



AGENDA

RĀRANGI TAKE

NOTICE OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF

COUNCIL

to be held on **Thursday 30 September 2021**
commencing at 1.00 pm in the Council Chambers,
36 Weld Street, Hokitika and via Zoom

Chairperson: His Worship the Mayor

Members: Cr Carruthers (Deputy)

Cr Hart

Cr Kennedy

Cr Martin

Kw Tumahai

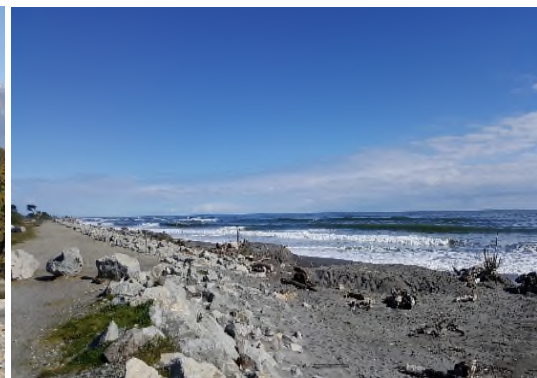
Cr Davidson

Cr Hartshorne

Cr Keogan

Cr Neale

Kw Madgwick



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

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 (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 – 26 August 2021.**

6. ACTION LIST

(Pages 5-7)

7. NGĀ TĀPAETANGA PRESENTATIONS

- **Jobs for Nature, Conservation Board and Kapitia skinks**
Owen Kilgour, Operations Manager, Hokitika District, Department of Conservation (1.15 pm)
- **Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency**
James Caygill, Director Regional Relationships, West Coast/Canterbury/Otago/Southland (1.45 pm)
- **WDC Transportation Update**
Karl Jackson, Transportation Manager (2.15 pm)

8. PŪRONGO KAIMAHI STAFF REPORTS

- **Financial Report to August 2021**
Lynley Truman, Finance Manager (Pages 8-20)
- **Westland Holdings Limited - Director Appointment Extension**
Lesley Crichton, Group Manager: Corporate Services (Pages 21-23)
- **Annual Dog Control Policies and Practices**
Te Aroha Cook, Group Manager: Regulatory and Community Services (Pages 24-30)
- **Smokefree and Vapefree Environments Policy 2021 – Council Buildings and Public Spaces**
Te Aroha Cook, Group Manager: Regulatory and Community Services (Pages 31-35)
- **Responsible Camping Funding**
Scott Baxendale, Group Manager: District Assets (Pages 36-38)
- **Three Waters Reform – Statement of Proposal**
Scott Baxendale, Group Manager: District Assets (Pages 39-91)

9. NOTICE OF MOTION

(Page 92)

A notice of motion has been submitted by Councillor Latham Martin, Hokitika Ward Councillor.

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

(to consider and adopt confidential items)

Resolutions to exclude the public: Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

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

Item No.	General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
1.	Confidential Minutes – 26 August 2021	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.	Westland District Road Maintenance 2021-2024	Good reason to withhold exist under Section 7	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists. Section 48(1)(a)
3.	Waste Management Delivery Method and Contract Alignment	Good reason to withhold exist under Section 7	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists. Section 48(1)(a)
4.	Three Waters Procurement	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
1	Protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.
1, 2, 3, 4	Protect information where the making available of the information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Would disclose a trade secret; or (ii) Would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
1, 2, 3, 4	Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)
1, 2, 3, 4	Prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

**DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 28 OCTOBER 2021
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM**

30.09.21 - Council Meeting - Action List

Item No.	Date of Meeting	COMPLETED IN PROGRESS OVERDUE	Item	Action	Completion Date/Target Date	Officer	Status
1	28.06.18		Kaniere School Students – Cycle trail 1. Crossing Progress 2. Crossing Placement 3. Site Visit (3 Actions merged 26.11.20 and updated)	Council staff to get back to the Kaniere School Students regarding the proposal.	Oct 2020	GM, DA & CE	The site for the crossing has been revised based on a site visit by Mayor, CE & GMDA. As part of the works planned at the crossing, additional footpaths are to be created and the road is to be realigned and changed to a T-intersection. Work has started on the project with an expected completion date of 31 st October 2021 Propose an opening invitation with Councillors and the Kaniere School
2	10.12.20		Speed Limit Register Review – Stage 2	Review of the speed limits on the below roads/areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kokatahi/Kowhitirangi Area • Old Christchurch Road • Kaniere Road • Lake Kaniere Road and surrounding areas (Hans Bay, Sunny Bight, Lake Kaniere) 	2021	GMDA	This item is on hold awaiting Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency speed limit review. A presentation is being delivered to the Council meeting on the 30 th Sept 2021
3	10.12.20		Ross Chinese Gardens – Flooding issues	Update to Council on progress	Feb 2021	CE	Cr Keogan working on a Masterplan with the Ross Community. Lake level management – a meeting has been held, an engineering design will be completed, and an application for a resource consent will be submitted to the West Coast Regional Council. Lake Level Project – onsite meeting with Department of Conservation was held. The engineering design will be completed and

Item No.	Date of Meeting	COMPLETED IN PROGRESS OVERDUE	Item	Action	Completion Date/Target Date	Officer	Status
							application for resource consent will be submitted to the West Coast Regional Council, with an endeavour to have this completed through the summer period.
4	25.03.21		Mark Davies, DOC to speak at an upcoming Council Meeting.	Invite Mark Davies to speak to Council as the Operations Director around the issues DOC are facing with the National Park Management Plan.	Completed	CE	Mark Davies, Director Operations (Western South Island) has been invited to attend the August-September Council meeting. Presenting at today's meeting.
5	25.03.21		Kumara Gardens	Update to Council at the next meeting.	On going	CE	A meeting with representatives of the Kumara Community Group held on the 13 August 2021. WDC supporting the group with the tender's process. Post the tender the community group will provide an update to council.
7	24.06.21		Revell Street Trial – Stage 2	The following items were agreed upon: A) The concept for Revell Street be workshopped with Councillors within a three week period, incorporating a breakdown of costings to date being provided to Councillors. B) The repainting of the traffic lines, traffic calming mechanisms and pedestrian crossing work to be paused and deferred to the workshop for discussion. C) The seating areas and elevated platforms		PM	Workshop with Councillors held on the 12 July 2021, and direction provided to staff on Stage 2 of the trial.

Item No.	Date of Meeting	COMPLETED IN PROGRESS OVERDUE	Item	Action	Completion Date/Target Date	Officer	Status
				(decking structure) be progressed with urgency.			
9	26.08.21		Hokitika Waste Water Treatment Plant Project	Finalised Programme of work to be brought before Council at a future date and Council updated during the stages of the project.	In progress – Long Term Project 2026	CE	WWTP Project Workshop tentatively booked for 21 September 2021. Constructive workshop held on the 21 st September
10	26.08.21		Old Christchurch Road seal extension	The Chief Executive to investigate the cost of finishing the proposed sealing of the Old Christchurch Road up to the 12kms.	In progress	CE	Review including desk top exercise, site visits and contractor liaison to be completed by 31 st Dec 2021
12	26.08.21		Investigate costs to bring the WDC HQ & Pakiwaitara buildings up to 100% National Building standards	CE to discuss with Group Manager: District Assets	In progress	CE & DA	Following preliminary structural surveys conducted by Simco, Johnson and Associates have been commissioned to arrange for the production of outline architectural drawings which will lead to the development of accurate costings
13	26.08.21		Pakiwaitara Building Business Case Timeline	Business case and scope of work to be brought to Council after the structural elements of the work have been identified, costed and timelines finalised.	In progress	CE	As above
17	26.08.21		Seek Arborist advice on the removal and relocation to the 2 large palm trees outside the swimming pool.	Recommended contacting Neil Challenger.	Completed	CE & DA	Advice has been sought from Neil Challenger and also Tree Transplant Services who are based in Tauranga. A methodology for the transplantation has been given. The location proposed for the transplanting is not the issue in this case. However, there are risks in removing any established tree.

Report to Council



DATE: 30 September 2021

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Finance Manager

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE: AUGUST 2021

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an indication of Councils financial performance for one month to 31 August 2021.
- 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 31 August 2021.

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 Audit and Risk Committee on a quarterly basis which includes non-financial information against KPI's adopted through the Long Term Plan.
- 2.2 The Audit and Risk Committee received a report to the end of March 2021 and did not find any issues of concern.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1. The financial performance report has had some changes made to the format and the actual data presented.
- 3.2. The information in the report is now of a more 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.
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. The financial performance report to 31 August 2021 is attached as **Appendix 1** and contains the following elements;
 - 3.4.1. Sustainability report

- 3.4.2. Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense
- 3.4.3. Notes to the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense
- 3.4.4. Revenue and Expenditure Graphs
- 3.4.5. Debtors
- 3.4.6. Debt position
- 3.4.7. Capital Report

4. Options

- 4.1. Option 1: The Council receives the Financial Performance Report to August 2021
- 4.2. Option 2: The Council does not receive the Financial Performance Report to August 2021

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.

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. There are no financial implications to this option.
- 8.3. 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.
- 8.4. There are no 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 report is administrative in nature and to do nothing would create a financial risk 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 August 2021 be received.

Lynley Truman
Finance Manager

Appendix 1: Financial Performance to August 2021

Appendix 1



Financial Performance Year to August 2021

Contents

Sustainability Report.....	3
Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense	5
Notes to the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense	6
Revenue & Expenditure Graphs.....	7
Debtors as at 31 August 2021	8
Rates Debtors as at 31 August 2021	8
Debt Position.....	9
Capital Report.....	10

Sustainability Report

Total revenue	Total expenditure	Total surplus/(deficit)
\$5.34M	\$4.44M	\$0.91M
Is 10.37% more than the total budget of \$4.84M	Is 0.76% more than the total budget of \$4.4M	Against a budget of \$0.44M

SUSTAINABILITY

Rates to operating revenue **47.97%**

Rates Revenue	\$2.56M
Operating Revenue	\$5.34M

47.97% 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.

Balanced budget ratio **120.47%**

Operating revenue	\$5.34M
Operating expenditure	\$4.44M

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 120.47% of operating expenditure.

Interest to rates revenue (LGFA Cov.) **3.53%**

Net interest and finance costs	\$0.09M
Rates Revenue	\$2.56M

3.53% of rates revenue is paid in interest. Our set limit is 25% of rates revenue. Net interest is interest paid less interest received. Rates revenue includes penalties, water supply by meter and gross of remissions.

Interest to operating revenue **1.69%**

Net Interest and finance costs	\$0.09M
Operating revenue	\$5.34M

1.69% of operating revenue is paid in interest. Our set limit is 10% of operating revenue. Net interest is interest paid less interest received.

Liquidity Risk (LGFA Cov.)**163%**

Gross debt	\$21.82M
Undrawn committed facilities	\$2.98M
Cash and cash equivalents	\$10.71M

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 163%

Essential services ratio**807.17%**

Capital expenditure	\$7.49M
Depreciation	\$0.93M

Capital expenditure should be equal or more than depreciation for essential services. Year to date capex is 807.17% of depreciation. Essential Services are Water Supply, Wastewater, Stormwater, and Roding. The high ratio is mainly due to government funded 3W and roading projects carried forward into the 2021-22 financial year.

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

For the period ended August 2021

	Notes	Full Year Forecast (\$000)	Full Year Budget (\$000)	YTD Budget (\$000)	Actual YTD (\$000)	Variance YTD (\$000)	Var/Bud %
Revenue							
Rates	01	17,929	18,030	2,665	2,564	(101)	-3.80%
Grants and subsidies	02	11,144	10,750	1,667	2,061	394	23.64%
Interest Revenue		10	8	3	6	3	88.15%
Fees and Charges	03	1,842	1,801	309	350	41	13.20%
Other revenue	04.	1,175	1,009	199	365	166	83.37%
Total operating revenue		32,100	31,598	4,842	5,344	502	10.37%
Expenditure							
Employee Benefit expenses	05	5,436	5,474	908	870	(38)	-4.18%
Finance Costs		924	904	77	96	19	25.26%
Depreciation		7,864	7,864	1,311	1,311	-	0.00%
Other expenses	06	12,863	12,811	2,107	2,159	52	2.47%
Total operating expenditure		27,087	27,053	4,403	4,436	33	0.76%
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		5,014	4,545	440	908	469	106.58%

Notes to the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

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

01 Rates

Rates income is lower than planned mainly due to lower income from metered water charges, \$48k, and higher rates discounts given to full payment of rates before the end of August, (\$47k).

02 Grants and subsidies

The variance is mainly due to qualifying grant expenditure carried forward from the 2020-21 financial year:

Grant	\$
Old Christchurch Road/Cron Street	66,102
3 Waters Projects	535,155
Swimming Pool	47,485
Jackson's Wharf	287,341
Butlers Landfill	11,662
Carnegie Building	121,354
Halls & war memorials repair	42,701
Mayors Task Force for Jobs	312,189
Responsible Camping	7,752
Total	1,431,741

The difference between grants carried forward and the variance is mainly due to timing differences of budgeted grants not received, Hokitika wastewater, \$1.07m.

03 Fees and charges

Actual income is higher than planned mainly due to increased resource consents, building inspection and processing fees as a result of growing activity in the property market.

04 Other Revenue

Actual income is higher than planned mainly due to a gain on swaps (\$121k) as a result of movement in market forces such as interest rates, and unbudgeted recreation contributions, (\$17k) .

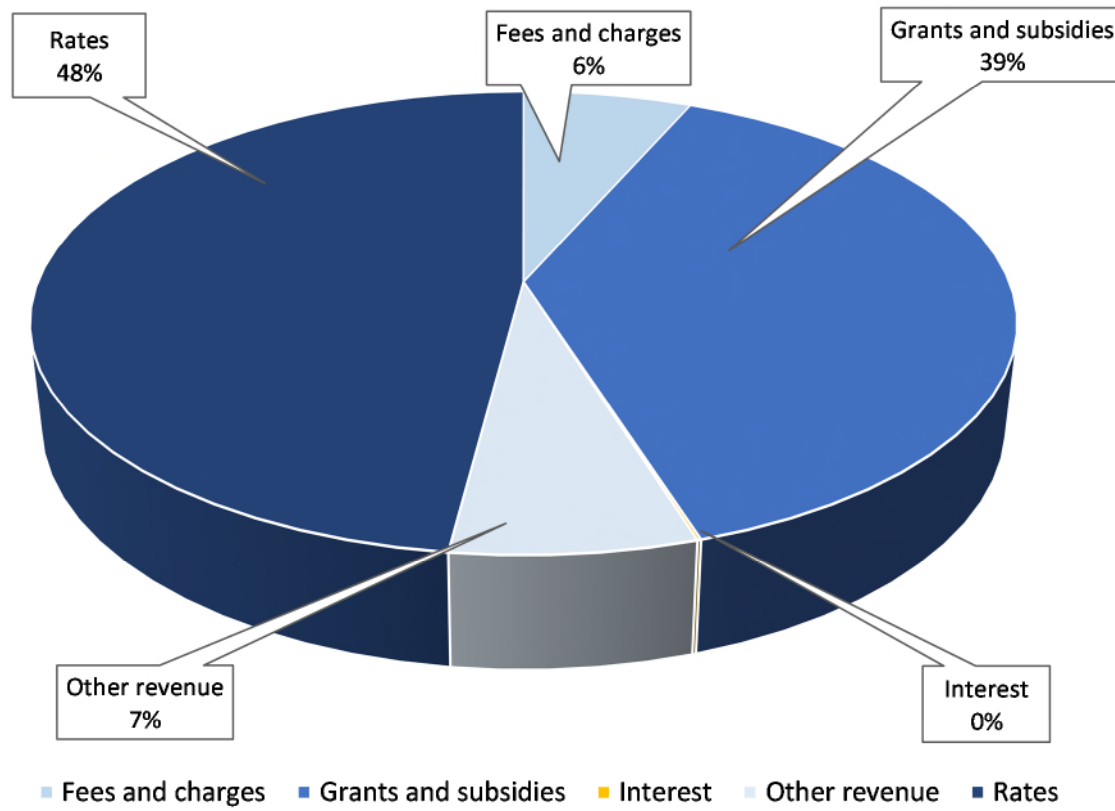
05 Employee benefit expenses

Actual salary cost is lower than planned due to unfilled roles.

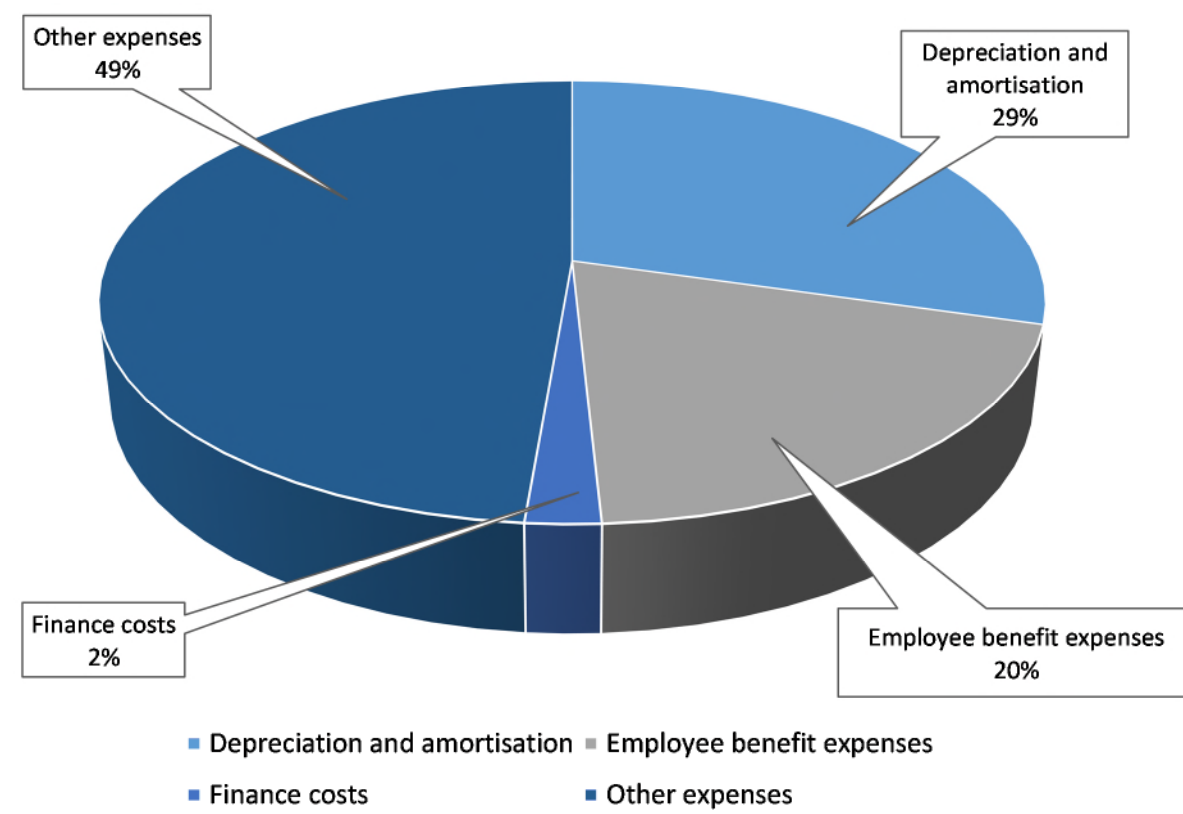
06 Other expenses

The variance is mainly due to road network emergency reinstatement works, \$57k, on local roads mostly in the Arahura Valley.

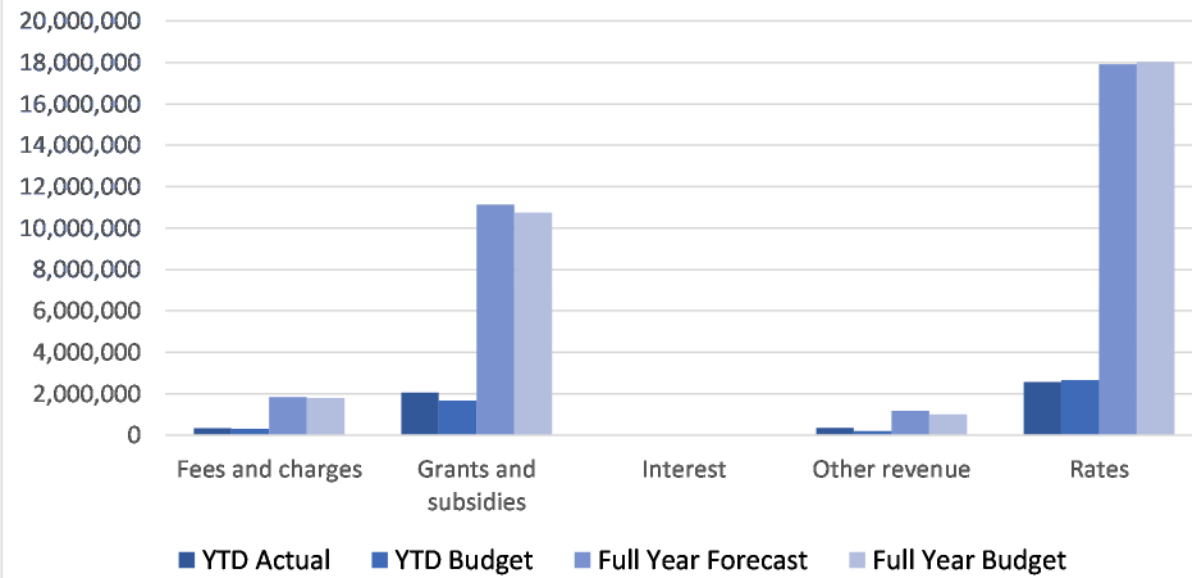
Operating Revenue Actual Year to August



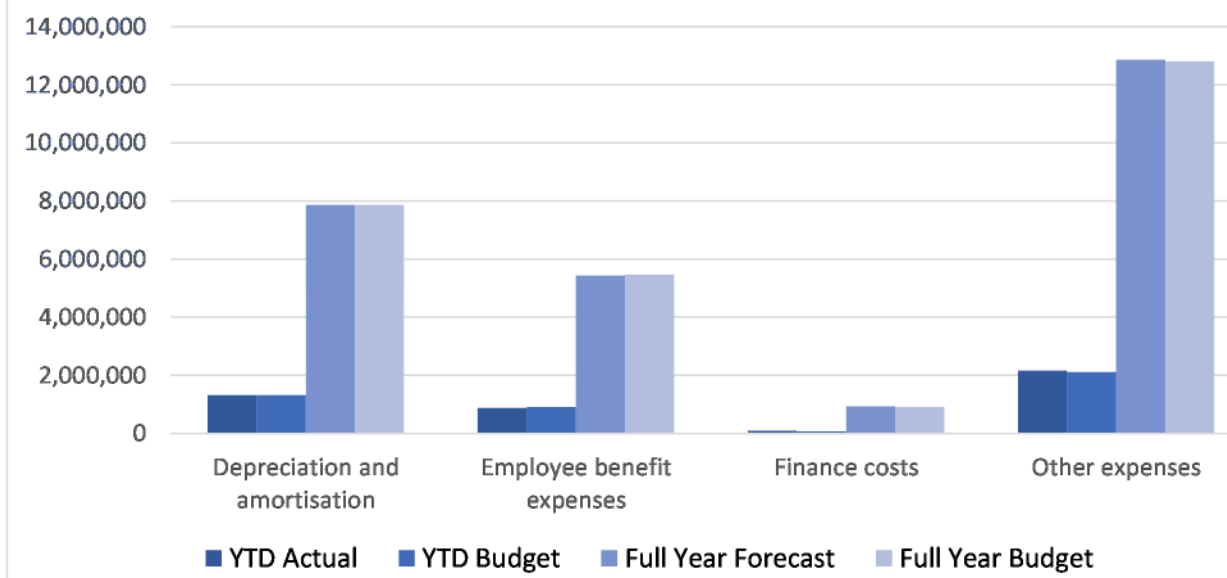
Operating Expenditure Actual Year to August



Operating revenue



Operating expenditure



Debtors as at 31 August 2021

Type	Over 90 Days	60-90 Days	30-60 Days	Current	Total (\$)
Building Consents	31,805	7,011	2,519	6,304	47,640
Building Warrants	150	1,245	2,475	2,635	6,505
Resource Consents	1,000	26	6,015	612	7,653
Sundry Debtors	12,984	1,823,201	74,057 -	10,580	1,899,662
Grand Total	45,939	1,831,484	85,066 -	1,029	1,961,460

Rates Debtors as at 31 August 2021

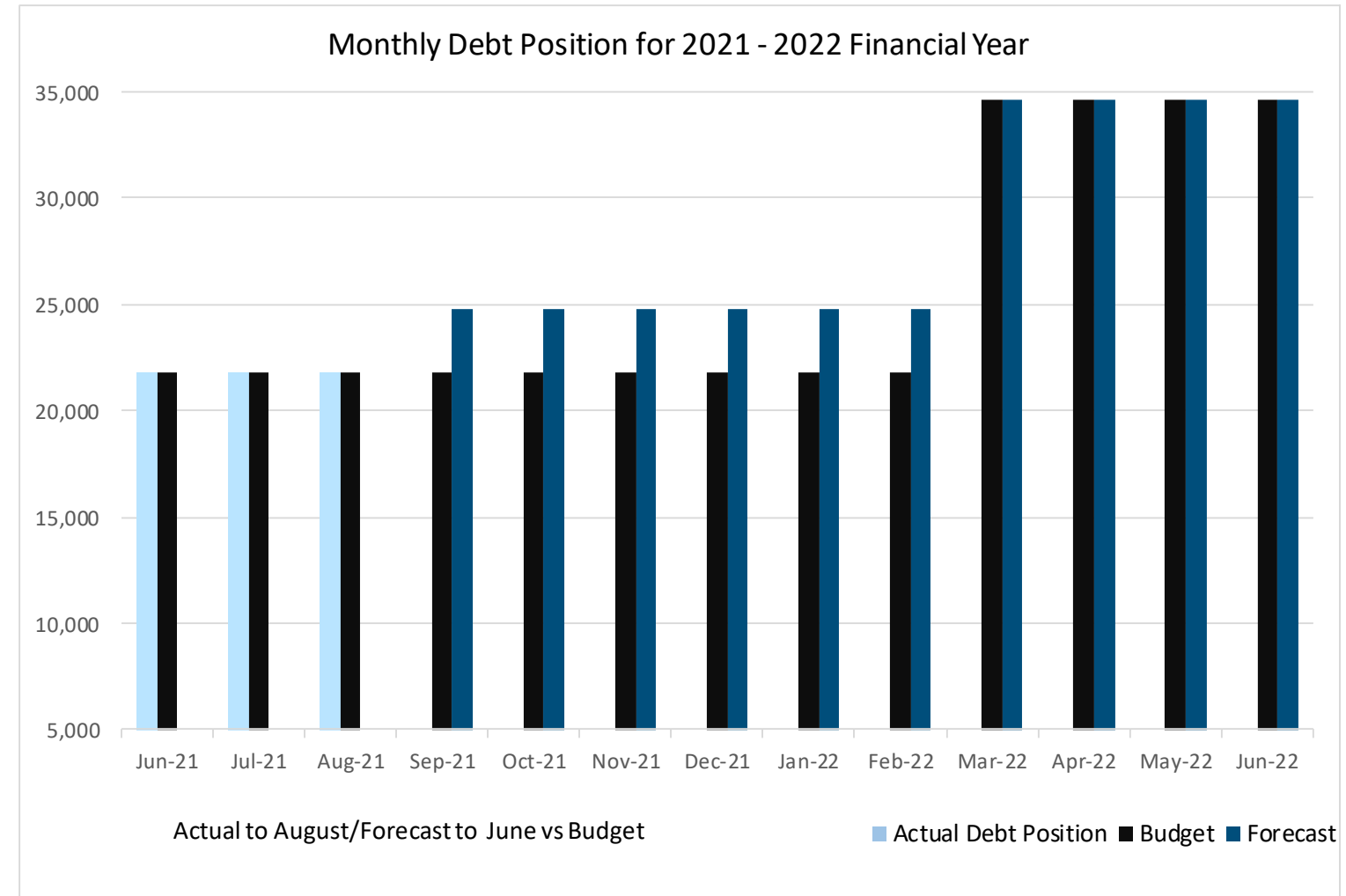
Rates Debtors at 31 July 2021	4,052,644
Rates instalment	
Less payments received	-4,437,183
Paid in advance change	1,615,033
Previous years write off's	-11,414
Write off's	-1,171
Penalties	-1,501
Discounts	-50,296
Court Cost	8,516
	-2,878,016
Total Rates Debtors at 31 August 2021	1,174,628
Arrears included above at 31 August 2021	1,174,628
Arrears at 31 August 2020	890,085
Increase/(decrease) in arrears	284,543

Debt Position

	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22
Actual Debt Position	21,818	21,818	21,818										
Budget	21,818	21,818	21,818	21,818	21,818	21,818	21,818	21,818	21,818	34,657	34,657	34,657	34,657
Forecast				24,818	24,818	24,818	24,818	24,818	24,818	34,657	34,657	34,657	34,657

Forecast Debt Position for 2021-2022 Financial Year

Forecast as at	Jun-22
Opening Balance	21,818
Loan funded capex forecast	13,789
Forecast repayments 2021-22	-950
Forecast balance June 2022	34,657



CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2021-2022									
	Budgets		Expenditure			Notes	Commitments		
	2020-2021 Carried Forward Budget	Full Year Annual Plan	YTD Actual Expenditure	Budget Remaining	YTD Spent %		Open Purchase Orders	Budget Remaining after Commitments	Commitment as a % of Budget Remaining
Leadership	\$151,825	\$1,022,280	\$68,776	\$1,112,434	6%	Main projects included in this section are the Council earthquake strengthening; refurbishment of the visitor area projects; and IT Equipment renewals. All the projects are on track except for the refurbishment of the visitor centre area project which is on hold pending further discussions around the location of Council Chambers.	\$41,257	\$1,071,177	4%
Planning & Regulatory Services	\$243,158	\$600,000	\$3,087	\$840,072	0%	These are all Civil Defence projects: Equipment and the Operations Centre.	\$19,443	\$820,629	2%
Facilities, and Leisure Services - Park & Reserves	\$836,501	\$1,819,500	\$1,870	\$2,654,131	0%	The main projects included in this section are Cass Square development projects (Toilet facilities, upgrade of playground equipment etc.); WCWT Trail projects; Waterfront Development (beach access, landscaping & structures, relocation of FENZ practice eqpmt); and the Westland Racing Club Reserve development Ross. Other projects are the Whataroa, Haast and Kumara playground equipment upgrades. TIF funding of \$191.5k has now been approved for the new Cass Square toilets.	\$3,550	\$2,650,581	0%
Facilities, and Leisure Services - Other	\$1,392,008	\$4,755,000	\$452,539	\$5,694,469	7%	The major projects included in this section are the Carnegie building earthquake strengthening and fitout; Jacksons Bay Wharf; Hokitika and Franz Josef revitalization plan projects; lighting and flag trax system for Hokitika; and the Museum archives work.	\$785,976	\$4,908,493	14%
Solid Waste	\$148,100	\$403,000	\$6,288	\$544,812	1%	The Butlers intermediate capping project has been carried over into the current year due to post Covid stimulus funding received to transfer the Fox Landfill waste to Butlers Landfill. Franz Josef landfill final capping; Haast capping and the transfer station; and Hari Hari landfill protection projects have also been extended into the current year with additional funding for the latter three. New projects this year include a Glass Crusher for Hokitika; Refuse shed 1 door and iron replacement and equipment for Waste Minimisation.	\$6,080	\$538,732	1%

Transportation	\$0	\$4,506,879	\$17,656	\$4,489,223	0%	Major projects included here are SPR Low Cost Low Risk resilience; Sealed Road resurfacing; Structures Component Replacement (incl. bridges); Sealed Road Resurfacing; Unsealed Road Metalling; Drainage Renewals; and Traffic Services Renewals. The funding allocation from Waka Kotahi was delayed this year and initial projections appear to be \$1M less than approved amount. Confirmation of the actual allocation to specific projects is yet to be received.	\$20,027	\$4,469,197	0%
Stormwater	\$1,714,627	\$792,400	\$8,435	\$2,498,592	0%	The key project this year is the Livingstone St Pump upgrade and the final design for this is underway. Other projects include mains replacement; Tancred and Sewell St pump upgrades; and the Jollie St extension and Beach St re-alignment which were carried over from last year.	\$112,032	\$2,386,560	4%
Wastewater	\$3,411,652	\$122,831	\$87,707	\$3,446,776	2%	The Hokitika Outfall Structure (not yet commenced) and the Hokitika WW Treatment plant (underway, in conjunction with the feasibility study under the Reform Package projects) are the main projects. Other key projects are the Fox Glacier WWTP upgrades (underway); Hokitika Pump upgrade (Kaniere) and the Hokitika Z-line section replacement. Scope is scheduled to commence in November for contract documents for the Z-line project.	\$33,300	\$3,413,476	1%
Water Supply	\$1,749,624	\$925,000	\$153,277	\$2,521,347	6%	A final design for the Fox Glacier Plant upgrade project has been received. The Ross new intake project has been completed (waiting on final documentation). The commissioning (operational) of the Arahura water treatment plant is to begin in October. Scope will also commence in October for the mains upgrade programmes for Franz Josef, Kumara and Hokitika (including the Seismic Valve for Hokitika). Work on the Ross mains upgrade will commence in January 2022.	\$246,390	\$2,274,957	10%
Unbudgeted Capital Expenditure	-	-	\$14,853	-		This relates to additional HQ refurbishment costs; teleconferencing costs; and two new stormwater connection requests from ratepayers..	\$13,624	-	-
Total Capital Expenditure	\$9,647,495	\$14,946,890	\$814,487	\$23,180,089	3%	Due to the lags in receiving invoices from some major contractors, the value of outstanding commitments are now incorporated in this report to provide a better indication of progress.	\$1,281,679	\$21,912,034	6%
Externally funded Capital Expenditure	\$11,399,492	\$0	\$685,258	\$10,727,866	6%	The main projects included here are the sealing of Old Christchurch Road (\$1.5M PGF grant funded); Hokitika Swimming Pool (\$2.6M funding contribution); Butlers new cell development project (\$3.3M) and the Stimulus Funded 3Waters Reform projects (\$6.9M). The 3 Water Reform funded projects are on track for completion by March 2022, with some components already completed. Other projects are on track for completion this year.	\$5,858,820	\$5,858,820	55%
Total Capital Expenditure	\$21,046,987	\$14,946,890	\$1,499,746	\$33,907,955	4%		\$7,140,499	\$27,770,853	21%

Report to Council



DATE: 30 September 2021

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Group Manager: Corporate Services

WESTLAND HOLDINGS LIMITED DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT EXTENSION

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is for Council to approve the Westland Holdings Limited (WHL) director appointments to be extended for a further 3 year term.
- 1.2. This issue arises from the responsibility of the shareholders to appoint WHL directors under the WHL constitution.
- 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 resolves to extend the current WHL directors' appointment for a further 3 year term.

2. Background

- 2.1. The current directors Joanne Conroy, Christopher Gourley and Christopher Rea were appointed as Directors of WHL in 2018 for a 3 year term. Albert Brantley was appointed at the same time however subsequently resigned in June 2019.
- 2.2. The board continued with the minimum 3 directors required under the WHL constitution with Joanne Conroy as Chairperson.
- 2.3. The first 3 year term for all three directors expired on 30 June 2021.
- 2.4. The directors are eligible for reappointment at Council's discretion.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1. All 3 current WHL directors are seeking reappointment for a further 3 year term.
- 3.2. Under the constitution 3 directors are the minimum requirement to maintain a board.
- 3.3. The directors have achieved the following;
 - 3.3.1. Improved Governance processes for the WHL board and subsidiaries.
 - 3.3.2. Introduced strategic planning for WHL and assisted subsidiaries in getting plans in place.
 - 3.3.3. Appointment of first local cadet director to the Westroads Board.
 - 3.3.4. Holding subsidiaries to account in delivery of the strategic plans.
 - 3.3.5. Encouraging subsidiaries to introduce risk identification and management plans.

- 3.3.6. Successful outcome on the funding challenges for Destination Westland Limited (DWL) from COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.3.7. Determination of the best governance structure for DWL for future.
- 3.3.8. Fostering good relationships with Council, CE and Council Officers, adhering to the 'no surprises' ethos.
- 3.3.9. Appointment of new directors to subsidiaries where required and planning for future CCO appointments.
- 3.3.10. Scrutinised health and safety procedures of subsidiary companies.
- 3.3.11. Encouraged subsidiaries to introduce succession plans.
- 3.3.12. Consistent strong financial results enabling dividend and subvention payments to Council.
- 3.3.13. Regular reporting to Council of results.
- 3.3.14. Legislative compliance for Statement of Intent.
- 3.4. Audit will require proof of legislative compliance for director appointments and reappointments.

4. Options

- 4.1. Option 1: That Council resolves to extend the current WHL directors' appointment for a further 3 year term.
- 4.2. Option 2: Do not extend current director appointments.

5. Risk Analysis

- 5.1. Risk has been considered and the following risks have been identified. Reputational risk where WHL is ineffective and unable to carry out the responsibilities under the constitution. Potential financial risk to WHL and subsidiary bodies from a lack of customer confidence or potential governance failures. These risks could filter up to Council if there is a deemed lack of confidence in the current WHL board.

6. Health and Safety

- 6.1. Health and Safety has been considered and the following item has been identified. Stress of uncertainty for staff in subsidiaries where there is no governance especially after significant changes due to COVID impacts.

7. Significance and Engagement

- 7.1. The level of significance has been assessed as being medium as there will be public interest on the governance structure of the Council Controlled Organisations.
- 7.2. No public consultation is considered necessary as this is an administrative process only by decision of Council.

8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

- 8.1. Option 1 – That Council resolves to extend the current WHL directors' appointments for a further 3 year term. Extending the current board will provide consistency for the group. Extension would allow the board to continue the work that has so far been carried out and reported to Council at specified times.
The current board have achieved many improvements to the group as listed in 3.3 above.
The appointment letter states that any extension would not be unreasonably withheld. There are no documented concerns over the value the current board have provided during the last 3 years.

- 8.2. There are no further financial implications to this option than the director fees currently paid. The director fees are determined through a separate process.
- 8.3. Option 2 – Do not extend the current director appointments. This could provide risk to Council with a new board entering. The current board have managed many challenges that have taken place during the last 3 years particularly with the impact of COVID-19.
Finding directors on the coast or with direct local knowledge can also be a challenge with a low director base on the coast.
There would be no functioning board which as a holding company would impact the 100% owned subsidiaries.
- 8.4. There would be financial implications to this option. A robust and transparent recruitment process is expensive.

9. Preferred Option(s) and Reasons

- 9.1. The preferred option is Option 1, that the Council resolves to extend the current WHL directors appointments for a further 3 year term.
- 9.2. The reason that Option 1 has been identified as the preferred option is that it provides consistency to the group and allowing the current directors to continue with the improvement process for the whole group. There would be no further financial implications for this option.

10. Recommendation(s)

- 10.1. That the report be received.
- 10.2. That Council resolves to extend the current Westland Holdings Limited directors appointments for a further 3 year term.

Lesley Crichton
Group Manager: Corporate Services

Report to Council



DATE: 30 September 2021

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Group Manager: Regulatory and Community Services

ANNUAL DOG CONTROL POLICIES AND PRACTICES REPORT

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to adopt the Annual Report on Dog Control Policies and Practices for the year ending 30 June 2021.
- 1.2. This issue arises from the statutory requirement pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 to adopt and publish an Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the year ended 30 June 2021.
- 1.3. Council seeks to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002, the Dog Control Act 1996, 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 adopt the Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices for the year ending 30 June 2021, attached as Appendix 1.

2. Background

- 2.1. The reason the report has come before the Council is due to the requirement of Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 to prepare a report on Dog Control Policy and Practices. Following adoption, Council must give public notice that the report has been adopted, notify the Secretary of Local Government, and make the report publicly available online.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1. The attached report has been prepared in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 in respect to the number of; registered dogs, probationary and disqualified owners, dogs classified as dangerous or menacing, infringement notices, complaints received, and prosecutions taken in or by the territorial authority.

4. Options

- 4.1. There is a legislative requirement for Council to adopt an Annual Report on Dog Control Policy and Practices and make the report publicly available by 31 October in the same year. This report is submitted for adoption in accordance with those legislative requirements.

5. Risk Analysis

5.1. Risk has been considered and the following risks have been identified as low, subject to adoption of the annual report in accordance with section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.

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 adoption of the attached Annual Report is an administrative function required of Council under the Dog Control Act 1996 and is therefore of low significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

7.2. As this item does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, public consultation is not required. It is a legislative requirement under the Dog Control Act 1996, that following adoption, must be notified and made publicly available online.

8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

8.1. Option 1 – To adopt the Annual Report on Dog Control Policies and Practices for the year ending 30 June 2021.

8.2. There are no financial implications to this option.

9. Preferred Option(s) and Reasons

9.1. The preferred option is that Council adopted the attached draft report to meet the legislative requirement within the Dog Control Act 1996.

10. Recommendation(s)

10.1. That the report be received.

10.2. That Council adopt the Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the year ended 30 June 2021.

10.3. That the adopted Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the year ended 30 June 2021 is publicly notified, and made publicly available on Council's website, and

10.4. That the Secretary for Local Government is advised that the Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the year ended 30 June 2021 has been published in accordance with Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996, and Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Te Arohanui Cook

Group Manager: Regulatory and Community Services

Appendix 1: Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

Westland District Council 2020/2021 Annual Dog Control Policy and Practices Report

1.0 The Dog Control Act 1996

The Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) requires territorial authorities to publicly report on Dog Control Policies and Practices as outlined under Section 10A. This report contains information and statistics on the Westland District council's Dog Control activity for the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

2.0 Dog Control Policy and Bylaw

There have been no reviews or amendments made to the Westland District Council Dog Control Bylaw or Dog Control Policy during this reporting period.

3.0 Administration

3.1 Personnel

Council employs one full-time Warranted Animal Control Officer (ACO), and a part-time after-hours ACO to cover weekends and rostered after-hours duties when the Animal Control Officer is on leave. Appropriately warranted Compliance Officer Personnel may also be rostered to cover ACO functions when primary personnel are on leave.

3.2 Hours of Operation

The Animal Control Officer works from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday and responds to all animal complaints. ACO's respond to complaints 24 hours a day on rostered days, weekends, and statutory holidays, ensuring Council has appropriate cover to deliver service delivery expectations throughout the year. Hours of operation remained unchanged during the COVID-19 Alert Levels with ACO's responding as Essential Service personnel, when required.

3.3 Dog Pound

Council continues to manage four designated pound kennels within the SPCA facility on Hau Hau Road, two kennels situated at the Haast Police Station, and one kennel situated at the Franz Josef Police Station. Council is responsible for the maintenance and management of its own pound assets and facilities, and the stewardship and nourishment of any dogs impounded in its care. The pound operates 24/7 with public access by appointment only via the on-duty ACO, to claim any dog/s under their ownership that have been impounded. Dogs are only released to owners on full payment of due fees, including infringement fees. Any dog not claimed within seven days, if not suitable for rehoming through the SPCA or another approved facility, is euthanised. All dogs are assessed by an ACO and Officers of the SPCA to determine suitability for rehoming.

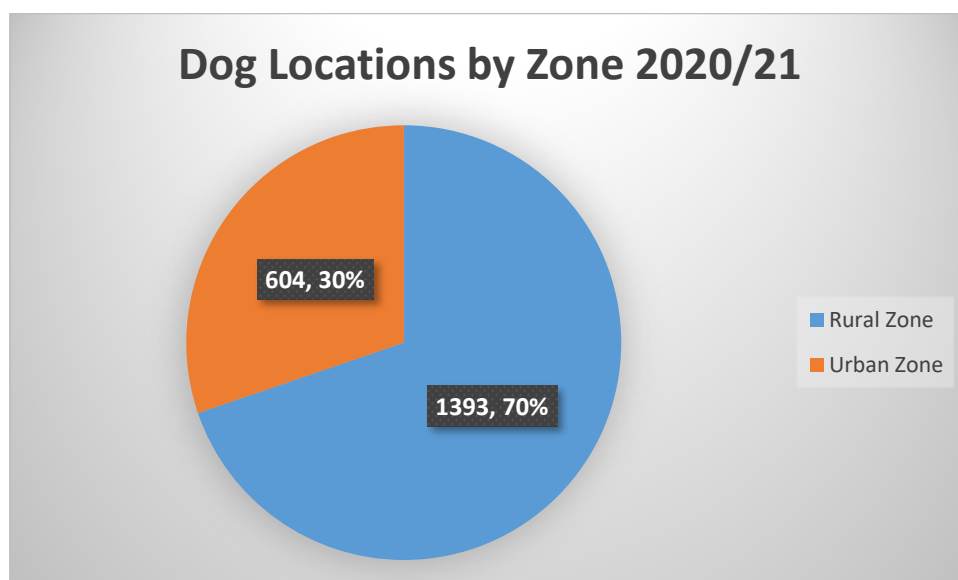
4.0 Fees and Charges

The fees and criteria set in 2019/2020 remained unchanged as part of the 2020/2021 fee setting process, and the following fees and charges were adopted by Council for the delivery of Animal Control services for the 2020/2021 year.

Animal Control	Fee (GST inclusive) 2019/2020
Urban Registration (Hokitika and Kaniere Township)	\$74
Registration other Areas	\$58.50
Responsible Dog Owners (RDO)	\$50 Inspection Fee – First Year \$50 Registration Fee – All Areas
Registration Dangerous Dog	Standard Registration Fee plus 50%
Late Registration – 1 August	Standard Registration Fee plus 50%
First Impounding Offence	\$82
Second Impounding Offence	\$164
Third Impounding offence	\$245
Feeding/Day	\$26
Call-out for Dog Reclaiming	\$78

5.0 Dog Population Analysis

A total of 1,997 dogs (an increase of 25 on the previous year) and 1,458 owners (an increase of 20 on the previous year) are listed within Council's database for the reporting period. A total of 1393 dogs are located in the rural zone (an increase of 93), 604 in an urban zone (an increase of seven).



6.0 Enforcement

The format for reporting of complaints, impounding, classification, infringements, and court proceedings was modified for the 2018/19 period and continues in use for this

reporting period. Where applicable, generalised figures from previous years have been included in the tables below. "NR" identifies where specifics were 'Not Recorded' by category.

6.1 Complaints

A total of 170 complaints were received during the 2020/2021 reporting period and is compared to previous years as follows.

Complaints Received	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Dog Attack	NR	NR	NR	19	15	19
Rushing/Threatening	NR	NR	NR	9	14	11
Roaming	NR	NR	NR	101	249	102
Barking	NR	NR	NR	32	47	19
Welfare	NR	NR	NR	21	16	26
General	NR	NR	NR	41	98	3
Total	223	360	104	223	439	170

6.2 Impounding

Forty-nine dogs were impounded during the reporting period of which 33 were returned to their owners, and 16 re-homed. No dogs were euthanised during the reporting period.

6.3 Classification of Dog Owners

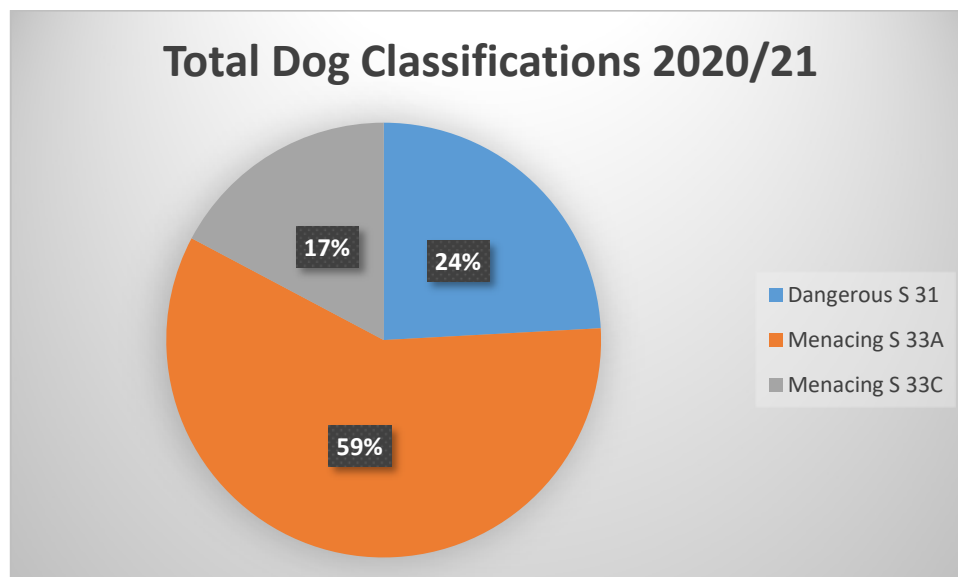
The Council did not classify any dog owners as 'disqualified from owning a dog' in the 2020/2021 year. There are no registered 'disqualified' or 'probationary' owners within the Westland District.

6.4 Classification of Dogs

Dogs can be classified in three different ways:

- Menacing classifications under Section 33A of the Act are applied to a dog which the Council considers may pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal or protected wildlife due to observed or reported behaviour; or any characteristic associated with the dog (their behaviour);
- Menacing classifications under Section 33C of the Act are applied to a dog which belongs wholly or predominantly to one or more breeds or types listed in Schedule 4 of the Act (their breed); or
- Dangerous dogs under Section 31 of the Act are applied to a dog if the owner is convicted under 57A(2), if there is evidence that the dog is aggressive or the owner admits that the dog is aggressive.

Of the 1,997 known dogs in Westland, seventeen are registered as 'Menacing' under Section 33A, five are registered as 'Menacing' under Section 33C and seven registered as 'Dangerous'.



Under Council's Dog Control Policy, all dogs classified as menacing must be neutered, and muzzled when in a public area.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total in District
Menacing S 33A	6	12	0	17
Menacing S 33C	1	6	2	5
Dangerous S 31	9	0	0	7

6.5 Infringements

A total of 141 infringement notices were issued for the following offences:

Infringement Offence	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Failure to comply with any bylaw	6	14	12
Failure to comply with effects of classification	4	3	3
Failing to register dog	68	204	107
Failure to keep dog under control	5	10	4
Failure to provide proper care	3	0	0

6.6 Court Proceedings

There were no court prosecutions undertaken for offences under the Act for the 2020/2021 reporting period.

7.0 Other Services

7.1 Multiple Dog Permits (3+ Dogs – Urban Zone)

A permit is required to keep more than two dogs on a property in an urban area. The issue of a permit is conditional on the suitability of an owner, their property and obtaining of approval from affected neighbours.

In this reporting period, six multiple dog permits are current.

7.2 Responsible Dog Owners

There are 64 approved Responsible Dog Owners in this reporting period.

7.3 Responsible Dog Owner Policy (RDO) Status

RDO status provides a discounted rate of dog registration as an incentive to responsible dog owners. To qualify for RDO status all dogs must be registered on or by 1st August of the current registration year, dog/s must be micro-chipped, there have been no justified complaints against, infringement, or impounding of any dog in the past two years, and the property has been inspected and approved in relation to appropriately fenced areas or kennel runs.

Report to Council



DATE: 30 September 2021

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Group Manager: Regulatory and Community Services

SMOKEFREE AND VAPEFREE ENVIRONMENTS POLICY – COUNCIL BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC SPACES

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to consider the proposed amendments to the Westland District Council Smokefree Environments Policy – Council Buildings and Public Spaces 2016 (Smokefree Environments Policy), and to adopt the Westland District Council Smokefree and Vapefree Policy – Council Buildings and Public Spaces 2021.
- 1.2. This issue arises from 2020 amendments to the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990, now named the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 (the Act), and consideration of submissions received from Community and Public Health West Coast, and Active West Coast as part of the 2021/2031 Long Term Plan consultation process, to reflect amendments made in the Act.
- 1.3. Council seeks to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990, 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 adopt the Westland District Council Smokefree and Vapefree Policy – Council Buildings and Public Spaces 2021. (Appendix 1)

2. Background

- 2.1. The reason the report has come before the Council is due to the requirement to review and amend the current policy, to include 2020 amendments made to Smokefree Environments legislation, which requires identified public environments, workplaces, restaurants, bars, and education facilities to be Smokefree and Vapefree.
- 2.2. Council last amended and adopted its Smokefree Environments Policy following public consultation to include prohibition of smoking in outdoor dining areas in 2016.
- 2.3. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Council took on a duty of care to ensure a safe smokefree environment for people on Council owned premises and public spaces.
- 2.4. The Smokefree Environments Policy also endorses the Governments aspirational goal of a 'Smokefree Aotearoa by 2025'.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1. The current Smokefree Environments Policy was adopted in 2016 and is due for review.
- 3.2. The amended Act requires smoking and vaping to be prohibited in workplaces and public areas.
- 3.3. The purpose of the Act is:
 - a) To prevent the detrimental effect of other people's smoking on the health of people workplaces, or in certain public enclosed areas, who do not smoke, or do not wish to smoke there; and
 - b) To prevent the normalisation of vaping; and
 - c) To prevent young people who are being taught or cared for in registered schools or early childhood education and care centres from being influenced by seeing other people smoke or vape there; and
 - d) To prevent the detrimental effect of other people's smoking on the health of young people who are being cared for in registered schools or early childhood education and care centres.
- 3.4. The intent of the Smokefree Environments Policy is to educate people in the community on minimising exposure to harm from smoking. It is an educational policy only, and is not enforceable.
- 3.5. The only means by which Council could enforce smokefree and vapefree areas is through the establishment of a Bylaw. Establishment of a Bylaw is not considered within this report.
- 3.6. Tracked amendments to the Smokefree Environments Policy are as attached in Appendix 2.

4. Options

- 4.1. Option 1: Adopt the amended Smokefree and Vapefree Environments Policy – Council Buildings and Public Spaces 2021.
- 4.2. Option 2: Maintain the status quo.

5. Risk Analysis

- 5.1. Risk has been considered and the following risks have been identified, primarily that Council's current Policy does not reflect changes to the Act. While it is an educational policy only, it must comply with relevant legislation.

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.
- 7.2. No public consultation is considered necessary; as this is a policy of Council, and respective amendments are as required under the Act, following review. Consideration has also been given to submissions previously received from Community and Public Health West Coast, and Active West Coast, to update the Council policy to reflect amendments made in the Act.

8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

- 8.1. Option 1 – reflects amendments made to the current policy.
- 8.2. There are no significant financial implications to this option. Community and Public Health West Coast have advised in their submission to the 2021-2031 LTP that they are able to provide Smokefree/Vapefree signage to assist in implementation of any amendments to this Policy.

Installation of new signage may incur costs, dependent on who Council may approach/utilise to replace existing signage.

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 it provides for amendments made to the Act that need to be reflected within Council's Smokefree and Vapefree Environments Policy – Council Buildings and Public Spaces 2021

10. Recommendation(s)

10.1. That the report be received.

10.2. That Council adopt the amended Smokefree and Vapefree Environments Policy – Council Buildings and Public Spaces 2021 as attached to this report (Appendix 1).

Te Arohanui Cook

Group Manager: Regulatory and Community Services

Appendix 1: Smokefree and Vapefree Environments Policy – Council Buildings and Public Spaces 2021

Appendix 2: Tracked changes to Smokefree Environments Policy 2016



Westland District Council Smokefree and Vapefree Environments – Council Buildings & Public Spaces 2021

SCOPE

This policy applies to Council owned buildings, swimming pools, playgrounds, parks and sports fields, and to outdoor dining areas on Council-controlled land.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

This policy has been prepared in accordance with the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act (1990).

GENERAL POLICY

This is an educational policy. The Westland District Council will be proactive in promoting a healthier community. The Council will demonstrate leadership by promoting a smoke free and vapefree lifestyle as being both desirable and the norm in the Westland District as New Zealand works towards being smoke free by 2025. People using Council facilities including parks and playgrounds will be smoke free and vapefree role models for children and young people.

Council Owned Buildings and Vehicles

All Council workplaces are smokefree and vapefree work environments, including Council vehicles. All Council owned enclosed public facilities, such as public halls, are smokefree and vapefree, including their entrances/exits and surrounds. Appropriate signage will be clearly displayed outside buildings and in vehicles.

Council owned Swimming pools, Sport and Leisure Centres and Surrounds

All Council owned swimming pools and sport and leisure centres are designated smokefree and vapefree areas, including the outdoor areas surrounding them. Appropriate signage will be displayed at the entrance to each facility and inside the grounds.

Council owned Playgrounds and Parks

The public will be asked to refrain from smoking and vaping in Council owned playgrounds and parks. Signage will be displayed at the entrance to parks and beside playgrounds asking people to refrain from smoking and vaping. Messages on the signage will be positive rather than punitive.

Outdoor Dining Areas on Council-Controlled Land

Outdoor dining areas, such as tables and chairs outside cafes, restaurants and bars that are on Council-controlled land, will be smokefree and vapefree. Appropriate signage will be displayed. Ashtrays will not be provided.



Westland District Council Smokefree and Vapefree Environments – Council Buildings & Public Spaces 2021

SCOPE

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Council owned Swimming pools, Sport and Leisure Centres and Surrounds

All Council owned swimming pools and sport and leisure centres are designated smoke-free and vapefree areas, including the outdoor areas surrounding them. Appropriate signage will be displayed at the entrance to each facility and inside the grounds.

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~~Adopted by Council – 29 April 2016~~

Report to Council



DATE: 30 September 2021

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Group Manager: District Assets

RESPONSIBLE CAMPING FUNDING

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to make Council aware of the withdrawal of Responsible Camping funding and to advise Council of the operational impact.
- 1.2. This issue arises from the notification from MBIE on the 30 August 2021 that no further contestable funding rounds are planned for Responsible Camping Initiatives.
- 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 accepts the report and that the facilities at freedom camping sites (toilets / rubbish bins) are closed or removed, excluding any site where business operators have agreed to absorb costs as specified in a Memorandum of Understanding.

2. Background

The reason the report has come before Council is due to the withdrawal of MBIE funding for Responsible Camping, and associated costs that would be incurred for the continued maintenance of freedom camping facilities. The decision of MBIE not to fund the upcoming season – 2021/22, has a negative impact on delivery and maintenance of facilities at freedom camping sites, as it has not been provided for in 2021/2022 budgets.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1. Since 2018, the Council has received funding for Responsible Camping. The allocated funding was:
 - \$500K for 2020/21.
 - \$401K for the 2019/20.
 - \$780K for the 2018/19.
- 3.2. This season, the Minister (through MBIE) determined not to offer further funding and is progressing work on Freedom Camping reform to provide a long-term solution to local challenges. However, the Government are planning a further round of TIF funding which will be open for applications in March 2022 with information being made available early next year.

- 3.3. This decision is not surprising given the impact of border closures on overseas tourism numbers. Following the decision to suspend funding, the Council has decided to close its freedom camping sites and a number of facilities have been taken from site and placed in storage.
- 3.4 We have been in conversation with local businesses that are affected by this and some local businesses, for example, Treetops Café have agreed to fund cleaning and servicing of the toilets and bin emptying and those sites will remain open.
- 3.5 Continued servicing of sites not managed by business operators will incur costs that have not been provided for within the 2021/2022 Annual Plan. Council has previously taken the view that by making freedom camping sites available and the provision of associated services/facilities, costs were not to be borne by the ratepayer.
- 3.6 Council is continuing to develop a site at Paringa and have had a successful TIF application which will allow us to build permanent toilets and seal the carparking area and improve the service for freedom campers.

4. Options

- 4.1. Option 1: that the facilities at freedom camping sites (toilets / rubbish bins) are closed or removed, excluding any site where business operators have agreed to absorb costs.
- 4.2. Option 2: that the facilities at all freedom camping sites (toilets / rubbish bins) are closed or removed,
- 4.3. Option 3: that facilities remain accessible for the 2021/2022 freedom camping season at all sites.

5. Risk Analysis

- 5.1. Risk has been considered and the following risks have been identified:
- 5.1.1. Following the withdrawal of funding, failure to close the sites will place additional financial burdens on rate payers.

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.
- 7.2. No public consultation is seen as necessary.

8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

- 8.1. Option 1 – Closing / removing facilities from freedom camping sites where no management plan is in place with businesses, allows for some sites to continue to operate, without additional cost being incurred by ratepayers
- 8.2. Option 2 - The financial implications of not closing down all the freedom camping sites in the light of Government funding withdrawal are that additional costs may need be picked up by rate payers, if a business owner/operator fails to maintain facilities through regular cleaning of toilets, and removal of rubbish, at their expense.
- 8.3. Option 3 would require Council to fund the continued servicing of all facilities at freedom camping sites. This would be unbudgeted expenditure.

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 it recognises the commitment of some businesses to continue to maintain facilities on-site, and closing/removing facilities from remaining freedom camping sites

10. Recommendation(s)

10.1 That the report be received.

10.2 That the facilities at freedom camping sites (toilets / rubbish bins) are closed or removed for the 2021/2022 Freedom Camping Season, excluding any site where a business operators have agreed to absorb costs as specified a Memorandum of Understanding.

Scott Baxendale

Group Manager: District Assets

Report to Council



DATE: 30 September 2021

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Group Manager: District Assets

THREE WATERS REFORM – STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the Tonkin and Taylor Statement of Proposal report.
- 1.2. This issue arises from The Government's Three Waters proposal and the Council's commissioning of Tonkin and Taylor to provide a report to aid the Council in its response.
- 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 this report and the Tonkin and Taylor statement of proposal report and use the information to develop their response to the Government.

2. Background

- 2.1. The reason the report has come before the Council is due to the commissioning of Tonkin and Taylor to provide a statement of proposal report in response to the Government's Three Waters proposals.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1 The Council commissioned Tonkin and Taylor to provide a report to help the Council feedback views on the Government's Three Waters proposals.

4. Options

- 4.1. Option 1: Receive the report and resolve to provide feedback to the Government.
- 4.2. Option 2: Receive the report but do not provide feedback to the Government.

5. Risk Analysis

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

5.1.1. See Tonkin and Taylor Report.

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 high. The three water assets are Strategic Assets under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. They are important to the community for continued community wellbeing and have been funded by rates.

7.2. The Council has engaged with the community during lockdown through a series of structured on line sessions, notifications on the radio and articles in the local media. The purpose of the engagement was to understand the community's position on the three waters reform. Formal consultation under the Local Government Act may take place at a later date, depending on the outcome of the Government's consultation with Councils.

8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

8.1. Option 1 – Receive the report and resolve to provide feedback to the Government.

8.2. If Council decides not to share this feedback with the Government it will reduce the Council's voice on the three waters proposal.

8.3. There are no financial implications to this option;

8.4. Option 2: Receive the report but do not provide feedback to the Government.

8.5. If Council decides not to share this feedback with the Government it will reduce the Council's voice on the three waters proposal.

8.6. There are no 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 it provides solid evidence to support Council's response to the Government.

10. Recommendation(s)

10.1. That the report be received.

10.2. That Council resolves to provide feedback to the Government on their Three Waters proposals.

Scott Baxendale

Group Manager: District Assets

Appendix 1: Tabulation of all responses

Appendix 2: Analysis of Community Feedback

Appendix 3: Three Waters Reform – Draft Statement of Proposal

Percentage figures for reasons why respondents chose each option are based on the total number who chose the option, not the total number of all people who responded.

Option	Reason	Submitters	Tally	%
Option 1- Opt in I think the Council should opt-in to the Government's proposed Three Waters Reform.		51, 59, 75, 90, 122, 124, 162, 177, 194, 209, 264, 289, 301, 311, 312, 325, 326, 339, 349, 353, 357, 370	22	5.93%
	I believe that we should be providing the same level of service for three waters across all of New Zealand	51, 90, 177, 194, 209, 264, 289, 301, 311, 339, 349, 370	12	55%
	I feel that I will get better value for money by merging 67 councils into four large entities	51, 75, 90, 122, 124, 194, 209, 264, 301, 311, 312, 339, 349, 370	14	64%
	I can see advantages of combining three waters assets into four large entities	51, 59, 75, 122, 177, 194, 209, 264, 289, 301, 311, 312, 339, 349, 353, 357	16	73%
	It will improve efficiencies across three waters services	51, 177, 194, 264, 301, 311, 312, 339, 349, 353, 357	11	50%
	I think the new three waters entity will be better able to keep up with increased regulations and requirements	51, 75, 124, 162, 177, 194, 264, 289, 301, 311, 312, 339, 349, 353, 357, 370	16	73%
	Other - please state.		13	59%
	Local bodies across New Zealand have often demonstrated that they have neither the expertise nor the initiative to effectively manage wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water: from refusing to fluoridate water to piping raw effluent into rivers or the ocean to allowing intensive agriculture to contaminate groundwater. Especially since more than one local authority head on the West Coast is on public record as denying the reality of human-induced climate change, I feel decisions on coping with long-term trends in water management are best taken out of their hands.	75		
	Removing the 3 waters maintenance and planning from local Councils should result in a much reduced council employed workforce, and hopefully will make the amalgamation of the 3 west coast councils more likely. Westland councils inability to contain costs and make sensible financial decisions leads me to believe that we would not be worse off financially by opting in to this proposal	124		
	Our current processes and decision-makers might be great, but the uncertainty of local politics and rate-setting in the future is a key risk that is removed by centralization.	162		
	Water quality and demand are likely to become a very contentious issues as climate change leads to changing rainfall patterns. With drought areas becoming larger, some communities in this country (and around the world) may be denied a water source. Climate change and Covid-19 caught the globe by surprise and widespread water distress is likely to do the same. We always seem to react too slowly and 67 different opinions will certainly not help this.	177		
	See submission - support for transferring to a national entity	194		
	Westland has a small rating base with some precarious waters assets vulnerable to extreme floods and earthquake. Opting in will increase the likelihood of investment in their resilience &/or repair and re-instatement after a serious event. It will also make it easier to upgrade substandard assets.	209		
	There are a lot of misinformation and bias online but after reading information different documents, about research studies in other countries (not google search, but scientific researches), reading about confirmation bias that would make people believe misinformation, learning about known future climate issues and trends on population growth in the next few decades, it is evident that Westland cannot survive on its own. Even smaller towns will benefit the same kind of benefit big towns have. Westland should not be selfish since it is part of a country.	264		
	See submission - No race-based component for regional representation group & ensure no privatisation of the entities.	289		
	I'm not sure if WestlandDC can protest too much considering their track record in this area. Professional informed leadership is now required to clean up the mess.	301		

	I think the West Coast will be better off in the long term & will be subsidised by larger centres. Hoever I have concerns as to how regulation may stifle personal use on private property for example water bores.	312		
	We need a national & global understanding of what this resources means longterm.	325		
	<p>Council's future cost estimates are grossly under budgeted considering future increases in cost and cost of likely government required environmental improvements. Council has a track record of underestimating the cost of projects and then dumping the extra cost on ratepayers by stealth. The central government has been generous with helping in the past but expect this to end if the ill advised go at it alone stance is adopted.</p> <p>? Power boats allowed on the town's drinking water supply(s)? In present times most civilized societies would never allow this because of the contamination from various petrol chemicals (oil, fuel, etc.) used by these. Are these products regularly tested for in the drinking water? Many places even fully fence out animals and do not allow any human activity on their drinking water supply lakes.</p> <p>The past and present treatment of sewage waste in Westland is a disgrace. For many years most places that care about their environment use a Tertiary Waste Water Treatment System. What is allowed to go into the sea in Westland is gross.</p> <p>'The solution to pollution is dilution' and 'out of site out of mind' don't work for the common good.</p> <p>Assets...I don't care who owns it, but do care that they take care of it properly and in an environmentally sustainable manner.</p>	349		
	Note: you should have a place for comments. We provide all our own water / waster (tank/septic) so this doesn't really apply to us. But in a greater scheme water requires better regulation but with local input/oversight. Don't think any of the councils are particularly efficient, too much partisanship.	370		
<p>Option 2 - Opt-out</p> <p>I think the Council should opt-out of the Government's proposed Three Waters Reform.</p>		<p>01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 123, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 191, 192, 193, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 321, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 322, 324, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 350, 351, 352, 355, 356, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 371</p>	339	91.37%

		01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 123, 125, 126, 127, 129, 131, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 139, 140, 141, 142, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 150, 151, 152, 153, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 178, 180, 181, 182, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 191, 192, 193, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 204, 205, 208, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 228, 229, 230, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 299, 300, 303, 304, 306, 307, 309, 310, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 321, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 338, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 348, 350, 351, 352, 355, 356, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 371	255	75%
	I'm concerned we won't have a strong democratic say in the way three waters services are provided			
		01, 03, 04, 05, 07, 08, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 73, 74, 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 123, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 160, 161, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 191, 192, 193, 198, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 207, 208, 210, 211, 212, 213, , 2732, 27914, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 223, 225, 226, 228, 229, 230, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 290, 291, 292, 293, 295, 297, 298, 299, 300, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 309, 310, 313, 316, 317, 318, 319, 321, 327, 328, 329, 330, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 350, 351, 352, 355, 356, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 371	303	89%
	I want our three waters services to be managed, built and operated locally, by people who understand our area			

		01, 03, 04, 05, 07, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 36, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, 57, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69, 74, 77, 79, 80, 81, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 109, 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 123, 125, 126, 128, 129, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 137, 139, 140, 141, 142, 144, 145, 146, 148, 150, 152, 153, 155, 156, 158, 160, 161, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 175, 176, 178, 180, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 191, 192, 193, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 205, 208, 210, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 228, 229, 230, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 258, 259, 260, 262, 263, 265, 266, 267, 26, 3039, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 290, 291, 292, 293, 295, 297, 299, 300, 304, 306, 309, 310, 316, 317, 318, 321, 328, 329, 330, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 338, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 350, 351, 352, 355, 356, 358, 359, 361, 362, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 371	255	75%
	I'm worried our water rates will end up funding upgrades in other areas			
		01, 03, 04, 05, 07, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 63, 64, 66, 67, 69, 70, 73, 76, 79, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 145, 146, 147, 148, 152, 153, 155, 156, 158, 160, 161, 163, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 180, 181, 182, 184, 186, 187, 188, 191, 192, 193, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 208, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 228, 229, 230, 232, 233, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 265, 266, 267, 269, 271, 272, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 283, 285, 286, 287, 288, 290, 291, 292, 293, 295, 297, 299, 300, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 309, 310, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 321, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 350, 351, 352, 355, 356, 359, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 368, 369, 371	261	77%
	I don't think it will improve efficiencies			
		06, 07, 09, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 36, 39, 44, 45, 46, 52, 55, 56, 57, 63, 66, 69, 74, 76, 77, 81, 83, 84, 86, 89, 93, 96, 98, 99, 100, 101, 105, 106, 107, 109, 111, 114, 116, 119, 120, 123, 126, 127, 133, 134, 136, 139, 141, 142, 144, 147, 152, 155, 156, 157, 160, 161, 163, 168, 172, 173, 176, 180, 187, 188, 189, 191, 192, 200, 201, 204, 206, 210, 212, 214, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 223, 225, 227, 228, 229, 230, 232, 233, 234, 235, 238, 239, 240, 241, 244, 245, 246, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 255, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 265, 267, 268, 269, 271, 275, 276, 277, 278, 280, 281, 283, 284, 285, 287, 290, 292, 293, 295, 297, 299, 300, 303, 305, 306, 309, 317, 321, 328, 333, 334, 338, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 350, 351, 355, 356, 367	164	48%
	I think we should hold off on any decisions and consider this alongside the wider future for Local Government Review and Resource Management Act (RMA) reform			
	Other - please state		124	37%

	1st of all no one owns the water in any shape or form 2nd small suppliers under 50 or so should be left out 3e national government doesn't have a clue what they are doing let alone manage our supply of water. The west coast hardly even gets a weather update on national tv let alone some in a national outfit remembering to upgrade our water lines.	1		
	When the Education Board, back in the 80's ran the schools on the West Coast from Canterbury, we were known as the 'poor' schools with lack of funding for repairs and maintenance. Look at the Intermediate School in Greymouth that had to be closed because of the state it was in. The same thing would happen to the West Coast Water situations. Small population, large, long area of land and not enough money to supply great water systems to our towns, as no doubt, funding will be based on population.	7		
	I think that along with the SNA land grab, it is just another way of removing us from control of our own assets. I do not believe that it will be cheaper I strongly object to the propaganda advertising campaign that is happening at the moment.	8		
	This is a clear strategy to have centralised control. I do think the local systems could be managed better - the Hokitika Settling/oxidation ponds are an eyesore and the discharge is a disgrace - but to fix that you don't need centralised control. In respect to potable water (I am a rural ratepayer and provide my own) there are other solutions that Government might come up with will be complex, expensive and lacking in local considerations.	16		
	I am of the opinion that as a country we need urgently to upgrade our entire water systems from the hills to the sea and from catchment to tap but I do not feel as though we should be lumped in with the North Island as we are a unique environment and requires unique solutions .	18		
	Once locals lose control of assets they are often miss treated and the cost increases whilst the service stays the same or gets worse. Having these assets in multiple hands means different methods can be trialled without having to go to a committee that has other vested interests, this has been demonstrated in the north Island. Big Governments only want these assets for power, control and the ability to raise money which they continue to abuse.	19		
	As this whole process is being rushed upon us,council/rate payers. I strongly feel we should step back and fully access what is being put forward by central government I personally am worried this is just another Kiwi rail debacle where by our assets are sold off cheap and the new owner will just run them into the ground and do little maintenance.Once the horse has been flogged to death the tax payer will again pick up the tab. Where is their so called proof of mass failure ? I am happy with the efforts of our current council and would prefer the status quo	21		
	Each region in the country is different and has different needs. The West Coast is very spread out and has a small population. We believe that its own existing local Council know how best to provide such essential services. We don't believe that its assets and ratepayers would benefit in any way by being swallowed up by a large entity. We believe that that would inevitably mean inefficiencies and very high on-going unaffordable annual costs to each ratepayer. What is the Government's rush in all of this? It is far too big a decision to be rushed and we agree with our mayor's proposal that there should be a BINDING referendum carried out on the topic.	30		
	I'm concerned that it will mean a one size fits all approach and this will lead to bad decision being made in local areas. Much better for decisions to made locally where all considerations can be taken into account	33		
	Central government should do a \$1 for \$1 3-water infrastructures spend with Local Authorities not nationalise it	35		

	Comments I don't currently pay a water rate but was a councillor for 21 years and know our council was ahead of most others in regards to our 3 waters I haven't forgotten what happened when the power reforms were forced on us and we have been screwed ever since	39		
	Comments: all of the above and more consultation opportunities with communities	46		
	This is a terrible idea which will leave ratepayers beholden to faceless bureaucrats and unelected Maori elite about the future of our water assets. This will open a very large door to ever more Maori ownership of public assets. This needs to be stopped in its tracks.	54		
	1) I have not been able to determine WHY this change in ownership is being considered. My only assumption is that Maori interests are being promoted ahead of all others in New Zealand, and I consider this to be racial discrimination of the worst kind. 2) I want the fundamental elements of our current infrastructure to be maintained and managed by LOCAL people ELECTED to work on our behalf. 3) With the current ownership model what we are rated for must get spent locally and on what it was rated for. This 3 waters proposal take away all control ratepayers have over their long term investment in these facilities. 4) This proposal is effectively Central Government stealing our assets and under a facade of Treaty compliance giving control to Maori, along with the financial windfall I expect they will see coming from our rates.	55		
	It is an undemocratic piece of legislation being forced on councils. The government seems intent on creating a "Nanny State" where they make decisions for everyone. I believe it will a huge financial burden for rate payers as the council loose valuable assets. It seems contrary to say it will save individuals money yet employ 9000 people. The more layers of managers/officialdom the harder it becomes to use.	57		
	I think it would end up being considerably more expensive. I see nothing to be gained for Westland by opting in. I'm very concerned about the UN Sustainable Development Goals being implemented by councils without transparency or buy-in from local communities	60		
	It is very important that the West Coast regions keeps control of their local resources and not let them be taken away. The South Islands West Coast is under constant pressure from Government Departments to take away their rights to their local resources. These resources help the West Coast's economy and the regions well being. Most important the water resource belongs to all New Zealanders, alike, and it should not be controlled by bureaucracy from outside the region.	63		
	I believe that the Government is looking for another source of income by collecting dividends from a company it is the major shareholder in. Similar to the electricity set up.	65		
	It is unconscionable to hand over all water to the elite Maori, which is ultimately what 3 waters is all about. Nowhere in western democratic countries would you see a policy like this. It is racist and divisive and a strong message needs to be sent to central government that we will not stand for this!	67		
	It's just another stage of the government's total-control plan	73		
	Lake Kaniere residents rely on rain water to tanks on properties. Also all water supplied to Hokitika residents is from the lake itself. Don't think the government has thought this through.	76		

	<p>Basically all of the above and more! I do not trust this Labour Green Govt as it is all spin and no action but likes to look good and lets all our hard paid for assets drop from their hands. Also what this Three Waters Reform is doing appears racist - as why should only one culture be able to own and gain from the projected ownership of council assets and water that falls from the sky for all to drink?</p> <p>I find it incredible we are expected to allow our councils to literally hand over our costly water and infrastructure assets as an expensive gift that rate payers have paid for heavily for years and years to get so little financial reward for doing so in return. What next? Will the Govt put a levy on fresh air?</p> <p>No i do not agree with the Three Waters Reform - tell the Govt to go to hell. Or better still to keep parliament working in Lockdown!</p>	78		
	<p>Westland District Council has managed in the past and I don't want to see outside interference on our water scheme we need to own and control our own systems past interference for central government has show little empathy for West Coast issues</p>	80		
	<p>I think that the Three Waters do need reforming, and centralising most of the services may easily be the best way to achieve this. However there seems to be some major flaws with the proposed structures. I don't think that the proposed area encompassing most but not all of the South Island makes sense (leaving out non Ngai Tahu areas), the boundaries should be made at the logical geographical feature, in this case the sea. The whole of the South Island should be one area.</p> <p>I do not think the proposed governance model is suitable - I want highly qualified people with a background in water management to be on the governance body, not those put there due to political whim.</p> <p>I think its possible that under the proposed arrangement the water authority could be privatised reasonably easily - there would have to be extremely strong legislation to stop this before the proposal should be considered.</p>	83		
	<p>Having lived in Queensland we had a Premier Bligh take over the water, stormwater and sewerage from the Local Authorities without consultation. She created Utility companies which were much the same as NZ government proposes.</p> <p>It created an extra layer of red tape and people to deal with. The worst thing was that she mandated fluoride in all the water. No choice, she just did it. If I want to take fluoride I want a choice.</p> <p>I can see this will happen in NZ.</p>	91		
	<p>I am very concerned that the proposal is completely unrealistic and will lead to another bloated bureaucracy that replicates the relatively efficient services currently offered by local councils. I am bewildered with the arguments that underlie this ill-conceived so-called 'Three Waters Reform'. The loss of local control is another attack on democracy that is a cornerstone of NZ culture. The amount of recent National Government interference in local government is a real concern with disempowering consequences for our citizens.</p>	94		
	<p>With the regular rising costs of accommodation, food, etc, and peoples local freedoms and say about their communities being eroded, by some of the government policies and control, it is getting harder for lots of people to make ends meet. This is resulting in more sickness and poor mental health in families, with some sadly taking their own lives. It is so good that our local council representatives are giving us the opportunity of having our say in what is a very important matter for the West Coast community.</p>	97		
	<p>This should not just be taken away from our community and council after everything the local people in our communities have paid into these assets.</p>	100		
	<p>No way other parts of the South Island can understand water on the West Coast.</p>	101		
	<p>I believe that unreasonable expectations will be put on water Quality and inevitably start taking choice from the public.</p> <p>Next the national anthem will have "free land" removed.</p>	103		

	Centralization of power and control over local water supply and infrastructure disempowers the local community to make the appropriate decisions in the best interests of its people.	104		
	We aren't getting a fair government offer to take over our services for the money invested by rate payers. We should be paid full value of our 3 water systems. The council then should pay off debt with the money and the left over money set-up as a fund like Development West Coast, with the profits paying for the 1 off items, like parks, playgrounds hall work etc. This would allow the rates to use for the core jobs and take the burden off rates payers.	106		
	We are totally opposed to the Govt. 3 waters reform proposal. In particular to included Westland in a single entity with the likes of Marlborough and Canterbury is ludicrous.. We are one of the wettest local government areas with a very low population and to attach us with one of the driest and the highest population is unworkable. The make up of the Regional Ref. group and the fact that 50% are Mana Whenua appointees and with the population demographics means that it is unlikely that Westland would have even a representative let alone any meaningful say.	109		
	Examples of amalgamation I have seen in the past have led to those areas closest to the central administration base receiving good service/value for money and those in outlying areas being left without either any service or very poor service. If this one body were to "own"/manage all water sources including rain, I would percieve they would then be liable for excess of waters (including rain) and the damage that occurs from this. I understand that even rain water collected from roof supply is to be taxed. If this were so then I would believe that the body would also have to be liable for the construction and repair costs of collecting this water. If I personally had an increase cost to my water supply, my immediate reaction would be why continue to save water. Use as much as I desire when I desire. If I pay for something I expect to receive it. Therefore in the event of a "please don't use water" or "conserve" notice, I would expect a refund for non supplied goods.	110		
	I guess that I'm cynical about government creating huge bureaucracies with top heavy management and small actual workers at the coal face (I'm a retired RN from the DHB). Inefficiencies occur and I'm not sure that quality of the three waters would improve. It seems like the current system here is working. I want to continue to supply my own home with rainwater collection and maintain my sewage with my consented septic system.	111		
	I feel we are being rail roaded by government who I fear have already decided the outcome of these changes. Why penalise Districts like ours throughout NZ who have worked so hard to maintain to a very good level our 3 Waters in comparison to those who have chose not to. Considering we already have a low rating base, now the govt want to strip us of our own \$117 million of assetts that will dissolve into the NZ wide scheme???	112		
	Local knowledge on all things including water is paramount in maintaining efficiency, understanding unique and different environmental factors, the challenges to each region and micro climates, preparedness in emergency situations and effective immediate solutions on the ground. Locals already manage and understand the complexities of living on the Coast and therefore are the best people equiped and educated to maintain and future proof their water quality, waste and stormwater.	113		
	We think it is a case of BIG BROTHER and Lady J controlling our lives, when they dont understand the long term consequences of their plans	116		
	Another knee jerk reaction, top heavy system typical of this govt that cant get anything right.	123		
	Lack of understanding the governance and proposed management of Government proposal. Lack of information as to how and why Government arrived at its proposed management organisation	127		

	Very concerned that the central government should deem it appropriate to usurp council assets .Locals paid and maintained the water infracture in my view this proposal is dictorial, of big govemnt knows best. The new 3 tier proposed structure is unworkable at any level. and for westland to be heard in the new structure will be remote. hopefully the residents will instruct the council to op out.	134		
	Value for ratepayers would dictate that receiving 10cents in the dollar for the assets is a bad if not insulting deal.	137		
	This government can NOT be trusted with ratepayer owned assets. There is an underling motive for this confiscation of assets. It is not for the good of ALL New Zealanders. This can NOT happen!	140		
	nothing to do with reality	142		
	Commenting specifically on OKARITO water local scheme. Upgraded 2021 to highest Govt. standard with UV treatment and monthly CLEAR testing by WDC. WE DO NOT WANT CHLORINE TREATMENT. Currently OKARITO Community Association water charges are \$200 annually. Three Waters reform would see these charges around \$1500.00 With the charging suggested under Three Waters regime I believe WDC could supply all of Westland with clean drinking water cheaper.	147		
	I believe that Westland has a history of providing good quality 3 water facilities over the whole region and has over the last few years been upgrading and replacing older infrastructure so will not need the huge amounts of money that the Government is suggesting to bring it up to the standard that it will require in the future. I also believe that having this very important infrastructure managed from afar will not achieve what is expected and we would be far better served by having it governed by people on the ground and therefore in touch with the local challenges around weather and logistics. Westland District Council has of late created a good working relationship with the local iwi and therefore will not need to hand over half the asset to pacify a government decree. To hand over the 3- water asset for a pittance would be like spitting in the face of our ancestors that had the foresight to get these assets created and for the most part paid for. None of the Governments arguments regarding the need for this proposal makes sense anywhere in New Zealand and least of all in the province of Westland where we have a very great amount of knowledge when it comes to water in all its forms. This proposal is another attempt of Central government seeking to take away the power from local government which has been proven not to work such as in Health and Education. The whole financial viability of the council will also be challenged to such a point where it will be very difficult to operate effective local government without having to raise rates. The reason I say this is that the same amount of people will have to be employed to run these assets on the ground. Then the we will have to pay for additional management in the new entity as well as with the Council to communicate the various issues between the ratepayers, Councillors and the new entity None of this proposal makes any sense and should be binned immediately. My point being — Why would you sell the family car for \$ 1,100 (when it was worth \$11,700) and then rent it back for \$ 650 per year. (and yes those figures were used for a reason)	152		
	Once under control of central government or their appointees, there will be less control of spiraling rate increases and to be able to hold the government appointees to account at a local level.	155		

	I feel that at this stage there is not enough information available that is easily understood (if a complex reform like this could ever be explained easily). This actually sounds as though I should also say I am undecided but still am concerned about "others" taking control of "our" regional assets. At this stage the words Opt Out are not quite the right words. Pause the whole reform until "better" information is available.	157		
	Should be local and how much are we all going to have to part out on water rates? The govt needs to keep out of local council management	158		
	Why change something that's not broken and we want to keep control of own water	160		
	If we opt in our water will become owned by maori which is unacceptable. And we don't want another unnecessary rates increase.	163		
	It's stealing!!	166		
	I do not wish to see us local rate payers having to contribute to any issues that may happen in a larger city, and our smaller communities suffer as a result. Local problem, local understanding, locals fix the issue with local knowledge, not some dictatorship from some far away city, where some of these decision makers have never set foot in our community.	167		
	Leave everything the way it is We have our own people to deal with our own water Don't trust this government cause if they take over they'll sell it to someone else	168		
	All New Zealanders have the right for water that falls out of the sky	170		
	Water is the right of all New Zealanders	171		
	It would appear that we have a reliable and well maintained 3 water system at present and with continued provision for maintenance and upgrading by the council in the future there would seem to be no advantage to give such a large asset to the govt. for no obvious advantage. By retaining the present system the rate payers have some say, however limited, through the elected councillors that could be totally lost in the new conglomerate.	174		
	We are not even on reticulated water supply and will still be expected to pay the same. We have recently spent over \$15,000 upgrading our water supply and storage and am very against paying again. I also do not agree with the Council handing over ownership of the assets to only be given 50% say in what happens to them and only then with a 70% majority of all parties. We are basically handing our community paid assets to others with limited ability to have input into their future management. In the past, we have instigated a user pays when required - such as the Kaniere water scheme where those users paid for the upgrades required. I see no reason why this model cannot successfully continue going forward.	182		
	This Govt. especially but all governments have proved beyond doubt they are completely incapable of running operations of this sort. Costs will blow out and the infrastructure paid for by rate payers will not be compensated for.	184		
	The government has a history of overlooking the westcoast region. #Democracy is being overwhelmed by socialism. #The 3 waters is an asset grab by the government who in turn can sell these assets to private/foreign entities in the future. # There is no guarantee that the 3 waters can do a better job than what local council here on the West Coast is already doing. # Don't break what's not broken.	186		
	I don't trust Central Government control of local assets.	188		
	It belongs to Westland. Keep it that way	189		
	Government has no place in managing our three waters services. Westland District Council has been and still is quite capable of continuing the three water services to our community.	191		
	See submission	198		

	We need local input into decisions on water. All areas are different. One system does not fit all. Bloody Govt trying to take away our rights & freedoms is just bloody communism (please stop the theft)	200		
	We as rate & tax payers have already paid for our services and have good (excellent) clean water.	201		
	Naming 4 large - private - entities to manage three waters is a recipe for disaster, especially if those entities have related business interests of their own. Conflict of interest.	202		
	This is a ridiculous handover and a license to print money solely for so called indigenous people. Therefore never will be an acceptable transition.	204		
	\$160 billion loan debt to organise the new institution looks to dump the repayments onto ratepayers through inflated charges for water use in its 3 forms of water/sewage/stormwater	210		
	Labour governments nationalise thing and then National get in and sell them off - to overseas or rich Nzers, who then run them for profit, costing us more for things we've paid for in the first place.	211		
	We don't want to pay for services we won't get	213		
	The Moscow circus is coming to town.	214		
	With Central control we will be easy meet to dump "health" into our water. Hope Mayor & councillors don't bite the \$11m carrot. The money will last short time and generations to come will pay again.	216		
	Control from Wellington will be manipulative and political	217		
	Sincerely as ratepayers we want to stay with elected local members who know and understand the areas we live in to manage our services.	219		
	Big is not the best - Ex local body worker	221		
	A blinking take really forget it. All the mess ups NZ ED, Ministry of works forestry. (all costs us more). All the things in the past were, supposed to make things cheaper, but all they ever did was to make things more expensive & make one's life much harder	224		
	See submission - concern for climate change and a local voice	227		
	Does anyone really trust this government.	230		
	Inclusion of 6 mana whenua appointees undemocratic racially divisive. Aslo, as both a commercial and residential ratepayer, current rate increases are unsustainable, - crippling business viability - we can take no more. "Efficiencies from economy of scale" a well proven myth. Also allows agenda driven ideological / political interference with zero regard to reality.	233		
	We are concerned large that large population areas/regions will be prioritised over Westland. Domestic users will be charged/ metered for water use.	238		
	Dick turpin would turn in his grave even he a`was not brazen.nothing but daylight robbery.	239		
	I am concerned what mya happen to private rainwater collection supplies	240		
	As we are self sufficient in these area don't want our resources spread thinner.	248		
	I belive the coast would be low on budget when it came to spend on our low population.	250		
	Covid?	254		
	See submission	257		
	Because under Three Waters, we have no say and the rates will go up. Don't like the way the govt is heading.	258		
	See submission - concern about government honesty in the process	260		
	The risk is we are small towns/communities/council in a big entity and that leads to the small problems being lost in the system and not being heard.	261		

	Westland DC should walk away. The added fish-hook in this 3 Waters Legislation is the underhanded way this is being used to give the various lwi "elites" 50% if not more governance of assets rightly owned by in this case Westland rate-payers and in the greater scheme assets owned by New Zealanders as a whole entity. Walk Away Mayor Smith & Council. If the Govt mandates/legislates anyway ratepayers will stand with you rest assured.	262		
	Because it will also add costs to rate payers as we pay in the end! Better to have the money from central government given to local bodies then spending on more management!!	269		
	I want to see more impartial information on this topic. written in a simple language that everybody can understand! there is way too much jargon and confusing sentences in the information we have received from WDC! Keep it super simple folks so that we can all make informed decisions that will affect our future!	271		
	This is a vote franchise issue that we can hold councillors to account for in each election. If this function and any others are lost to another body it is heading towards taxation without representation, the cause of the American war of independence. It's a poor decision for the ratepayers of our region and needs to be flatly rejected	273		
	There is nothing wrong with what we have. See this as government way of getting areas such as coast to support areas that can't manage there own I.e. Auckland	274		
	stays in westland	277		
	I cant see any benefit for my household. Having my own water supply which I do all the up keep, maintenance. Unless the three water scheme will connect me to town water supply I may reconsider my decision. I have septic for my waste and storm water don't get me started, every time we have heavy rain fall my place floods from the water that travels down the road into my property, at times I wonder what my rates actually pay for.	279		
	The value of the Westland District Councils three waters asset compared to the Government Support Package payment is a joke and smells like another Kiwi Build. Reference 5. No 3 on A new system for three waters service delivery states "Further decisions are yet to be taken by Cabinet on the arrangement for transition to, and implementing the new system". How can we make fully informed decisions without all of the facts on this very important issue????????	280		
	See submission - keep infrastructure in local control	287		
	An inhibiting act by the most dictatorial & constrictive Govt to date., who I doubt could actually run water downhill.	292		
	"If it ain't broke don't fix it" as my late grandfather would say. If this goes ahead it will be a total disaster, the track record of our govt has shown over and over again they have little or no business sense so it would be doomed before it got off the start line. I want Westland DC to steer well clear of this disaster in the making.	297		
	This is rushed, put forward while the entire country is distracted by covid, financial pressures and emotional and personal pressures. The payment offered is pitiful and embarrassing compared to the assets worth. I want my rates spent in this district. I'm concerned in the future our precious water will be sold off shore, and while I'm on this topic, I've always felt Westland could be one of the wealthiest districts in this country through selling our resource. Why have we not done this? I'm concerned if this is pushed through, in the future there could be restrictions and charges on collecting rain water. Just NO.	299		
	I think there is room for efficiencies and better meeting of regulations but that requires central government to communicate clearly and simplify its processes.	305		
	We live rurally so we manage our own water services, we don't want government interfering.	306		
	See submission - keep the assets in local hands	308		

	We are rural, we are on rain water on our own filtration plant and pose no expense to councils.	309		
	Y pay rates if Jacinda takes my assets another way of giving water to the maoris	314		
	See submission - Water rates should be metered and user paid.	315		
	The TWF has many similarities to our health systems - Just look at our hospitals? (They have gone and we're left with a band aid station!)	316		
	See submission - different environment to other areas.	318		
	As we use rain-water supply we have concerns at what other proposals may introduce	319		
	See submission - opposes 4 entities	322		
	See submission - ill conceived plan	324		
	Prefer to keep these situations in local area by local people.	328		
	entities will be privatised, water rates swallowed up in massive salaries	331		
	Past amalgamations show that this does not lead to reduced costs, usually the reverse. The assets involved are too valuable to "give away", and no doubt the council relies on these to backup borrowing.	335		
	Govt haven't provided enough information to make a proper decision or show that we will be better off. 3 Waters being managed centrally will just be a big balls up.	338		
	Let's not go down the same path as the power reforms.	340		
	It is unlikely Council and residents would have a strong say or influence in local matters under this arrangement.	341		
	At a time of such economic uncertainty in the world, families are struggling financially. Living cost are rising and wages are not matching the increase, making it a struggle for a lot of people. there is a lot of household that will not be able to survive with the cost this will put on them. This also feels very rushed and there hasn't been enough information from the government for the people to make a educated decision.	344		
	This is the first step on a programme to hand ownership of the water to Maori. No body owns water, only the infrastructure. We do not want to become like other parts of the world where water is a commodity and is traded and big companies make a lot of money trading water. So why should rate paying kiwis have to pay big money to a corporate for water that falls form the sky for free in this country.	350		
	Why change something that ain't broke! It's communism by stealth.	356		
	The proposal amounts to theft of community assets, paid for by rate payers over generations and administered by Westland District Council on their behalf. 1) Should the proposal go ahead, the loss of assets, not fully compensated, will have an adverse effect on Councils balance sheet and it's ability to obtain loan finance. 2)Depreciation reserves, unless ring fenced to Westland district, will be appropriated for use in districts which have failed to properly maintain their three waters assets. 3) The \$500 million "no worse off" funding, if apportioned on the same base as the \$ 2 billion "better off" funding, will see Westland District Council receive \$3 million but lose \$6 million of current water revenue. 4) The proposal appears to me to focus solely on the three waters component of Councils business and does not fully account for the effect on the remaining business once three waters assets are stripped, eg fixed overhead recovery.	367		
	Because we live in the country and are responsible for our own 3 waters are happy for this to remain Rather than have a government entity in charge of how we operate. More than happy to follow local council recommendations.	369		

Option 3 - Undecided		34, 48, 62, 183, 190, 220, 320, 323, 354	9	2.42%
	Agree with position of requesting the delaying current process and timeline to allow for detailed, thorough and transparent consultation.	34		
	<p>I believe there is not enough information and this is too rushed for councils to op in at this stage.</p> <p>I have not read anywhere how fresh and sewage water will be paid for, currently councils differ a lot in their approach's to charges. This and many questions need to be answered.</p> <p>The proposed governance structure seems undemocratic and expensive.</p> <p>As the mayor has pointed out recently, can we afford the proposed standard of water? Very few people get sick from our water systems currently and so I would prefer the government to spend additional funds on improving our hospitals and funding unfunded treatments to improve our health outcomes.</p> <p>Water should not be privatised or nationalised and no debt should be taken on by these water utility companies if they are created.</p> <p>I trust the Mayor of Westland and councillors to be accountable and do the right thing for the community they live in, the same can't be said for a group based in Christchurch with no direct accountability to the community. If there are efficiencies in centralised management perhaps explore combining the 3 West Coast District Council's teams but leave the accountability on the West Coast until the proposal can be better thought through and debated.</p>	48		
	<p>Comments On the one hand I see the loss of locally owned assets and on the other hand I see advantages of scale for the future in that the assets will be supported by a significantly greater population base. Overall, I am not convinced that the centralised one-size-fits-all approach has merit for Westland and I am less convinced that there is a demonstrable need for local reform; I also acknowledge that in 15 years time no one will remember the good old days and the various water charges will be something that we live with as a state of mind. I think improved outcomes could be achieved by enabling Private Public Partnerships and enabling adjoining local authorities to combine resources. Such outcomes could readily achieve the critical mass required to sustainably retain, manage and improve three water Facilities in Westland. On balance I would probably opt out and retain local accountability.</p>	62		

	<p>Why can I only select option 1 or 2 on this form and not option 3?</p> <p>There has not been enough information provided to definitively chose opt in or opt out. I notice on the DIA website that the government states "No formal decisions are required between now and 1 October, but we are seeking feedback on the potential impacts of the proposed reform and how it could be improved" Why are you trying to get the population of Westland to make a decision on this form?</p> <p>I would be very disappointed to think that WDC leadership is steering the local population to make a decision based on the leadership's personal political leanings, or their desire to retain in house control of the 3 waters to avoid the need to considerably downsize the WDC organisation if this responsibility was taken on by another entity.</p> <p>Going forward WDC & its residents need to have confidence that there is a plan and funding available to replace, renew and improve all infrastructure needed for the future challenges that providing 3 waters involves. I would be interested in hearing how the WDC leadership propose achieving this with a population of around 9,000 people?</p> <p>WDC needs to keep the lines of communication open with the Labour Government. This is NOT the time to close the door on any proposals. We need to keep our options open until more information is made available</p>	183		
	<p>I'd select Option 3 if there was a tick box. From the outside it looks to me that long-term there will be potential benefits to Westland District, especially in the event a major upgrade or replacement of infrastructure is required in a major town (Hokitika) following a major event or failure. I can't see anything in the 3 Waters information provided that would lead me to think Westland would be disadvantaged. As stated in the survey documentation it appears that council has engaged consultants Tonkin & Taylor "to review the impacts of the proposal and ensure that we understand what it means for the Westland District". This is possibly a good move but really I think Council should wait until that review is available and make that information part of the survey. That way ratepayers will be better able to develop an informed opinion.</p>	189		
	Want to know how this three waters will affect those of us who are not on mains supply.	220		
	See submission - both opt in and opt out selected.	320		
	See submission - supports in principle, opposes the four regions	323		
	<p>I believe the Council should be realistic about WDC's inability to fund the required long term work from WDC rates alone.</p> <p>I feel that I may get better value for money by merging 67 councils into four large entities</p> <p>I can see advantages of combining three waters assets into four large entities</p> <p>It may improve efficiencies across three waters services</p> <p>I think the new three waters entity may be better placed to enable the funding of services required in the WDC area.</p>	354		
Other feedback	Does not consent to rates being used to implement the goals of UN, WHO or other international agencies.	2	1	0.27%

Appendix 2 - 3 Waters Reform – Analysis of community feedback

Council received 370 responses from the community. Some of the responses were from the same person, but the majority were unique. Most of the responses were received from Westland residents, with a few from the wider West Coast. Three options were presented to residents:

- **Option 1-Opt in**
I think the Council should opt-in to the Government's proposed Three Waters Reform.
- **Option 2 – Opt out**
I think the Council should opt-out of the Government's proposed Three Waters Reform.
- **Option 3 - Undecided**

The following tables are ordered by option preference:-

Opting out

The majority of responses – 91.6% - are in favour of Option 2 and believe that Council should opt-out of the proposed reform

**Percentage for each option based on all responses received.*

Percentage for reasons based on all responses received for that option.

Table 1

Option	Reason	Number of responses	Percentage*
Option 2 - Opt-out <i>I think the Council should opt-out of the Government's proposed Three Waters Reform.</i>		339	91.6%
	I'm concerned we won't have a strong democratic say in the way three waters services are provided	255	75%
	I want our three waters services to be managed, built and operated locally, by people who understand our area	303	89%
	I'm worried our water rates will end up funding upgrades in other areas	255	75%
	I don't think it will improve efficiencies	261	77%
	I think we should hold off on any decisions and consider this alongside the wider future for Local Government Review and Resource Management Act (RMA) reform	164	48%
	Other - please state	124	37%

Themes of the 'Other' responses to option 2 include:

- The Council does an acceptable / good job and understands the local water environment better than a centralised entity.

- Government has a poor track record when consolidating services. They do not create promised benefits and have suffered privatisation.
- 'Asset-grab' by central government.
- The governance model is unfair and favours mana whenua.
- Each region has different needs and Councils know their communities best.
- Concern that the Government is rushing reform through in an undemocratic way.
- The value of the assets is not reflected in the funding from Government.
- The assets have been paid for by ratepayers and should be owned by ratepayers through the Council.
- Westland might not receive good service/value for money because of the distance from the main administration base and size of the district compared to others within Entity D.
- Creating more bureaucracy with a confusing governance structure. There will be less accountability than there is with local Councils.
- Costs will increase and funding will not be spread equally between small and large centres.

Opting in

On opting in – 5.9% - are in favour of Option 2 and believe that Council should opt-into the proposed reform

**Percentage for each option based on all responses received.*

Percentage for reasons based on all responses received for that option.

Table 2

Option	Reason	Number of responses	Percentage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1- Opt in I think the Council should opt-in to the Government's proposed Three Waters Reform. 		22	5.9%
	I believe that we should be providing the same level of service for three waters across all of New Zealand	12	55%
	I feel that I will get better value for money by merging 67 councils into four large entities	14	64%
	I can see advantages of combining three waters assets into four large entities	16	73%
	It will improve efficiencies across three waters services	11	50%
	I think the new three waters entity will be better able to keep up with increased regulations and requirements	16	73%
	Other - please state.	13	59%

Themes of the 'Other' responses to option 1 include:

- Do not feel that Councils in general or Westland District Council manage the assets effectively.
- Improved assets with greater investment as the entity will have more finances than Westland's small rating base.
- Private water supply.

,
Undecided

A small number of respondents – 2.4% - are undecided in relation to the proposed reform

**Percentage for each option based on all responses received.*

Percentage for reasons based on all responses received for that option.

Table 3

Option	Reason	Number of responses	Percentage*
Option 3 - Undecided		9	2.4%

Themes of the responses to option 3 include:

- Delay current process and allow time for more information to be made available and proper consultation.
- Agree that there could be advantages to consolidated assets but loss of local assets and one-size-fits all might not be the best approach.
- Public – private partnerships might be preferable.
- There could be long-term benefits, but more information needs to be available to make an informed decision.
- Support for the idea in principle but the makeup of the regions does not make sense.
- One submitter did not address the question specifically (0.27%) but commented that they do not consent to rates being used to implement the goals of international agencies.



Three Waters Reform - Draft Statement of Proposal

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Table of contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Background	2
2.1	Reform process	2
2.2	Support package	2
2.3	Ngāi Tahu takiwā / Water Services Entity D	3
2.4	Current three waters assets and activities	3
2.4.1	Debt	3
2.4.2	Capital Expenditure Forecast	3
2.5	West Coast Service delivery review	5
3	Proposed structure for 3-Waters service delivery	7
3.1	Governance and representation	7
3.2	Regulatory environment	7
3.3	Parallel reform activity of relevance to local government	8
3.4	Asset ownership	9
3.5	Transitional arrangements (to 1 July 2024)	9
3.6	Implementation arrangements (from 1 July 2024)	10
4	Anticipated impacts	11
4.1	Westland District Council financial position	11
4.1.1	Operating Expenditure Forecast	12
4.1.2	Stranded Overheads	12
4.2	Delivering broader outcomes	12
4.3	Economic outcomes	13
4.4	Social outcomes	14
4.5	Cultural outcomes	16
4.6	Threats and opportunities	16
5	Key points to feedback to government	20
6	Comparing Council delivery with new water services entity	23
7	Council's preferred approach/The proposal	24
8	Applicability	25

1 Introduction

Following the serious campylobacter outbreak in 2016 and the Government's Inquiry into Havelock North Drinking Water, central and local government have been considering the issues and opportunities facing the system for regulating and managing the three waters (drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater).

This investigation considered how to ensure safe drinking water, improve the environmental performance and transparency of wastewater and stormwater network and deal with funding and affordability challenges. Performance issues apply to varying degrees across New Zealand. Funding challenges are particularly important for communities with small rating bases or high-growth areas that have reached their prudential borrowing limits.

In the coming months the Government will confirm the detailed service delivery arrangements as part of the broader Three Waters Reform Programme. This decision will have a significant impact on both the role that Councils play in the community and on their finances.

The purpose of this report is to provide analysis and advice on the proposed Three Waters Reform for Council to consider. The report is intended to support feedback to Government on recommended changes to service delivery arrangements and will be updated once the proposed changes have been confirmed later this year.

There is an eight-week process for Council to understand the implications of the announcements, ask questions and propose locally applicable solutions to the legislation. This will support Government to work with Councils and mana whenua on key aspects of the reform, including governance, integrated planning, and community voice.

The structure of this report covers the proposed Three Waters Reform and provides a comparison to the current system. It provides an update on the reform process, the data and modelling received to date, implications of the proposal and next steps.

2 Background

2.1 Reform process

Over the last 4 years central and local government have been considering the issues and opportunities facing the system for regulating and managing the three waters (drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater) – Three Water Reform.

Council completed a Request for Information (RFI) process over New Year 2020/21 and the Government has used this information to make preliminary decisions on the next stages of reform and has concluded that the case for change has been made.

In March 2021, the Government formally established Taumata Arowai to oversee and administer an expanded and strengthened drinking water regulatory system and oversee the environmental performance of wastewater and stormwater networks.

In July 2021, the Government released the information that covered the estimated potential investment requirements for New Zealand and the scope of potential efficiency gains of their proposals.

As a result of this analysis, the Government has decided to:

- Establish **four, publicly-owned water services entities** that own and operate three waters infrastructure on behalf of local authorities.
- Establish **independent, competency-based boards** to govern each entity.
- Set a **clear national policy direction for the three waters sector**, including integration with any new spatial / resource management planning processes.
- Establish an economic regulation regime.
- Develop an industry transformation strategy.

2.2 Support package

In conjunction, the Government announced a package of \$2.5 billion to support councils to transition to the new water entities and to invest in community wellbeing. This funding is made up of a **‘better off’ element**. This comprises \$500 million available from 1 July 2022 with the remainder available from mid 2024. \$1 billion of the better funding is from the Crown and \$1 billion is from the new Water Services Entities. There is also a **‘no council worse off’ element**, estimated to be around \$500 million. This will be available from July 2024 and funded by the Water Services Entities.

The **“better off”** funding can be used to support the delivery of local wellbeing outcomes associated with climate change and resilience, housing and local placemaking, and there is an expectation that councils will engage with iwi/Māori in determining how to use their funding allocation.

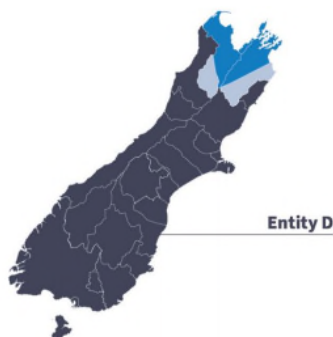
A suite of mechanisms would protect Māori/iwi rights and interests and prevent privatisation. The proposal is seeking to enable greater strategic influence to exercise rangatiratanga over water services delivery, ensuring:

- Integration of iwi/Māori rights and interests within a wider system.
- Reflection of a holistic te ao Māori perspective.
- Supporting clear account and ensure roles, responsibilities, and accountability for the relationship with the Treaty partner.
- Improving outcomes at a local level to enable a step change improvement in delivery of water services for iwi/Māori.

WDC has proven it can engage with Iwi on three waters issues. A good example of this is the current governance structure implemented for the Hokitika WWTP project.

2.3 Ngāi Tahu takiwā / Water Services Entity D

In June 2021 the Government announced its intention to shape the sector around four Water Service Entities (WSEs). The Council would belong to 'Entity D', along with 21 other Councils. The boundary for Entity D have been set with consideration of Ngāi Tahu rohe/takiwā, water catchments, population, economic benefits and the needs and interests of local communities



2.4 Current three waters assets and activities

The key aspects of the three waters assets and activity in the district are detailed below.

2.4.1 Debt

Council directs that debt should only be used to finance new and upgraded assets. Renewals will be funded through depreciation; low value assets will be funded through rates. Each tranche of debt is to be repaid over a period of 20 years.

Council participates in the LGFA scheme as a borrower only. This allows Council to borrow under the scheme up to \$20m. Council employs a multi option credit line to provide a flexible borrowing facility of over \$20m, and a swap portfolio to fix its short, medium and long-term interest rates.

Three waters infrastructure makes up 24% of the Westland District Infrastructure assets, as outlined in the Table below.

Table 2.1: Westland three waters infrastructure assets

Asset	Description	Replacement value	% of total assets
Water	Water extraction, treatment and distribution	\$52.0M	11%
Sewerage	Wastewater collection, treatment and discharge	\$30.9M	6%
Stormwater	Stormwater collection and discharge	\$34.1M	7%

2.4.2 Capital Expenditure Forecast

There are nine water supplies throughout the Westland district, and the majority of the reticulation is gravity fed from elevated reservoirs. Most treatment plants have been upgraded to meet compliance of the Drinking Water Standards of New Zealand. The planned capital water supply projects are outlined below.

Table 2.2: Upcoming capital water supply projects

Asset type	Asset	Cost (\$)	Timeframe (2021 LTP Years)	Funding method
Water Treatment Plant works	Arahura - upgrade	\$400,000	Year 1	100% Loan
	Kumara - remedial works	\$50,000	Year 1	100% Loan
	Ross – pump replacement	\$236,000	Year 1, 10	100% Subsidy
	Components replacement	\$247,000	Years 1 3,5,7 & 9	100% Depreciation
	Telemetry – upgrades and replacement	\$151,000	Years 1, 9 - 10	100% Loan
	Hokitika – improvement modules	\$1.811 M	Years 6 - 7	100% Depreciation
	Franz Josef – new plant	\$3.610 M	Years 8 - 10	100% Loan
Water Mains Replacement	Ross	\$231,000	Year 1, 5	43% Subsidy 57% Loan
	Harihari	\$223,000	Year 1, 10	45% Subsidy 55% Loan
	Franz Joseph	\$630,000	Years 1, 5, 10	8% Subsidy 91% Depreciation
	Kumara	\$336,000	Year 1 – 2, 7	100% Depreciation
	Hokitika	\$1.372 M	Years 1, 3, 5, 7, 9	100% Depreciation
	Fox Glacier	\$271,000	Year 7	53% Subsidy 47% Depreciation
Reservoirs	Hokitika	\$92,000	Year 2	100% Depreciation
	Kumara	\$283,000	Year 4	100% Depreciation
Seismic valve	Kumara	\$31,000	Year 2	100% Loan
	Harihari	\$42,000	Year 4	100% Loan
Stormwater upgrades (all in Hokitika)	Sewell Street pump upgrade	\$100,000	Year 1	30% Loan 70% Depreciation
	Kanee pipeline	\$138,000	Years 1 - 2	50% Depreciation 50% Loan
	Livingstone Street pump	\$1.603 M	Years 1, 4, 7	50% Depreciation 50% Loan
	Stormwater mains replacement	\$887,000	Years 1-5, 7, 9	100% Depreciation
	Bealey Street pump upgrade	\$20,000	Year 2	100% Depreciation
	Weld Street extension	\$56,000	Year 6	20% Loan 80% Depreciation

The first 10-years of Council's infrastructure strategy is based on carrying out upgrades and enhancements previously identified. The focus over the next two decades will primarily be undertaking risk based renewals based on evidence using condition and performance data collected (with exception of Franz Josef Services).

Table 2.3: Renewal spend for infrastructure

Asset	Renewals spend in years 1 - 10	Renewals spend in years 11 - 20	Renewals spend in years 21 – 30
Stormwater	\$3.042 M	\$498,000	\$620,000
Drinking water	\$10.996 M	\$4.941 M	\$6.024 M
Wastewater	\$19.154 M	\$1.523 M	\$1.893 M

Council's asset condition, performance (and confidence) levels for:

- Water supplies are good
- Wastewater are good
- Stormwater are average

Areas of the Westland district have been built over decades and today there is both underground and above ground infrastructure which is well past its expected life. The main area of focus and expenditure within the 3 waters area will be on renewal of the Hokitika Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Table 2.4: Percentage of assets exceeding life

Asset type	District Wide – total amount at the end of design life as at 30 June 2022 (%)
Water Lines	10.4%
Water Plant	13.6%
Wastewater Line	5.7%
Wastewater Plant	27.0%
Stormwater Line	7.5%
Stormwater Plant	15.4%

Council holds 100% of the shareholding in Westland Holdings Ltd, with an nominal value of \$8,695,000. The company in turn owns the Council Controlled Organisations Westroads Ltd and Destination Westland.

2.5 West Coast Service delivery review

Analysis of service delivery options completed at a regional level noted a range of challenges for each Council. These are repeated in Table 2.5.

Table 2.5: Three waters service delivery challenges

Challenge	Buller	Grey	Westland
1	Affordability – high emphasis on user pays, low level of subsidies	Affordability – limited loan funding available, reliance on subsidies	Affordability– limited loan funding available, reliance on subsidies
2	Labour resources	Water usage and leakage in network	Labour resources
3	Age and non-compliance of small rural water supply schemes	Condition and priority for the stormwater network	Remoteness of infrastructure
4	Focus on Westport	Natural hazards	Natural hazards
5	Natural hazards	Labour resources	Community expectations

The review concluded that the preferred option for the West Coast region depends on the priority outcomes. In summary, the report concluded that:

- If an **engaged community** is the most important objective, a local or regional solution will be preferred.
- **Partnership with iwi** requires further development in all scenarios but regional solutions have been evaluated as the best options for supporting this objective.
- **Sustainable funding** will remain a challenge until a [water service entity] owns the assets and has sufficient scale to access a range of funding options or more funding is made available.
- **Meeting performance standards** requires technical expertise and access to funding, suggesting an asset owning and larger [water service entity] is the preferred approach.
- Delivering **affordable** Three Waters services is in tension with achieving regulated performance standards.
- Securing **appropriate** technical expertise typically requires scale, i.e. shared services, regional [water service entity] or super regional [water service entity].

3 Proposed structure for 3-Waters service delivery

Aug/Sept - proposed structure, Set/Oct - present confirmed structure

3.1 Governance and representation

The proposed governance structure is set out in Figure 3.1. Key points to noted include:

- The new entity will be governed by independent board with members appointed based on their skills and experience with organisations of similar scale and complexity.
- Local government and Mana Whenua will have representatives on a Regional Representative Group. This group will appoint an independent selection panel who will in turn appoint the Entity board.

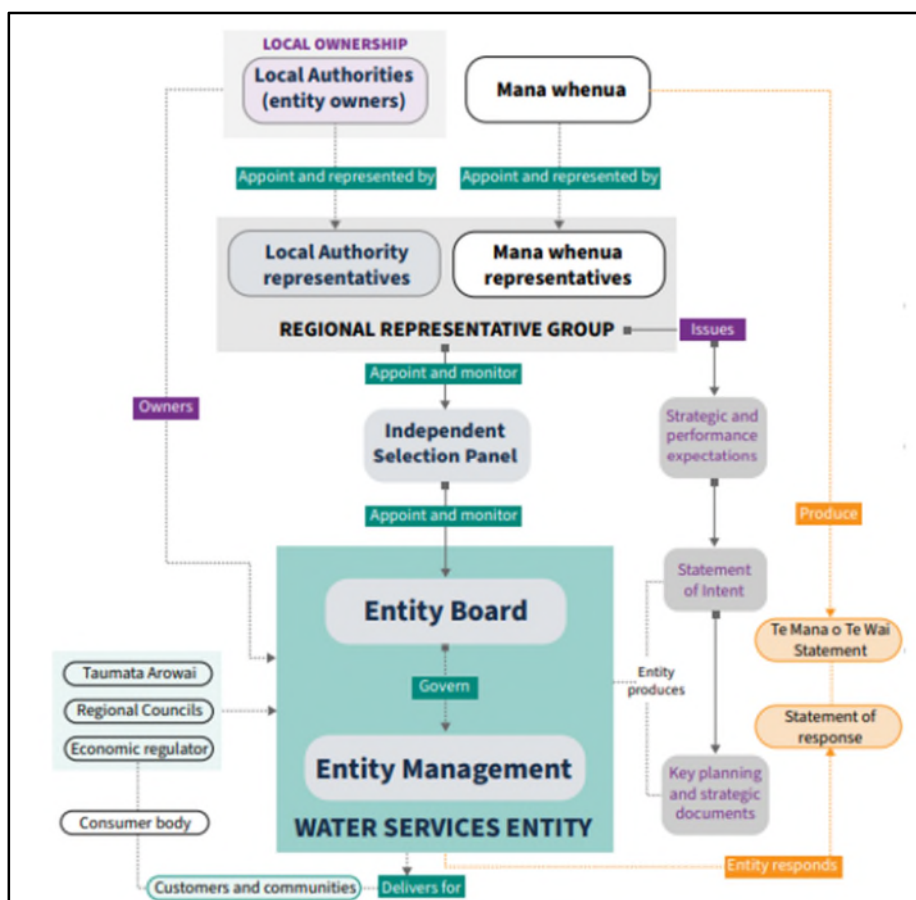


Figure 3.1: Proposed governance structure (DIA)

3.2 Regulatory environment

A key feature of the proposal is regulation of the new water service entities. The regulatory framework will cover:

- The supply of drinking water, to be regulated by Taumata Arowai under a new Water Services Act (currently before Parliament).
- The discharge of wastewater and stormwater, to be regulated by Regional Councils under the Resource Management Act.
- The management of service delivery, to be regulated by a new economic regulator under the establishment legislation for the new water service entities.

Drinking water regulation

In March 2021 the crown entity, **Taumata Arowai**, was established as a dedicated water services regulator. Its role is to ensure there is safe and reliable drinking water and improved delivery of waste and storm water. It will provide regulatory oversight to lift the performance of the system that delivers for three waters. Taumata Arowai will not become fully functional until the enactment of the Water Services Bill.

Wastewater and stormwater discharges

The water reform programme also flags the development of waste discharge standards under the Resource Management Act. These are anticipated to standardise requirements across New Zealand and may increase costs for treatment depending on the current performance of treatment systems. The fact that this standard has not been finalised makes it difficult for councils to understand the impacts on future expenditure.

There is also provision in the Water Services Bill to regulate wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and environmental performance.

Service delivery

An **economic regulator** will be established to ensure efficient service delivery. In addition to ensuring three waters are provided at value for money, a focus on customer protection and promotion of efficiency should ensure there is sufficient investment in improving network performance. In New Zealand, the Commerce Commission operates this function for the energy and telecommunication sectors. There have been some significant efficiency claims based on the DIA model – a breakdown on how these will be achieved outside general statements is yet to be confirmed.

Community engagement and feedback

To ensure consumers and communities are engaged with and can provide direct feedback, the water service entities will have clear requirements regarding engagement and the establishment of a consumer forum, as well as publishing and reporting information. They will be required to engage on Asset Management Plans and Funding and Pricing Plans, report on how consumer and community feedback was considered in decision-making, and make final documents publicly available.

The development of regional Spatial Plans and other planning instruments will also involve significant community consultation. The model as proposed indicates that these documents will have a significant influence on how water services are delivered, particularly investment for growth.

3.3 Parallel reform activity of relevance to local government

There are large changes underway to the management of New Zealand's natural and physical resources. The government is planning to repeal the Resource Management Act (RMA) and replace it with three pieces of new legislation: Natural and Built Environment Act, Strategic Planning Act and a Climate Adaptation Act. This is to address the challenges with the RMA, including current processes taking too long, costing too much and not addressing the many new challenges facing our environment and communities.

The Review into the Future for Local Government has been established due to the significant legislation changes in how New Zealand's resources are managed (RMA and Three Waters reforms). The purpose of this work is to *'identify how our system of local democracy and governance needs to evolve over the next 30 years, to improve the wellbeing of New Zealand communities and the environment, and actively embody Treaty partnership'*.

3.4 Asset ownership

The Entity will own three waters assets and will in turn be owned by the constituent local authorities through a legislative provision rather than through a conventional shareholding. No dividends will be paid to Local Authorities. The governance arrangements (Section 3.1) provide sufficient balance sheet separation to allow the entities to access significantly higher levels of loan funding than is available to local authorities under current financial governance rules.

The Government has been clear that continued public ownership of water services and infrastructure is a bottom line. The reform package includes a series of proposals intended to safeguard against future privatisation, making it more difficult to privatise than under the current arrangements.

Key protections include:

- Requiring that any proposal for privatisation be
 - Endorsed by the Regional Representative Group by at least a 75 per cent majority (including by mana whenua representatives) and
 - Put to a referendum so that the public can have its say on whether this should occur. The referendum would require 75 per cent or more votes in favour of the proposal for it to proceed, at which point it would go through the legislative and select committee processes.
- No provision for financial recognition of ownership, including no shareholdings and a prohibition on dividends (these features would make divestment difficult without significant reconstitution of the entities and legislative change);
- Statutory restrictions on sale or transfer of material, strategic water assets, similar to the current approach in the Local Government Act 2002, which prevents local authorities from selling or disposing of strategic assets or the infrastructure necessary for providing water services; and

3.5 Transitional arrangements (to 1 July 2024)

There is a considerable amount of work required to move from initial discussion on the proposals (in August - September 2021) to the proposed start date for the new structure on 1 July 2024. DIA note that key activities in this 'highly complex and challenging process' will include:

- Establishing the new entities, including:
 - Setting up governance and organisational structures.
 - Technical structures, policies and procedures.
 - Communications, customer services and community engagement.
 - Financial and treasury, charging and pricing, legal, risk, insurance, data, digital and information technology systems and processes.
- Managing staff transfer and recruitment processes.
- Ensuring the components of the reforms that recognise iwi/Māori rights and interests are implemented effectively – including in relation to the proposed role of the mana whenua representative group
- Ensuring local authorities are continuing to deliver water services (and to invest in those services and infrastructure) until the new entities become operational
- Managing the transfer of assets and liabilities between local authorities and the new entities – including identifying the assets and liabilities to be transferred.
- Working through the 'better off' and 'no worse off' support packages.

The success of the reforms will be dependent on having a highly collaborative, partnership-based approach involving government, local authorities and iwi/Māori. Local authorities and iwi/Māori participation in the transition process will be critical to ensuring all interests are recognised in decision making, important knowledge and expertise is well-utilised, and the water services entities are set up for success.

Key activities and timelines are still being developed by government. Current information is summarised in Table 3.1 including anticipated Council involvement. While details are limited at this stage it is clear that there will be a significant amount of work for Council staff from late 2021 through to mid 2024 and beyond. There is a transition support package (\$296M) that is intended to support Councils through this process.

Table 3.1: Indicative activities and timeline

Activity	Timing	Council involvement
Draft proposals released - feedback sought from local government	August - September 2021	Review proposals
Government decision on Entity Boundaries	Late September/October	NA
Government policy work in response to local government feedback	October onwards	Council staff can participate in working groups.
Final shape of service delivery arrangements confirmed	End of 2021	TBC - this may involve a formal decision. Adjust long term budgets to reflect changed position.
Due Diligence on Local government financial position (at an individual Council level) to inform discussions on 'no worse off' support payment.	Starts late 2021	Work with DIA advisors to review Council financial position in detail.
Establishment of new water service delivery entities	Late 2021 to 1 30 June 2024	Work with DIA advisors, potentially progressive transfer of Council staff to new entity establishment teams.
First 'better off' component payment (25%)	Mid 2022	
New service delivery structures start operations	1 July 2024	
New service entities take over revenue collection from Councils	Post July 2024.	

3.6 Implementation arrangements (from 1 July 2024)

Details regarding implementation arrangements are limited at this stage. This reflects the fact that the proposals are still to be finalised.

Information provided to date notes that:

- It is likely that local authorities will need to support some aspects of the new entity operations after 30 June 2024. Billing and collections are one example noted in the material released to date.
- Some assets with a three waters component will remain with Council, for example stormwater assets associated with transport infrastructure.

4 Anticipated impacts

While there are many aspects of the proposal that lack detail at this stage, it has been possible to look at high level impacts of the new entity. This includes consideration of:

- The implications of the proposed changes on Council finances, including operating expenditure and stranded overheads.
- The broader impacts of the proposed changes, for example on:
 - Service levels.
 - Social outcomes.
 - Economic activity in the district.

These issues are discussed further in the remainder of this section.

4.1 Westland District Council financial position

The Department of Internal Affairs have developed a simple financial calculator using Long term Plan Data from Councils. The calculator provides an indication of Councils likely debt position with and without reform. Figure 4.1 provides outputs from the calculator for Westland District. Points to note include:

- Net debt reduces if three waters assets and activities are transferred to a new entity (white line on chart).
- Council's debt to revenue ratio reduces slightly (improves) if three waters assets and activities are transferred to a new entity.



Figure 4.1: DIA Financial Calculator outputs - Westland District

4.1.1 Operating Expenditure Forecast

Table 2.2 outlines the total operating expenditure for the last five years of the Districts Long-Term Plan, including and excluding three waters assets.

Table 2.2: Operating expenditure with and without three water assets

Expenditure	2025 Budget (000's)	2026 Budget (000's)	2027 Budget (000's)	2028 Budget (000's)	2029 Budget (000's)	2030 Budget (000's)	2031 Budget (000's)
Total operating expenditure (with 3 waters assets)	24,652	25,355	25,975	26,396	27,036	27,783	28,094
Total operating expenditure (without 3 waters assets)	23,692	23,843	24,357	24,810	25,416	26,059	26,415
% of total operating expenditure for 3 waters	3.89%	5.96%	6.23%	6.01%	5.99%	6.21%	5.98%

4.1.2 Stranded Overheads

A challenge for smaller, rural councils is ongoing losses that the Council will incur from transferring its three water assets. This relates to costs that have in part been covered through three waters revenue that will remain with Council. This includes 'stranded' assets such as office accommodation and stranded overheads (a portion of communications, administration, finance) will need to be re-apportioned to the rest of Council.

The 'no worse off' payment offered to Council is a one-off payment received in the year ending June 2025, but not for subsequent years. This means that from the June 2026 financial year onwards Council will need to address these stranded costs by reducing costs and/or increasing revenue.

WDC has estimated the additional annual cost for each ratepayer in 2026 – 2031 to be around \$250 per ratepayer on top of already programmed rates increases of around 13% per annum. This equates to an overall rate increase of over 20%. *In later years the LTP planned increases reduce so the impact of the stranded overheads is more pronounced.* This estimate is based on rates from a preliminary new model without three waters, compared to the forecast rates in the current LTP 2022 – 2031 for the corresponding periods.

The 'no worse off' payment will not address the ongoing additional costs for smaller councils to continue their operations outside of three waters. The long-term financial implications on councils following removal of three waters assets is unclear in the information provided from the proposals.

4.2 Delivering broader outcomes

There are a number of broader social, cultural and economic outcomes for the West Coast that require further consideration when considering the Councils' preferred approach. Councils have been asked by DIA to specifically consider, holistically, service outcomes, economic development and growth, workforce capability and social, economic and community well-being as well as financial and funding implications.

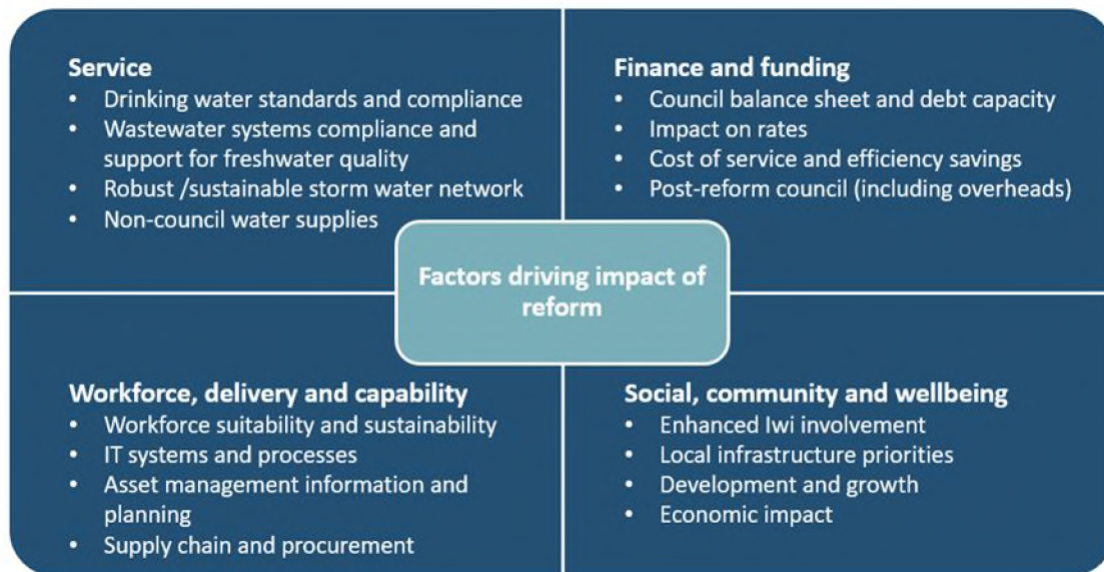


Figure 4.2: Factors driving reform impacts (LGNZ)

4.3 Economic outcomes

Council's financial sustainability

The removal of three water assets, which are 24% of its total assets, will impact the financial operations of WDC. During the transition period and using the 'no worse off funding' there appears to be an expectation that Councils will reduce their cost base to mitigate the impact of stranded overheads and other costs. For smaller, rural councils it will be very difficult to reduce the overheads due to the small staff base.

It is our assessment that the 'no worse off' payment will not address the continued cost increases from stranded overheads and assets. It is estimated that the additional cost of stranded overheads and assets will result in an *additional rates increase of at least 9% 2026 - 2031*.

Service level

The proposed amalgamation assumes that larger entities can meet current and future regulatory requirements at a better cost than individual councils. The new entities will also be required to agree levels of service with the communities they serve, starting with current service levels and making changes under an approved planning and consultation framework.

In the Westland District current service levels vary by community with variations to the service mix (water supply, wastewater treatment, 'urban' stormwater) and service configuration. Consideration will need to be given to managing these differences and enabling small communities to effectively engage with the three waters service delivery entity to agree on level of service and associated cost. This will need to take place in the context of escalating regulatory requirements and costly and complex processes for 'non-standard' levels of service.

It is important to also note that the flow on impact of addressing stranded costs (that remain with Council) may result in a need to reduce levels of service. Examples could include Council provided infrastructure (transport, solid waste) and community services (parks, libraries and other community assets). The outcome for smaller communities may be a combination of reduced levels of service and/or increased costs for remaining services.

Impact on infrastructure service delivery across the West Coast

Contractors on the West Coast tend to provide a range of civil contracting services covering three waters, transport and general construction. There is a risk that without certainty of investment and a pipeline of water service work, contractors operating on the West Coast will downscale or that staff will leave for other opportunities. If the availability of local staff and resources diminishes, the long term cost effectiveness of the delivery of all infrastructure on the West Coast is at risk.

Local businesses costs for three waters

There are some businesses in Westland that are currently supplied specific water and wastewater services. For example Westland Milk and Silver Fern Farms have special terms for water supply and wastewater discharge respectively. Consideration is required to determine how these arrangements will be addressed in the context of a larger water service entity. It is not clear how these businesses will be charged for water services under a new entity.

Local employment

The local economy could be significantly impacted if a significant proportion of Westroads jobs associated with three waters and the staff roles associated with other contractors and supplier were no longer employed. The Council and WestRoads (a Council CCO) are significant employers in the District. The Westland economy has been hit hard from the loss of international tourists. The local economy relies heavily on tourism (international and domestic), agriculture and a mixture of small business operators.

With a ratepayer base of just over 7,000 rateable properties, WDC is one of the smaller Councils in New Zealand and the impact of Council employment, including WestRoads is significant.

4.4 Social outcomes

The delivery of three waters services support a range of social outcomes. Specific areas identified in the analysis of the proposed service delivery arrangements have highlighted the role of three waters service delivery in resilience to natural hazards and delivering broader outcomes through procurement (local employment, training, innovation).

Resilience

When natural disasters strike there are often impacts on the delivery of three waters. It is important there is access to the capacity and capability within lifeline utilities to respond to Civil Defence emergencies within the West Coast region. This includes a need for locally based contractors so that they are on hand in a large scale event, as travel will be difficult. Stock of supplies and materials are also needed, along with local operators who can operate and work around issues at individual sites.

Emergency responsiveness is a key service objective for the West Coast. Given the isolation and exposure of West Coast communities to natural hazards there is a risk that emergency response will be compromised. It is reasonable to assume that the duties of lifeline utilities¹ will be applied to any new water entity. Whilst the legislation provides appropriate processes and duties for lifeline utilities, operationally its execution is varied across New Zealand.

It is anticipated that:

- That the new entities will be required to agree Levels of Service for disaster response with Councils [and potentially communities] and plan to meet these service levels; and
- That Councils will provide input to the water entity's emergency plans and that water entities are required to give effect to any Council requirements.

¹ <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/lifeline-utilities/duties-of-lifeline-utilities/>

The Council could take legal advice on whether “approving” an emergency plan for the lifeline is desirable. Whilst this would provide more confidence that Council can influence the outcomes for local communities, it could also place an unwanted risk or legal burden on Council.

In practical terms, whilst response times and service levels can be agreed, it is possible that a minimum staffing level on the Coast will be required to deliver this. Certainly, adequate funding for resilience for the water entity will be necessary to ensure good outcomes for communities. Evaluating the contribution of the waste service entities to community resilience could be considered when setting the duties of the economic regulator.

During a Civil Emergency event the 3 Waters staff play a significant role in supporting the response. The new entity would have to ensure this continues to be supported in some capacity.

Sustainable procurement

Under current arrangements the creation, operation and maintenance of three waters assets creates meaningful jobs for members of the West Coast community. The new entity is likely to result in the centralisation of both roles and procurement to a larger, Christchurch based entity. There is also a Government stated ambition to achieve economic efficiencies. As a result, there is a risk that contracts will be awarded to larger entities and that local staff and contractors will no longer be engaged to provide three waters services. Valuable jobs are likely to be lost on the West Coast.

Modern sustainable procurement methods can be used to require the consideration of wider outcomes alongside price and quality.

Case Study: Scottish Water

In its Procurement and Supply Chain Strategy (2021-22) Scottish Water summarises how it seeks to ensure sustainable procurement outcomes:

“Increasingly, buyers are working creatively to deliver broader ethical, environmental and economic benefits by making sure sustainability is firmly established in their work. Unlocking these potential benefits from procurement can help us foster jobs and growth, encourage innovation, and boost training and apprenticeship opportunities. Good procurement practice can and should play a key role in helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), third-sector organisations and supported businesses compete effectively for contracts”.

In the context of Scottish Water, transparency of the supply chain is a valuable tool in ensuring that local jobs are preserved and enhanced. This could include a requirement to provide a Living Wage and local employment.

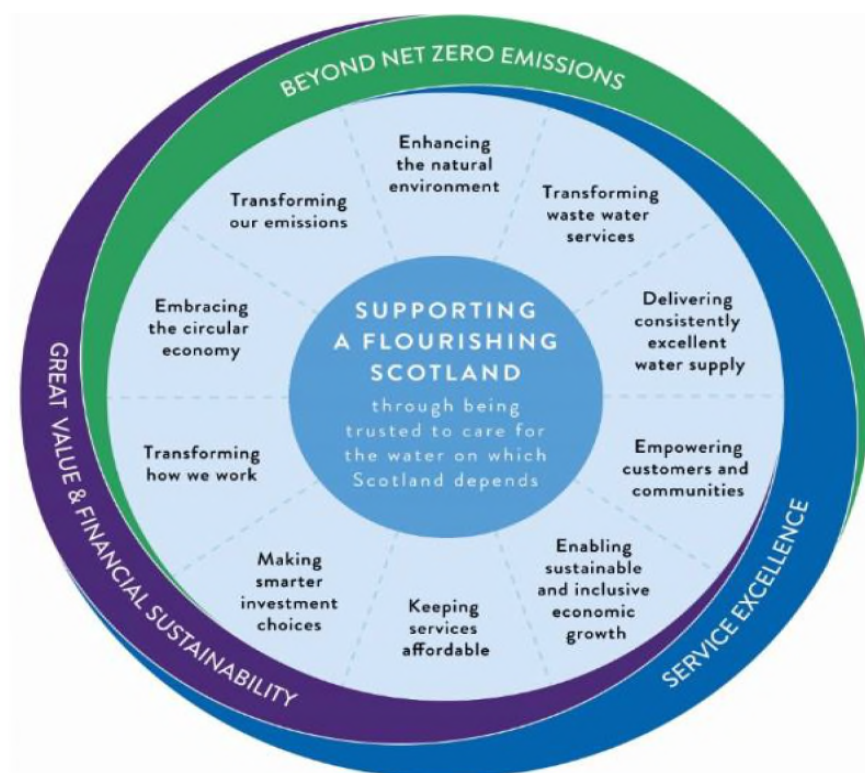


Figure 4.3: Sustainable procurement framework - Scotland

4.5 Cultural outcomes

Enhanced iwi involvement

In the Regional Service Delivery Review it was noted that partnership with iwi requires further development in all scenarios but local or regional solutions have been evaluated as the best option for supporting this objective.

4.6 Threats and opportunities

Table 4.1 and Table 4.2 provide a summary of risks (threats and opportunities) identified from the information currently available on the proposed three waters service delivery arrangements. In addition to identifying the risk each table also offers mitigation (for threats) or suggest solution (for opportunities).

Table 4.1: Threats to local government from the reform

Threat	Description	Suggested mitigations
Household Ability to Pay	Independent agencies (i.e. Water, Power, Council) may pass on costs of higher compliance obligations based on a lack of understanding of other cost overheads, resulting in total household costs beyond the householders ability to pay, adversely affecting community social and economic wellbeing.	Legislation to specify that the Water Service Entity must consider the impacts of power, water and rates on the average household income when setting a maximum rate.
Gaps in Service Delivery and Funding Responsibilities	With multiple agencies delivering interrelated services there may be gaps between the responsibility of the various agencies (particularly storm water) resulting in lack of funding or ownership of the customer experience.	Establish a consumer protection agency to report on customer experience challenges to enable them to be addressed.
Increase Incident Response Time	A centralised water agency structure may take longer for an incident of Civil Defence response to be initiated allowing greater impact on affected communities.	Require the water entities to have an emergency management plan, with clear responsibilities and structure outlined depending on the location of the disaster. Clear funding package for preparing and implementing resilience work.
Reduced Level of Service	Due to economic drivers water agencies may apply region wide service levels resulting in a lower level of service being delivered to the community (including difficulty gaining access or connection to the water network).	Legislation to establish a clear process for determining service levels in consultation with Local Government, Iwi and the community.
Reduction in the Local Contractor Capacity	The purchasing practice of water agencies may result in large contracts that exclude local operators resulting in loss of contractor capacity and increasing service costs. E.g. if the control of Three Waters service delivery is taken from Council, how will our CCO be positioned for business continuity and sustainability?	Require water entities to abide by a sustainable procurement plan, which is explicit about prioritisation for local contractors (particularly for rural operators).
Ineffective Partnership	The size, nature or priorities of Water Agencies may mean there is limited local management presence reducing the effectiveness of key account pre-application processes affecting development projects.	Effective alignment of central government objectives with local authority objective and manage whenua interests through governance structure.
Loss of Community Engagement	Due to the loss of direct responsibility for water infrastructure there may be less direct iwi or community engagement reducing community voice in determining water services priorities (e.g. supply standards, waste handling, storm water capacity).	Consumer protection agency with clear mandate to present a strong community voice. Legislate requirements for public consultation phases for planning processes and major decisions.

Stranded Overheads	Because the WDC overheads will not change significantly after divestment of water services the cost of other services may be impacted by the redistribution of overhead costs.	Ensure that the no worse off component of the reform funding package addresses long term shifts in Council finances.
Change in Government Priorities	Due to a change in Government they may be substantial change to the nature or objectives of centralised water agencies invalidating transition plans.	Operation of the water entities to be independent of central government, in response to Local Government, Iwi and Government statements of priority. Legislate to require Water entities to consult on key planning and strategy decisions.
Deferred Decision-Making	Due to a lack of clarity about the future of significant infrastructure decisions may be deferred causing projects to stall.	Establish the governance structure of water entities quickly, to prevent delays in-long-term decision making.
Transition Process	A lack of investment or un-anticipated complexity in transitioning assets (i.e. transferring legal titles) to a Water Agency may cause delays and confusion over responsibility for service deliver exposing Council to liabilities and affecting continuity of service delivery.	Legislation to clearly phase the transition of assets, a stepped approach to reduce risk. Early and quick establishment of water entities governance structure.
	Involvement of key Council staff in the transition process reduces Council's ability to manage the deliver of three waters investment and operations during the transition period.	Careful transition and service continuity planning to ensure that both the transition process and service delivery are adequately resourced.
Public Health risks during transition	With key three waters staff likely to be heavily engaged in the transition planning and establishment phase for the new Water Service Entity, there is a risk that day to day operations are unable to maintain compliance.	Ensure that transition planning accounts for adequate resourcing of day to day operations as well as transition planning and establishment activities.
Lack of Additional Regional Investment	Condition of WDC water assets may mean water agency prioritises other regions for additional investment resulting in short term increased cost for limited service benefit.	Legislation to require Water Service Entity to have a clear investment prioritisation framework, developed with Local Government, Iwi and community input.
Reduced Council capacity to deliver broader outcomes for the Community	With gross reduced borrowing capacity and ability to fund support functions as a result of reduced overall revenue Council may struggle to deliver other programmes of activity without access to new funding streams.	Ensure the no worse off support package recognises both immediate and long term impacts of removing three waters from Council.
Long term funding agreements	Many councils have committed to long-term funding agreements. In the situation where the governments will reimburse councils for water related debt, there will be penalties in Council loan agreements for early repayment.	The 'better off' funding package to include reimbursement for penalties councils will incur from early repayment of loan agreements (for three waters debt).

Table 4.2: Opportunities for local government from the reform

Opportunity	Description	Suggested approach
Council Risk Reduced	Because Council is no longer responsible for water service delivery there may be capacity available to enable other activities to be performed.	Ensure that the Better Off and No Worse Off components of the support package enable Council to maintain capacity to deliver other activities.
Better Long-Term Outcomes	Due to the scale and mandate of water agencies they have the potential to deliver better long-term outcomes (for example step change Asset Management Planning as seen in electricity sector).	Careful transition and establishment planning to ensure that the Water Service Entities are established with Best Practice management and operations in place.
Optional Service Level Increases	Because of community demand it would be desirable for a region to be able to request a higher level of service (e.g. opting no chlorination etc)	Provide a clear process for the new entities to agree bespoke service level with communities. For example approach to disinfection, security of supply outside the entity wide approach.
Increased levels of service	Increased levels of service may be possible with a larger customer base to fund them, including investment that will ensure long term resilience to climate change.	As above, provide a clear process for the new entities to agree bespoke service level with communities.
Training and development opportunities.	Training and development opportunities could exist for West Coast staff who become part of new entities.	Start the process of training and supporting staff who will transition into the new entities during the transition process (2022 - 2024).
Reduction in risk to Council	Reduction in risk to Council – no longer responsible for the provision of drinking water to standards or meeting new wastewater discharge standards.	
Improved affordability	Water services may become more affordable, as the new entity can raise more debt and there will be a large customer base to fund investment.	Clear legislated requirements for cost effective delivery at agreed levels of service including consideration of affordability for communities and/or individuals.

5 Key points to feedback to government

The impacts discussion in Section 4 including the summary of threats and opportunities have been used to identify key areas for feedback. This feedback is intended to provide ideas on how to improve the proposal focussing on overall approach and specific threats or opportunities. The key points are summarised below and will form the basis for feedback to government on the proposed service delivery approach.

Financial outcomes

It is important that the financial support package recognises that Council will need to maintain capability to deliver post transition. A one off payment may address immediate financial shortfall and any specific debt handling issues. Longer term impacts on Council's financial performance may require a different approach.

Specific comment: Ensure that the negotiations regarding financial support consider both immediate and long term impacts on Councils.

Broader outcomes

The successful delivery of broader outcomes requires careful legislative obligations and duties, and consideration of the interplay between entities, owners, mana whenua, central government and *all* proposed regulators.

- Resilience

It is important that establishment legislation recognises the importance of three waters service delivery actively contributing to broader community resilience. This includes responding to specific events and proactive investment in resilient infrastructure to reduce the impact of future events.

Specific comment: Include contributing to community resilience as an explicit outcome to be delivered by the Water Service Entity.

- Local economic outcomes

- Local contractors (including CCO).

The new entities procurement approach should ensure that there are opportunities for local businesses to deliver services and projects on a commercially viable basis.

Specific comment: Include providing opportunities for local businesses as an explicit outcome to be delivered by the Water Service Entity.

- Local employment.

The new entities procurement approach should ensure that local employment and training opportunities are a consideration when delivering services on the West Coast.

Specific comment: Include providing local employment and training opportunities as an explicit outcome to be delivered by the Water Service Entity.

- Local businesses.

The approach to charging for three waters services needs to support local economic activity within the context of Council and community strategic planning.

Specific comment: Include supporting local economic activity in accordance with Council strategic planning documents as an explicit outcome to be delivered by the Water Service Entity.

Local influence

- Planning processes

The representative, governance and planning arrangements proposed for the new entities should be designed to ensure that priorities agreed with each community are reflected in the investment approach. There is significant potential for conflicting priorities with the water service entity having to consider:

- Government priorities for three waters
- Iwi priorities via the Te Mana o Te Wai statement
- Local Government Priorities through the shared Letter or Statement of Intention
- Local government priorities set out in Spatial Plans (Regional) and Long Term Plans (local).
- Private interests - for example developers, water bottling opportunities.

The model as proposed provides some information but lacks detail. Key documents are likely to include the Water Entity's own Investment Prioritisation Methodology (subject to consultation and economic regulation), Council's Spatial Plans, the Representative Group's Statement of Expectations and Iwi's Te Mana o Te Wai statement.

Specific comment: Include explicit requirements to take account of Council strategic planning documents when setting priorities for capital investment and operational activities.

Develop clear guidance for the development of each Entity's Investment Prioritisation Framework including addressing Council, Iwi and government priorities.

Consider ring-fencing investment funds by geographical area to ensure that all areas have adequate funds for maintenance, renewals and where relevant growth.

- Water service entity culture/interaction with Council

It will be critical for each Council to form a strong working relationship with the Water Service Entity. This will in part be defined by the formal planning and accountability framework. The relationship will also rely on alignment at a strategy and culture level between Councils and the entity.

Community consultation

WDC went out to its community to understand their opinion on the Three Waters Reform. It received 371 submissions, with 91% of submissions wanting the Council to opt out of the reform and 6% in support of Council opting in for the reform.

The key reasons that the submitters wanted Council to opt out of the reform was:

- Submitters wanted three water services managed, built and operated locally, by people who understand the area.
- Submitters don't believe the reform will improve efficiencies.
- There were concerns their community won't have a strong democratic say in how their three waters services are provided.

- The community is concerned their rates will fund upgrades in other areas.

The key reasons that the submitters wanted Council to opt into the reform was:

- Submitters see advantages in combining three waters assets into four large entities.
- Submitters think the new three waters entity will be able to keep up with increase regulations and requirements.

6 Comparing Council delivery with new water services entity

To be completed if/when detailed Water Service Entity design is available.

7 Council's preferred approach/The proposal

To be completed if/when detailed Water Service Entity design is available.

8 **Applicability**

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of our client Westland District Council, with respect to the particular brief given to us and it may not be relied upon in other contexts or for any other purpose, or by any person other than our client, without our prior written agreement.

Tonkin & Taylor Ltd

Report prepared by:

Authorised for Tonkin & Taylor Ltd by:

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Chris Purchas

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Charlotte Reed

Project Director

CHP

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Notice of Motion

The following is a Notice of Motion as submitted by Councillor Latham Martin, Hokitika Ward Councillor, Westland District Council, as the Mover of the Notice of Motion.

The Notice of Motion is to be considered at Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on the 30 September 2021.

1. Notice of Motion to the Council

3 Waters Reform Engagement

That the Council:

- A) Receives the 3 Waters Reform community engagement results and survey responses, noting Council has taken the opportunity to survey its community, and this has resulted in a high level of community feedback. A total of 370 responses have been received, and of these 92% of respondents indicated they want the Council to 'opt-out' of the proposed reforms.
- B) Resolves the Westland District Council opposes the New Zealand Government's proposed model to establish four large water entities and remove the three waters assets and services from local councils. To date Council is not convinced that the current model provides the best outcomes for our District. As a result, based on the information available at present, Westland District Council would seek to opt-out of the reform should this decision be required. This position is backed by our Community and is reflected in the feedback collected during the community engagement undertaken.



Cr Latham Martin
Hokitika Ward Councillor

21 September 2021