

FEBRUARY 2026

Mayor's Comment

It's shaping up to be a big year ahead. We are facing a number of significant central government reforms, including Local Water Done Well, broader local government reform, changes affecting regional councils, rates capping, and ongoing Resource Management Act (RMA) reform.

We are assessing the detail of many of these changes and are working closely with West Coast Mayors, Chairs, and Iwi to ensure we have a strong united voice when engaging with central government. It is vital that government understands our communities, our expectations, and the importance of affordability while we strive for the best possible outcomes for the Coast.

Many of these reforms come with costs that ultimately fall on our communities. We do support reform, as there is widespread agreement that the current local government system is unsustainable. However, we are heading into a central government election year and experience has shown that government direction can change. During my time on council, I have seen legislation shift and change course, often creating uncertainty. It is important that, as a council, we remain on a steady and consistent path in the work we do.

Alongside this reform work, we must continue to focus on core business. Year two of the Long-Term Plan, like year one, places a strong emphasis on the backlog of work, particularly on three waters infrastructure - drinking water, stormwater and wastewater systems. This will be a significant year of delivery. More information about the projects underway is available on our website, and

we will continue to keep the public updated through our social media channels and newsletters.

The next stage of the port redevelopment will see the removal of the ageing Blaketown berths, installation of modern toilet and washroom facilities, purchase of a port sounding vessel and construction of new floating marina berths, as well as a heavy-loading wharf near the entrance to the Blaketown Lagoon. In total, around 20 additional berths will be created, catering not only to commercial boats but also to private vessels. The Port of Greymouth development is being supported by \$2.3 million in funding from the Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund, administered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit. An additional \$1.2 million has been contributed by Development West Coast (DWC). Together, this investment will support further economic development and employment opportunities for our communities.

With the Richmond Quay development, including the new library, set to open this year, I would like to acknowledge and thank our local contractors and builders for the outstanding job they have done in keeping the base build within the original costings.



Council has also approved an additional \$2.75 million for external ground works and the fit-out. We are pleased to welcome another strong local company to the project, with Coastwood Furniture engaged to supply the furnishings.

This year will see further development, with updates on Whare Rua, the new building next to the library, other changes across the central business district, and upcoming events such as Agfest in October. The minerals sector is expected to ramp up as projects progress, bringing further employment opportunities and flow-on benefits for local businesses.

I hope the year has started well for you and that you're feeling refreshed and ready for the months ahead. There is certainly much to look forward to.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Tania Gibson'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Tania Gibson
Grey District Mayor



New rules for small standalone dwellings (granny flats)

On 15 January 2026, a new building consent exemption came into effect for small standalone dwellings (often known as granny flats). This change allows homeowners to build these dwellings without a building consent, provided all strict criteria set out in the legislation are met.

Council's electronic consenting system will be updated around March 2026. In the meantime, Grey District Council will process Project Information Memorandum (PIM) applications for small standalone dwellings manually.

Licensed Building Practitioners, designers, architects, engineers and tradespeople are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new requirements.

For full details and guidance, visit our website:

www.greydc.govt.nz/06your-home/building-consents-and-information/a-non-consented-granny-flats



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or, call 03 768 5597

Council vs Regional Council: What's the Difference

What does Council do, and what does the Regional Council do? Both Council and the Regional Council collect rates, but they are separate organisations with different responsibilities.



Council rates fund local services that support day-to-day life in our community, such as local roads, rubbish collection, and water services.

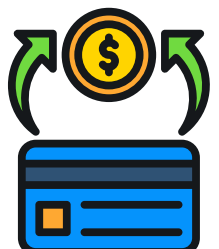
Regional Council rates fund services that are managed across the wider region. These include flood protection, environmental management of land, air and water, and regional pest control.

While the responsibilities are different, both councils play an important role in supporting healthy, safe and well-functioning communities.

Banking reminder for direct debits

Some ratepayers and account holders may have direct debits scheduled on public holidays.

As banks now operate 365 days a year, direct debits will still be processed on their scheduled due date, even if it falls on a public holiday. This applies to all direct debits, including those set up for rates, council services, and memberships or payments at the Westland Recreation Centre. Please keep this in mind when planning your finances.



Community funding

The Grey District Council administers the following funding schemes that are available at various times throughout the year to groups in our community: **Community-Led Vibrancy Fund, Creative Communities New Zealand Scheme, Landfill Fees Assistance and Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund.**

Please refer to our website to view the details.

Creative Communities New Zealand Scheme



Applications for funding assistance open on 1 April 2026 for Round Two 2025/2026. Full details can be found on our website or at Council Office. The scheme supports and encourages communities throughout New Zealand to create and present diverse opportunities for accessing and participating in local arts activities.

All projects eligible for funding must be arts and cultural projects that:

- Increase participation in the arts at a local level or increase the range and diversity of the arts available to local communities.
- Take place within the Grey District and/or produce benefits that are largely experienced within the Grey District; and benefit local communities.

Recent recipients have been:

SuperBrain Production NZ, Wild Places Education, Grey District Youth Trust, Grey District Mawhera Business & Promotions Assn, WestREAP Art4Me, Baroque Music Community & Educational Trust of NZ and The West Coast Society of Arts.



Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund



Applications for round two 2025/2026 will open on Sunday 1 February 2026 and close Saturday 28 February 2026. Full details can be found on our website or at the Council Office.

GDC administers this fund on behalf of Sport NZ to help reduce travel barriers for rural sports clubs and school teams. The fund provides subsidies for players aged 5 to 18 years to assist with transport expenses for local sporting competitions within our district.

Sport NZ's Rural Travel Fund (RTF) supports young people to take part in regular sporting competition.

Sourcing funding

Generosity New Zealand (previously called the Funding Information Service (FIS)) allows all New Zealanders access to comprehensive and accurate funding information via their givUS (formerly called FundView) and givME (formerly called BreakOut) databases. Grey District Council has made access to these funding databases available for anyone sourcing community funding or individual scholarships, grants and award funding.

Whether you are a community organisation, student or teacher, having access to reliable and up to date information when sourcing external funding is invaluable.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



Upcoming Events



facebook.com/WhatsOnGreymouthEvents



Finding it hard? Not sure what to do? Call our customer service team on 03 769 8600 or email info@greydc.govt.nz

**Heart
of the West Coast**

ART in the PARK

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GREYMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
Shakespeare Street entry

ENTRY FEE \$2 UNDER 12 FREE
Sat 18th April 10am - 4pm & Sun 19th April 10am to 3pm

SAT 18 & SUN 19 APRIL 2026

artinthepark.nz
[artintheparkgreymouth](https://facebook.com/artintheparkgreymouth)

GREY DISTRICT COUNCIL

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