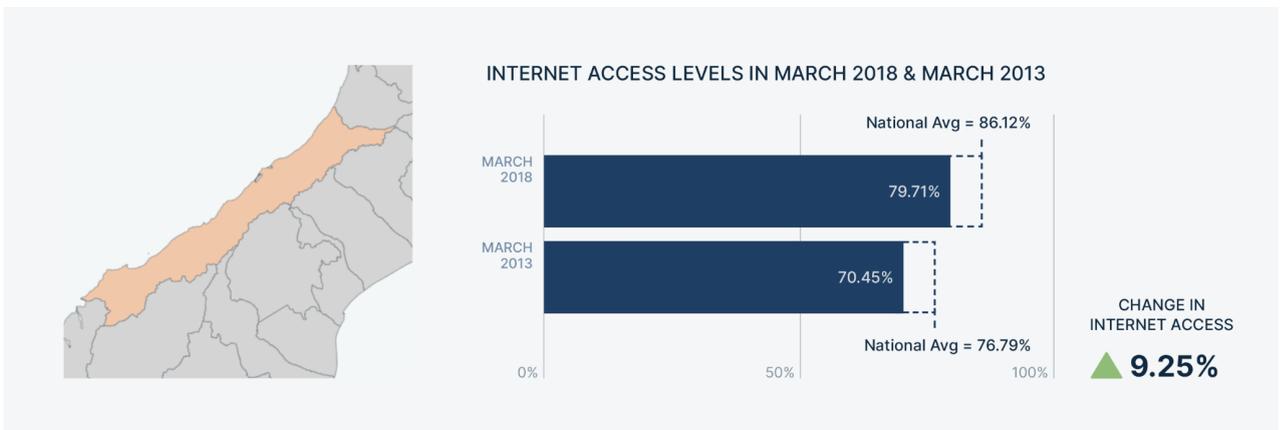
From 2024 full internet connectivity should be available via New Zealand telcos partnering with international satellite internet providers.⁴

³ Tourism Export Council of New Zealand, Updated Forecasts for YE 2025, 31 March 2022.

⁴ <https://one.nz/why-choose-us/spacex/>



Despite broadened connectivity, internet uptake can be compromised due to cost factors. For example, in 2013 70% of Westland households reported having access to the internet compared to a national average of 77%. By 2018 Westland’s internet uptake had increased to 80% compared to a national average of 86%. The results of the 2023 Census will be reported in late 2024 and we expect to see near ubiquitous internet uptake, with the exception of New Zealand’s most deprived households.



4.5 Economic Wellbeing Implications

Slow Economic Growth: The national economic forecast suggests slow growth for New Zealand, which will likely also affect Westland's economy. Persistent high-interest rates to combat inflation will limit economic expansion.

Unemployment and Wages: An increase in the unemployment rate and a reduction in wage growth will impact the local job market, potentially leading to further weakening of average household incomes and a decline in Westland’s economic wellbeing.



Impact on Households: Subdued house price growth and a softer labour market will hinder household wealth and incomes, constraining household consumption.

Business Environment: Rising costs and tepid domestic and international demand may affect Westland's export, agricultural and manufacturing sectors, potentially limiting investments.

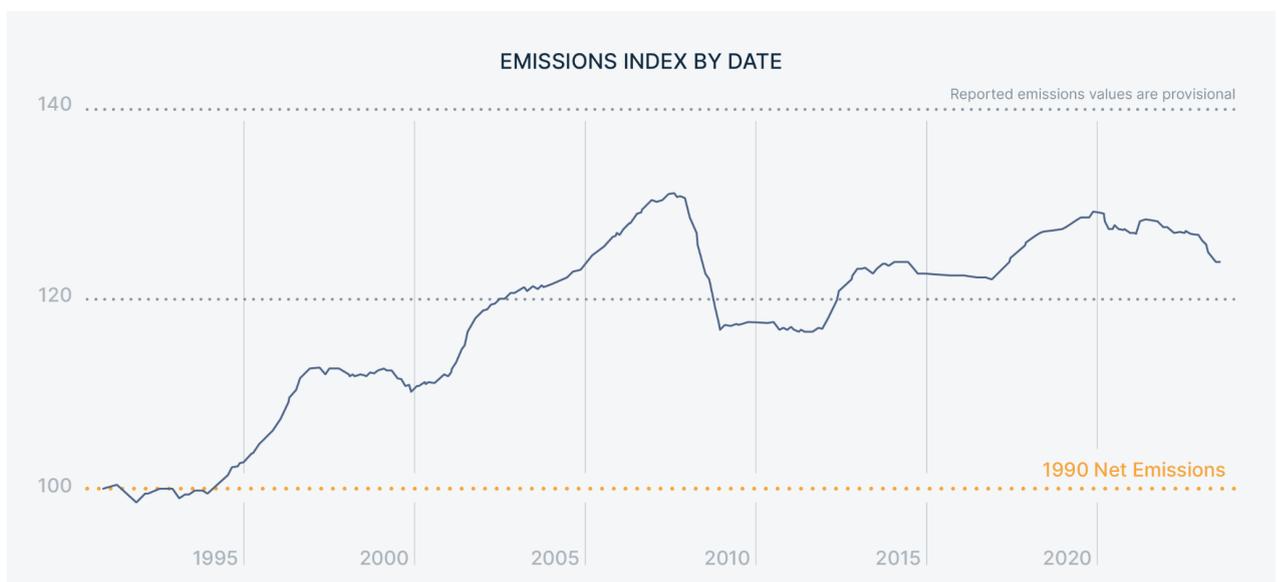
Tourism Contribution: Tourism significantly contributes to Westland's economy, with domestic tourism surpassing pre-COVID levels. The resumption of international travel is expected to further boost the tourism sector.

Improved Internet Connectivity: Efforts to improve internet connectivity through international satellite providers may benefit Westland residents by providing more reliable access, subject to its affordability.

5. Environmental Wellbeing

5.1 Carbon Emissions

The climate is changing. It is accepted internationally that further changes will result from increasing amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The climate will also vary from year to year and decade to decade due to natural processes such as El Niño. Climate change effects over the next decades are predictable with some level of certainty, and will vary from place to place throughout New Zealand.





DOT's carbon emissions index has been developed to provide a real-time insight into New Zealand's carbon emissions at a national level. It is reported as a percentage of 1990 emissions levels, the international benchmark for net greenhouse gas emissions reporting and the target year for the Zero Carbon Act.

In this sense, as the index moves towards "100", we can track how New Zealand is performing in terms of carbon emissions increase or reduction. Currently New Zealand's carbon emissions profile is tracking at 124% relative to its 1990 benchmark.

The West Coast Region makes up 1.4% of New Zealand's total carbon dioxide equivalent emissions and reduced its carbon emissions between 2007-2021 by 4.8%.⁵

Region	Carbon dioxide equivalents				Emissions intensity	
	2021				2021	2020
	Kilotonnes	Percent of total Carbon dioxide equivalents emissions	Change in kilotonnes (2007-2021)	Percent change (2007-2021)	Carbon dioxide equivalents (tonnes) per capita	Carbon dioxide equivalents (tonnes) per \$ (million) of GDP ⁵
Northland	4,049	5.2	-1,382	-25.4	20.5	492.9
Auckland	9,726	12.4	-2,217	-18.6	5.7	80.5
Waikato	16,217	20.7	972	6.4	32.0	544.8
Bay of Plenty	3,336	4.3	369	12.4	9.7	168.7
Gisborne	1,356	1.7	-108	-7.4	26.3	552.8
Hawke's Bay	3,367	4.3	-61	-1.8	18.5	342.1
Taranaki	5,002	6.4	-1,327	-21.0	39.6	644.1
Manawatu-Whanganui	5,816	7.4	-239	-4.0	22.7	449.7
Wellington	3,151	4.0	-450	-12.5	5.8	79.0
Tasman/Nelson	1,127	1.4	-129	-10.2	10.0	181.4
Tasman	763	1.0	-13	-1.6	13.2	...
Nelson	364	0.5	-116	-24.2	6.7	...
Marlborough	806	1.0	18	2.3	15.6	234.8
West Coast	1,108	1.4	-56	-4.8	33.9	649.6
Canterbury ⁶	12,049	15.4	1,721	16.7	18.5	282.9
Otago	5,142	6.6	351	7.3	20.8	369.1
Southland	6,186	7.9	444	7.7	60.2	938.4
Total all regions⁷	78,437	100.0	-2,095	-2.6	15.3	240.8

According to the Ministry for the Environment, by 2090, seasonally the West Coast Region could expect the following changes in temperature and rainfall.

Compared to 1995, temperatures are likely to be 0.7°C to 1.0°C warmer by 2040 and 0.6°C to 3.0°C warmer by 2090. The West Coast is also expected to become wetter, particularly in

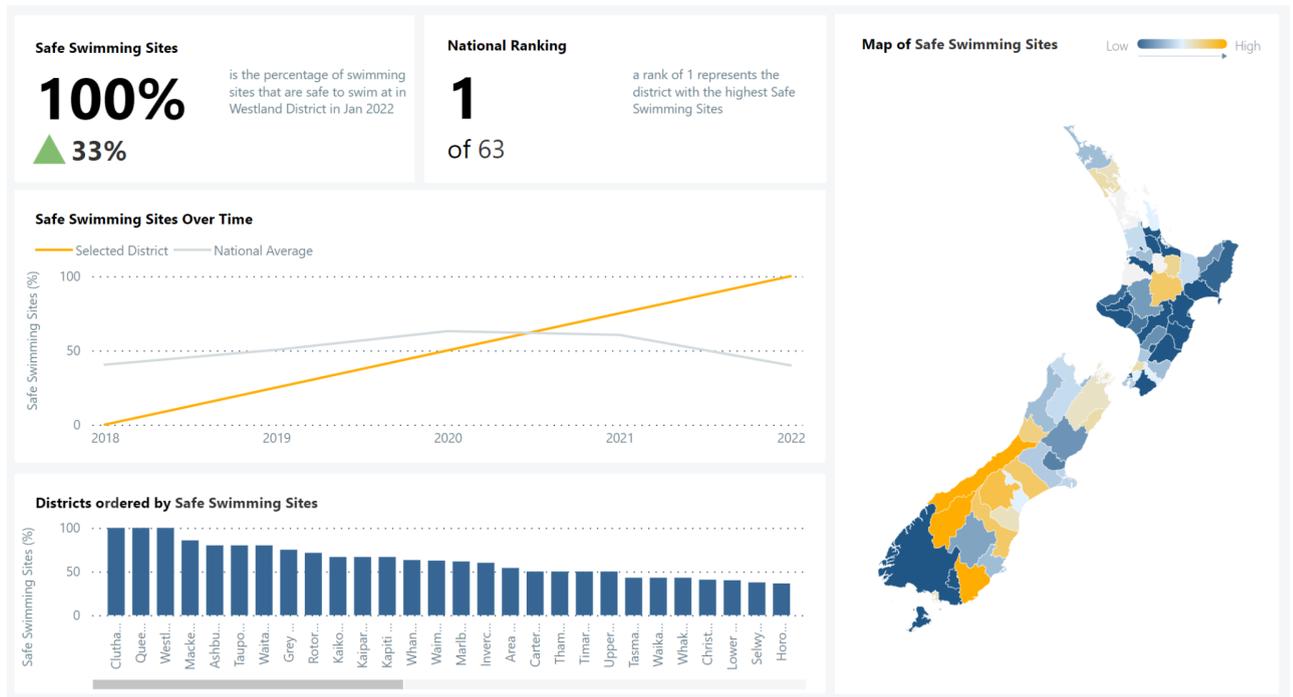
⁵ <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-region-industry-and-household-year-ended-2021/>



winter and spring. Winter rainfall in Hokitika is projected to increase by 8 to 29 per cent by 2090.⁶

5.2 Water Quality

100% of Westland’s monitored swimming sites are deemed safe, i.e. each swimming site has excellent or good annual-term swimmability. As is shown in the figure below, that ranks Westland as one of the best districts in New Zealand.



5.3 Natural Hazards

Alongside the climate change driven sea-level rise, coastal environments will be affected by changes in weather-related coastal-hazard drivers, such as storm surges, waves, winds and the frequency and intensity of storms. Westland is likely to be particularly affected by natural disasters and is vulnerable to extreme weather events. Many Westland communities are located along narrow coastal and river strips beneath mountain ranges, leaving them exposed to increased risks of storms, flooding and landslides.

The estimated insurance cost of the West Coast flooding and wind events of March 2019 was \$4.09m. Natural disaster events are becoming increasingly frequent and more

⁶ <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climatechange/likely-impacts-of-climate-change/how-could-climate-change-affect-my-region/west-coast>



expensive. The estimated cost of the damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle was \$1.5bn, with 52,000 claims received to date and 33,400 outstanding.⁷

The Alpine fault, which has a high probability (estimated 30%) of rupturing in the next 50 years, is predicted to cause extensive damage throughout Westland. An earthquake scenario developed by Otago University Department of Geology suggests that a 400 km rupture along the West Coast would break the earth's surface, could cause avalanches, rockfalls and landslides. Strong ground shaking would affect properties and destroy bridges. With these severe consequences Westland could become isolated for a long period of time with roads and communications networks cut off and disruption to power and water services.⁸

5.4 Environmental Wellbeing Implications

Climate Change Adaptation: Westland must prepare for rising temperatures and increased precipitation. This may involve infrastructure improvements, flood control measures, and disaster preparedness plans to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events and sea-level rise on local communities.

Carbon Emissions Reduction: Westland District should continue its efforts to reduce emissions. Promoting sustainable practices in agriculture, forestry, and other sectors can help align with national emissions reduction goals and Westland's reputation as a natural paradise.

Water Quality Monitoring: Westland should maintain its excellent water quality to preserve its reputation as a desirable destination for residents and tourists. Monitoring and addressing potential water quality issues, especially in light of climate change impacts, is essential.

Natural Hazard Preparedness: Westland District needs robust disaster response plans to address the potential impacts of events like flooding and earthquakes along the Alpine fault. Infrastructure resilience, emergency communication, and evacuation plans should be a priority.

⁷ <https://www.icnz.org.nz/industry/cost-of-natural-disasters/>

⁸ Orchiston, Caroline & Wilson, Tom & Johnston, David & Becker, Julia & Davies, Alistair. (2018). Project AF8: developing a coordinated, multi-agency response plan for a future great Alpine Fault earthquake. New Zealand Journal of Geology and Geophysics. 10.1080/00288306.2018.1455716.

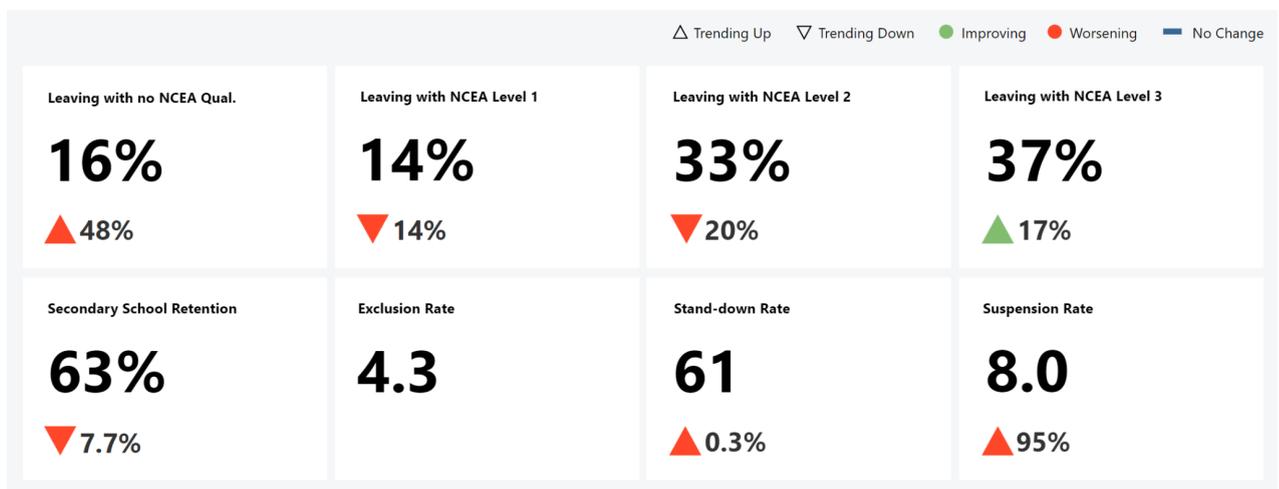


6. Cultural Wellbeing

6.1 Education

Educationally Westland schools are achieving below their national counterparts. 63% of school students are staying at school until 17, compared with a national average of 82%. 37% are achieving NCEA Level 3, compared with 57% nationally.

In the chart below we've summarised the leading education indicator results from 2021 compared with 2020:



Contrary to most other districts, Westland’s Māori school students are performing stronger than European students. 67% of Māori students are staying at school until 17 years of age (60% for Pakeha), while 39% are achieving NCEA Level 3 (34% for Pakeha).



6.2 Recreation

Westland District stretches 400 kilometres from its north to south and is bordered by the Tasman Sea to the west and the Southern Alps to the east. The stunning natural landscape offers multivariate recreation activities, including glaciers, beaches, lakes, rivers, mountains and over 80% of the land area under Department of Conservation stewardship through national parks.

Spread across the district are a number of small communities with residential populations of less than 500 people. Even the population of the largest Westland town of Hokitika (2,879) is small by New Zealand standards. Providing organised sport and recreation opportunities and facilities to such a small and geographically linear population is a significant challenge. Despite this, Westland reports high levels of recreation activity within schools and the broader population due to a strong volunteering and fundraising ethos.

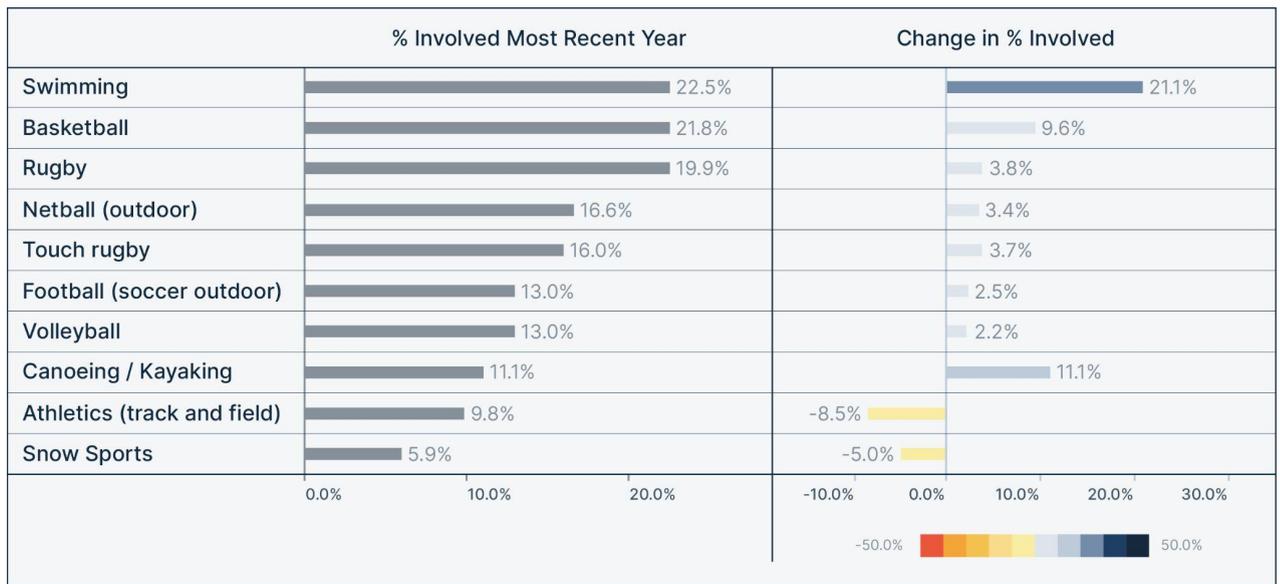
Trends affecting New Zealand generally and also Westland’s recreation community include:

- Static or declining participation levels: Casual participation is becoming a preference and more codes are on offer than we’ve seen in previous years.



- The impact of young people leaving the district for boarding school is apparent with some codes reporting a resulting reduction in participation numbers
- Declining Volunteerism: Many sport and recreation groups are finding it harder to secure the volunteers needed to sustain and operate their activities.⁹

The below chart highlights Westland’s secondary school sport participation trends:¹⁰



6.3 Implications

Challenges in Educational Attainment: Westland schools are facing challenges in terms of educational attainment and the lower attainment levels may indicate systemic issues affecting educational outcomes in the district. High rates of early school leaving can limit future opportunities for students and have long-term implications for their employment prospects, earnings and overall well-being.

Positive Performance of Māori Students: A positive trend in Westland is that Māori school students are performing better academically than their European classmates. This highlights the importance of recognising and building on the strengths within the local Māori community. It may also be an opportunity to implement educational strategies that are culturally responsive and inclusive.

⁹ <https://sportnz.org.nz/media/4730/west-coast-spaces-places-plan-2020.pdf>

¹⁰ Ibid.



Geographic Isolation: The district's elongated shape and scattered small communities pose challenges for providing organised sport and recreation opportunities. The distance between these communities can make it logistically difficult to offer centralised facilities and programs. It may be necessary to explore creative solutions to ensure that residents across the district have access to recreational activities.

Preference for Casual Participation: The trend towards casual participation suggests that structured, long-term commitments to sports and recreation activities may decline. Westland may need to adapt by offering more flexible and varied recreational options that cater to the preferences of its residents. This could include pop-up events, short-term programs, or drop-in activities.

Impact of Boarding Schools: The decrease in participation due to young people attending boarding schools highlights the need for initiatives that engage youth during school breaks and holidays. The district can consider partnerships with schools or seasonal programs to maintain recreational engagement among young residents.

Declining Volunteerism: The challenge of securing volunteers is a concern for many sport and recreation groups. In Westland, where the population is relatively small and widely dispersed, this issue may be particularly acute. The district could explore strategies to incentivise and support volunteers, such as training programs, recognition, or incentives.

Strong Volunteering and Fundraising Ethos: Despite declining volunteerism trends, Westland's strong volunteering and fundraising ethos can be leveraged to address some of these challenges. Encouraging community involvement and support for recreational activities can help bridge gaps caused by limited resources.

Natural Landscape as an Asset: The stunning natural landscape in Westland is a significant asset for recreation. The district can continue to promote and develop activities that take advantage of its unique environment, such as hiking, outdoor adventures, and nature-based tourism, to attract residents and visitors alike.

7. Regulatory Scan

Westland District Council operates within a regulatory framework that encompasses various Acts and Regulations. The regulatory landscape is dynamic, and Westland District Council must stay informed and adaptable to comply with evolving legislation and policies that affect its operations and service delivery to the community. Multiple key developments at



the national level may have implications for the council's operations and responsibilities. Below is a summary of these developments:

Three Waters Review

The Government's Three Waters Review aims to enhance the affordability and sustainability of water delivery in New Zealand. Key proposed changes include:

New Water Regulator (Taumata Arowai): The establishment of a new water regulator, Taumata Arowai, responsible for overseeing and regulating the water sector. This regulator will play a pivotal role in ensuring water services meet high standards.

Fewer, Larger Water Service Entities: The review proposes reducing the number of water service entities, consolidating them into a smaller, more specialized group. This streamlining aims to improve efficiency and effectiveness in water service delivery.

Larger-Scale Water Delivery: A significant shift toward larger-scale water service delivery is proposed. This approach is expected to achieve economies of scale and enhance the sustainability of water services.

Public Ownership: The ownership of water entities will remain in the public domain, ensuring that water services continue to be publicly owned and operated.

Stringent Compliance Standards: Water service providers will be required to meet rigorous standards. Noncompliance with these standards could result in significant penalties, emphasising the importance of maintaining high-quality water services.

Strong Links with Councils and Mana Whenua: The proposed entities will maintain strong strategic connections with local councils and mana whenua (Māori tribal authorities). Collaboration with these stakeholders is seen as essential for effective water service management.

Implications: Westland District Council may need to adapt its water services in line with any recommendations and changes arising from the review. For Westland District it will be important to ensure access to safe water for Westland residents, resilient infrastructure, climate-responsive services, collaboration with iwi, comprehensive catchment management, local job retention, smooth transitions, and community engagement in local decision-making.



Taumata Arowai: New Water Services Regulator

Taumata Arowai has been established as the new regulatory body to oversee, administer, and enforce the drinking water regulatory system.

Implications: The council will need to collaborate with Taumata Arowai to ensure compliance with drinking water regulations.

Three Waters Service Delivery and Funding Arrangements

Central government is considering responses to affordability and capability challenges in the three waters sector, supporting collaborative approaches.

Implication: Westland District Council may explore collaborative initiatives and seek financial assistance for sustainable changes to water service delivery.

Te Tai Poutini Plan (TTPP)

The TTPP is a comprehensive planning initiative under the Resource Management Act (RMA) in New Zealand. It represents a collaborative effort involving the four West Coast councils and local iwi to streamline and improve district planning in the region.

In 2015, prompted by community requests, the Local Government Commission embarked on a process to reorganise local government on the West Coast. In 2018, the Commission proposed transferring the responsibility for preparing district plans from individual district councils to the West Coast Regional Council. This transition aims to simplify planning processes and improve efficiency.

The TTPP Committee, comprising representatives from each council and local iwi, has full decision-making powers and is chaired by an independent chairperson. This committee is tasked with developing and approving a combined District Plan covering the entire West Coast region. The plan's objectives align with the purpose of local government, focusing on democratic decision-making, infrastructure development, and efficient regulatory functions.

The plan is expected to offer several benefits, including better consideration of local issues, alignment with national policy and standards, cost savings by consolidating planning efforts, and improved consistency in development rules and hazard management across the region. It also aims to reduce the need for multiple plan submissions, making it more user-friendly for the community.



Overall, the TTPP represents a collaborative and efficient approach to district planning, aiming to meet the needs of West Coast communities and regulatory requirements while promoting consistency and cost-effectiveness.

Implications: The intent of the District Plan is to provide for a vibrant Westland District that provides for its natural and cultural environment and appropriately utilises Council infrastructure. Westland District Council notified the TTPP in 2022, giving some rules immediate legal effect. The 2002 District Plan will remain operative until the process for implementing the Proposed TTPP has been completed.

Resource Management Act (RMA) Review

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is New Zealand's primary environmental legislation, guiding the management of natural and physical resources. It promotes the principle of sustainable management and regulates various aspects, including land use and infrastructure provision. The RMA has introduced sustainable resource management practices with environmental safeguards.

While offering national direction on significant environmental issues, the RMA empowers local communities to make decisions through regional and district resource management plans. Local governments play a pivotal role in resource management decisions under this framework.

The RMA includes 16 regulations covering diverse activities, such as authority approvals, heritage protection, marine pollution, water metering, and national environmental standards.

The government has undertaken a comprehensive review of the resource management system, focusing on the RMA, with an emphasis on improving outcomes for the environment, society, and the economy. This review considers New Zealand's unique natural characteristics, the Treaty relationship with iwi/Māori, and the various ways people connect with the environment.

Proposed changes to the RMA were outlined in the Resource Management Amendment Bill, including a new freshwater planning process aligned with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.

New laws, the Spatial Planning Act (SPA) and the Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA) began coming into effect on 24 August 2023. They will gradually phase in over about a 10-year period. At the national level, the National Planning Framework (NPF) – which will bring together current national policies and standards and add extra content – will be rolled



out over the coming years. At the regional level, regional planning committees will develop the Regional Spatial Strategies, then their NBE plans. Each region will fully switch to the new system when its Natural and Built Environment Plan comes into effect. For example, this is when new resource consent processes will begin, and when the NPF will apply on the ground.

Implication: Changes resulting from the RMA review may affect land use and resource management in the district.

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

The ETS is the primary tool for meeting climate change targets, with proposed reforms, including introducing emissions caps. The *Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading Reform) Amendment Act 2020*, enacted in June 2020, introduced significant changes to the ETS to enhance its functionality and integrity. Key provisions include the implementation of penalties, effective from January 1, 2021, for non-compliance with emissions return deadlines and incorrect submissions. Industrial allocations began phasing out in 2021, shifting towards a market-driven approach. To increase transparency, participant emissions data and penalty information are now published. The fixed price option (FPO) rate rose from \$25 to \$35 per unit for emissions and removals attributed to 2020. Auctioning of New Zealand units commenced in 2021, and legacy units from the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period were cancelled. These changes aim to strengthen compliance and transparency within the ETS.

Implication: The council will need to align its practices to meet ETS requirements and will be required to promote emissions reduction efforts.

Zero Carbon Legislation

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act sets emissions reduction targets and established a Climate Change Commission.

Implication: Westland District Council is required to align with the climate change policies and work toward reducing emissions, as set out in the Zero Carbon Act.

Draft National Policy Statements

National Policy Statements for Indigenous Biodiversity and Freshwater Management set objectives and policies for resource management.



Implication: Compliance with these draft statements will be essential for managing biodiversity and freshwater resources in the district.

Crown Minerals Act (CMA) Review

The review aimed to ensure that the Crown Minerals Act supports the Government's goals of economic productivity and environmental sustainability.

To align with broader government policy goals, including the phasing out of fossil fuels, a new Bill was subsequently introduced to amend the CMA. This legislation aims to ensure that mineral resource management is consistent with New Zealand's decarbonisation objectives and overall transition towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly economy. The Crown Minerals Amendment Act came into force on 30 August 2023.

Implication: Changes may impact mineral exploration and extraction activities within Westland, which could also create change within the local labour market.

Waste Disposal Levy and Reducing Waste

The Waste Disposal Levy encourages responsible waste management, and there are proposals to increase the levy and expand its scope.

Starting from July 1, 2021, the New Zealand government began to gradually increase and broaden the national waste disposal levy to manage waste more effectively. This expansion involves raising the levy rate for household waste landfills from the existing \$10 per tonne (set in 2009) to \$60 per tonne by July 2024.

Additionally, the levy will extend to cover various landfill types, including construction and demolition fills. This initiative aims to collect better waste data and invest the additional levy revenue in waste reduction initiatives, including the development of local recycling infrastructure and resource recovery efforts.

Implication: Westland District Council is required to align its waste management practices with changing levy regulations.