



## 2022 – 2025 West Coast Triennial Agreement

### Our purpose

This triennial agreement has been prepared in accordance with, and to satisfy, the requirements of sections 14, 15 and 16 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The parties to this agreement commit to working together for the good governance of their towns, districts and the region, by acting collaboratively and ensuring that issues in common are determined in a manner that is inclusive and avoids unnecessary duplication.

This agreement will ensure appropriate levels of consultation and coordination are maintained between the local authorities of the West Coast, and between individual local authorities as might be notified.

### The Agreement

The parties:

- Buller District Council;
- Grey District Council;
- Westland District Council; and
- West Coast Regional Council,

agree to work in good faith together for the good governance of their localities and the region.

As signatories to this agreement, each local authority will ensure:

- Early notification to affected local authorities, through the distribution of draft documentation, of major policy discussions which may have implications beyond the boundaries of the decision making authority;
- The application of a 'no surprises' policy whereby early notice will be given over disagreements between local authorities concerning policy or programmes before key public announcements are made;
- The parties agree to refrain from expressing criticism of each other publicly, through the media or any other form. While it is accepted that disagreements will occur from time to time, it is preferable to deal with the issues by open discussion between the parties rather than via the media;
- Support opportunities for involvement by affected local authorities in the development of policies or plans that have inter-jurisdictional or cross boundary implications, including the identification of outcomes and priorities;
- That where practicable, processes for engaging with communities and agencies in order to identify community outcomes, and prioritise these outcomes, are undertaken jointly or in a collaborative manner which avoids unnecessary duplication; and
- Support opportunities for other local authorities, whether party to this agreement or not, to work jointly on the development of strategies and plans for the achievement of identified outcomes and priorities.

### **Scope and Issues**

The parties agree that, in addition to the general obligations under this agreement to consult, the local authorities will meet together to develop common approaches on the following issues identified as priorities for the region:

- Stewardship Land Review
- Legislation reform, including but not limited to,
  - o Three Water
  - o National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity
  - o RMA Reform
  - o Local Government Reform
- Climate resilience projects
- Renewable energy opportunities
- Civil Defence & Emergency Management
- Te Whanaketanga 2050 Strategy – in collaboration with DWC

### **A commitment to working together collaboratively**

The parties agree to work together collaboratively and cooperatively, through the Mayors and Chairs forum, as a means to improve effectiveness and efficiency, and to, in particular:

- Identify, deliver and fund facilities or services that benefit more than one district;
- Develop and implement joint governance arrangements and associated terms of reference;
- Maintain this commitment, and in the event of one of the parties making a decision that is inconsistent with this commitment, the party will advise the other parties of the inconsistent decision and the reasons for it.

This commitment to working together collaboratively reflects section 15 of the Local Government Act and all parties will, through the Mayors and Chairs forum, annually review their compliance with these provisions.

### **Significant new activities proposed by the West Coast Regional Council**

The parties agree that should the West Coast Regional Council, or its Council Controlled Organisations, wish to undertake a significant new activity, or undertake an activity currently undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by one or more of the other parties, the West Coast Regional Council will consult with the other parties as required by section 16 of the Local Government Act.

### **Form of consultation**

Consultation in relation to this agreement will take the following forms:

- A forum comprising the Mayors, Chair of the West Coast Regional Council, Chair of Development West Coast, Chair of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Chair of Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, and their Chief Executives, will occur at least once every three months to review performance of the agreement and discuss any other topical issues where a collaborative approach may add value.
- Meetings between staff will occur as necessary to achieve communication and coordination on issues identified in the agreement.

### **Servicing**

The parties agree that responsibility for servicing this agreement will be undertaken by the West Coast Regional Council. This includes providing those secretarial services as required, including but not limited to:

- Coordination of meeting dates, agendas and meeting papers;
- Drafting of communications material including media releases; and,

Development of strategic documentation.  
Chairing of the forum will pass from local authority to local authority following the triennial election.

**Delegations**

The meeting will act as a collective and no member will have the delegation to act on behalf of the Group unless specifically mandated to do so by the meeting on a case-by-case basis.

Submissions, or other correspondence, will be on the letterhead displaying the logos of the four Councils, and where appropriate, those of Development West Coast, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio. They are to be signed by the Mayors and Chairs.

**Agreement to review**

The parties agree to review the term of this agreement within four (4) weeks of a request by one of the parties made in writing to the local authority delegated responsibility to service this Agreement.

**Resolving disagreement**

In the event of a disagreement over the terms of this agreement, the parties agree to refer the issue to a mediator appointment by the President of Local Government New Zealand.

**Authority**

This agreement is signed on this ...28th..... day of February 2023, by the following on behalf of their respective authorities.

**Council**

**Signature**

Buller District Council



.....  
Jamie Cleine  
Mayor

Grey District Council



.....  
Tania Gibson  
Mayor

Westland District Council



.....  
Helen Lash  
Mayor

West Coast Regional Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Haddock', is written over a solid horizontal line and a dotted horizontal line.

Peter Haddock

Acting Chair