Summary Westland District Council Environmental Scan 2019/2020

THE STATE OF OUR DISTRICT – INFORMATION FOR PLANNING THE LTP 2021 - 31

WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Summary Westland District Council Environmental Scan 2019/2020

Introduction

This document is a summarised version of the Westland District Council Environmental Scan 2019/2020 (Environmental Scan) which provides a fact based overview of the environment in which Council operates. The Environmental Scan gathers information about the social, economic, physical, and legal environmental landscape.

Trends identified in the scan are subjective and forecasts over long periods of time should not be considered to be definitive. The full Environmental Scan is itself a summary of a large number of resources and analysis.

Purpose

The purpose of the Summary Environmental Scan is to provide the public with a sample of the information Westland District Council activity managers and Councillors have received to assist with developing Council's Long Term Plan and asset and infrastructure management planning. An environmental scan promotes consistency across council activities and provides good information on future trends to support good decision making. Information contained in the document is a general overview.

Themes

The information is divided into the following themes: mega trends, social, economic, physical environment (including natural hazards and climate change), and legal. Each section provides commentary on possible implications for Westland District Council.

Mega Trends

Introduction

Megatrends look at what is happening on a global scale and include some of society's biggest challenges. They are factual and can be backed up by verifiable data.

There is a large body of work discussing mega trends and their implications. The trends and discussion continue to evolve. The following is an example from this large body of work.

Table 1: Five Megatrends, PwC

Trend	Description
Shift in global economic power	Rebalancing of global economies. Traditional centre of labour economies are transitioning to consumption oriented economies
Demographic shifts	Different demographic trajectories leading to shifts in economic power to resource scarcity to changes in societal norms.
Accelerating urbanisation	Rise in mega-cities, including in developing economies. Population expansion will affect the quality of and spending on infrastructure.
Rise of technology	Development of new industries. Increasing productive potential and opening new investment opportunities.
Climate change and resource scarcity	Competing needs of sustainable solutions to combat climate change and the need for resources to fuel growth and feed populations.

PwC has identified five megatrends that their public and private sector clients have been studying.[1]

Urbanisation

The world is experiencing rapid urbanisation with a greater number of people moving from rural to urban areas. New Zealand is already highly urbanised; at least 86% of the population live in an urban area.[2]

New Zealand's continued reliance on a primary economy will likely slow down further urbanisation as people will still need to live and work where these industries are based. Changes in technology and innovation will allow people to live and work in a different way and may allow people to choose to live and work in less urban centres.

In Westland, the assets that could help to reduce some impacts of urbanisation by encouraging people to remain or choose to move to the District are:

- Primary industries and production.
- Accessibility infrastructure, including airport and heliports, roading and transport options.
- Tourism activities and related businesses.
- Good quality education facilities.
- Quality facilities for ageing population, including retirement accommodation.
- 5G infrastructure.

Westland District Council, with an ageing population and likely population decline, will need to ensure that spending priorities are targeted to the right place. This will require careful consideration of what Council can

[1] Five Megatrends and their implications for Global Defense & Security, PwC, 2016, https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/government-public-services/assets/five-megatrends-implications.pdf

[2] The most recent statistics available are based on the 2006 census: http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/population/Migration/internal-migration/urban-rural-migration.aspx

provide the district. The impacts of urbanisation could be reduced by highlighting the benefits of the district such as the natural beauty and heritage, lifestyle and opportunities for alternative business ventures.

Liveability

People increasingly seek to live in areas that meet their needs for liveability. These can include quality environment (communities and natural environment), amenities and experiences, safety, and concern for the environment.

Westland has much to offer in terms of liveability potential. The airport with connection to Christchurch is a gateway to the rest of New Zealand and some international airports, the growing tourism sector and new technology creating opportunities for people to live anywhere and work anywhere. If Westland infrastructure supports this there is the potential to attract highly skilled workers in the 30 – 45-year age group who are seeking a lifestyle change, along with their families. Retaining this population will require good education facilities and quality employment prospects.

Global economy

The global economy is being rebalanced with a move away from Western dominance and the growth of developing and previously insular nations. This effect can be seen in New Zealand through the dominance of Asia as a trading partner and supplier of tourists[3] and international students.

Westland is a popular destination for tourists of all nationalities and caters well for Asian tourists. The relationship developed between Westland District High School and Huanggang Middle School and Wen Yiduo Middle School offers opportunities for students of both cultures.

Technology

Technology changes rapidly in today's environment, which makes it difficult to predict what the implications and applications for regions, society, and the economy will be. With the advance in cloud storage, big data, social media and cloud storage there is a demand for anytime, anywhere access to information that is causing disruption and innovation in traditional business and how people live and work.

New Zealand is already impacted by these changes and how to regulate for things such as ride-sharing mobility, e-scooters and Uber, which are changing transportation in cities. Westland might be impacted by these changes in the future, but basic technology access for the district will need to improve first.

[3] https://westcoast.co.nz/documents/142/Tourism-West-CoastFact-Book-_2018-compressed.pdf

Implications for Westland District Council

Assumption	Implications
Where we fit in the global economy	With the transition to consumption-oriented economies new export and tourism markets are beginning to emerge. Westland might need to market to new tourism markets and continue to adapt to new attitudes towards travel and tourism. New export markets for primary goods might develop.
Growing and developing the region	Rising cost of living in urban areas and development of new technology and improved infrastructure presents opportunities for the district to encourage working age people to choose Westland as a place to live and work. Encouraging sustainable and diverse economic growth through Council's legislative mechanisms.
Transport	Continued support for improved transport services from air, land and sea to improve connections for people and goods as the global economy widens. Opportunity to look at port improvements and work with NZTA and other local Councils to improve road quality and resilience.
Infrastructure	Council will need asset management plans that are robust with good strategies to support increased urbanisation and tourism and improve district resilience by using new technologies in an affordable way.
Digital / technology infrastructure	It is critical that the region has high quality digital infrastructure and connectivity for communities, visitors and businesses due to the increasing trend for technology that impacts the economy, society and the environment. Digital infrastructure must be resilient due to the district's vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change.

Social

Introduction

The population in New Zealand was previously forecast to grow to over five million people by 2023 and be just under six million by 2043. Recent forecasts predict that New Zealand will have 5 million people by 2020.[4] Of those people just under 9000 are expected to live in the Westland District in 2023 and have dropped to 8500 by 2043.[5] Lower birth rates and net migration will see the population increase slow down by around 2033. The New Zealand population will continue to grow through migration and live births, however the population in Westland is predicted to fall, increase in average age and remaining largely European.

While ethnic makeup in New Zealand as a whole is projected to change significantly, Westland district is likely to remain predominantly pakeha. Other ethnic groups will continue to grow slowly.

Life expectancy continues to increase for all New Zealand ethnicities. New Zealanders generally consider themselves to be in good health with lower use of tobacco but increasing use of drugs and alcohol. The Westland population will likely reflect national trends in this area.

School demographics will change with the increase of migrants into New Zealand and enrolments will likely reduce as the population ages. As the population in Westland ages and declines school rolls will decrease.

Crime rates across the country have remained fairly consistent with a peak in December 2016 of 357,265. Across Westland reported crime rates have not shown a significant increase or decrease. New Zealand Police have actively recruited more officers for the West Coast region.

Figure 1: Digital Inclusion in New Zealand

Digital Inclusion Dimension	**Challenges for people in rural communities**
Motivation	• Connecting with friends and family • Access to online entertainment services • Managing rural businesses
Access	• Affordable access to the internet
Skills	• Opportunities to develop digital skills

There is a growing inequality across New Zealand whereby people are digitally excluded due to issues such as access and proficiency with digital devices. [6] This leads to diminished wellbeing and opportunity, and other forms of deprivation. Westland does not have good telecommunications access in isolated parts of the district, contributing to inequality in the technology space.

[4] https://www.stats.govt.nz/news/are-we-there-yet-heading-for-a-population-of-5-million

[5] Unless otherwise noted, population projections are taken from Statistics NZ. Demographic projections are not predictions, they are assumptions formulated from latest demographic trends and patterns. Mid-range projections which covey the broad features of likely future dynamics and patterns are given.

[6] Digital New Zealanders: The Pulse of our Nation, a report to MBIE and DIA, May 2017, *Digital inclusion research group,* p 4.

Figure 2: Westland projected population 30 June 2013 – 30 June 2043

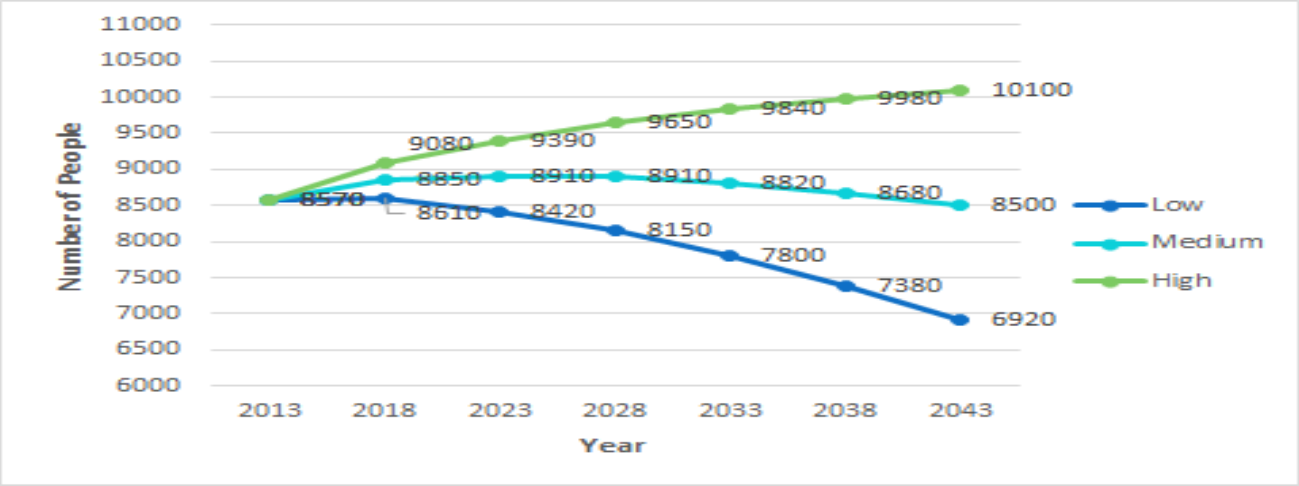


Figure 2 provides the High, Medium and Low scenarios produced by Statistics New Zealand's population projections. Medium scenarios are accepted for policy making as the most likely scenario for projecting population. The following commentary is based on the medium scenario.

Figure 3: Westland District population projections, characteristics 2013 (base) - 2043

Projection		**Medium**					
Measure		Births (live) - 5 years ended 30 June	Deaths - 5 years ended 30 June	Natural increase - 5 years ended 30 June	Net migration - 5 years ended 30 June	Population at 30 June	Median age (years) at 30 June
Area	**Year at 30 June**						
Westland district	2013	..	..	..	..	8570	42.3
	2018	500	320	180	100	8850	42.9
	2023	490	330	160	-100	8910	43.8
	2028	460	360	100	-100	8910	44.6
	2033	430	410	20	-100	8820	45.4
	2038	410	450	-40	-100	8680	46.5
	2043	410	480	-80	-100	8500	47.4

Statistics New Zealand 2018 Census found 8640 people as usually resident in the district. Figure 3, predicts medium population growth of approximately 0.7% for the ten years between 2018 and 2028, followed by a decline of approximately 4.6% by 2043. These changes are made up of a decrease in the total fertility rate, a decrease in net migration and an increase in life expectancy. By 2043 deaths will outnumber live births and net migration is predicted to reduce (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Westland region projected population by broad age group 30 June 2013 – 30 June 2043

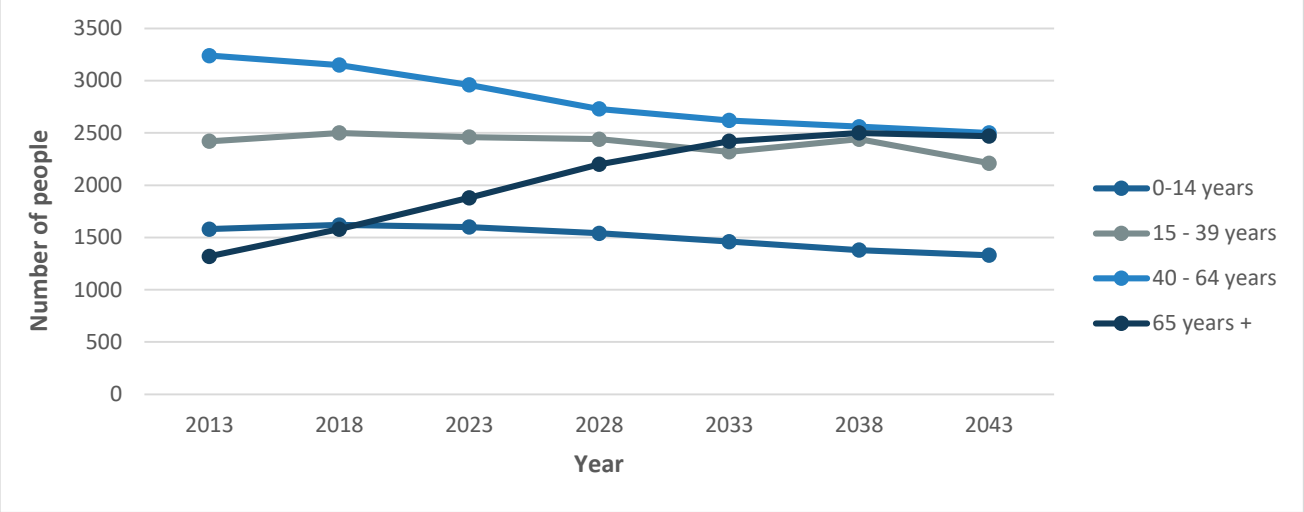


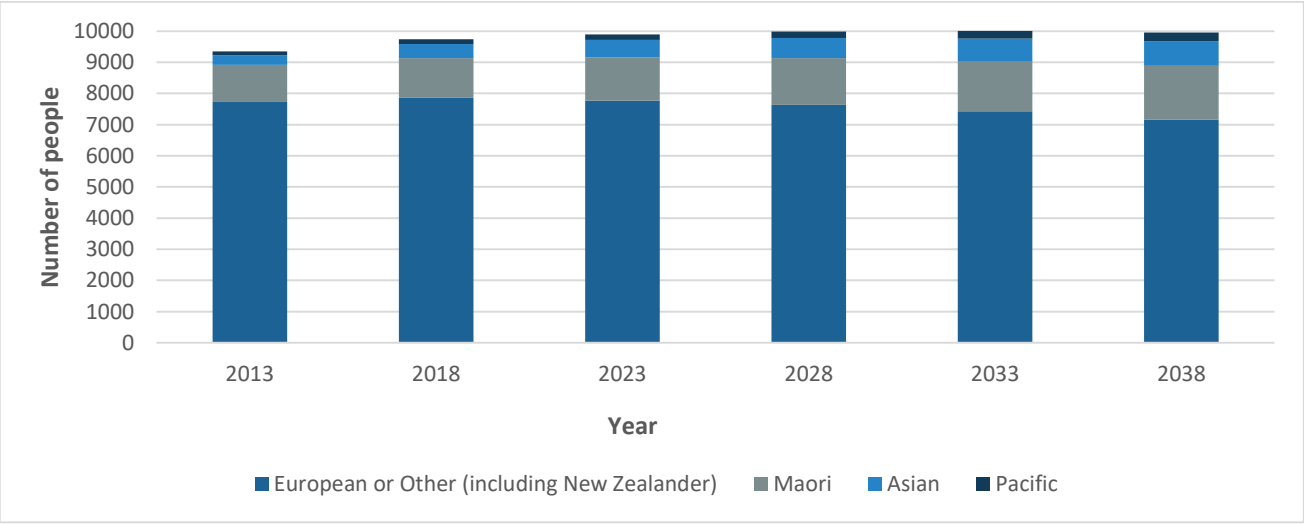
Table 2: Percent change in population by age group 2018 - 2024

Age group	Percentage change 2018 - 2043
0 – 14	-17.9%
15 – 39	-11.6%
40 – 64	-20.63
65+	+56.3%

A change in the demographics of the population will also occur, Figure 4 and Table 2. The number of young people (0 – 14 years and 15 – 39 years) in the district is predicted to decrease, the number of middle aged people steadily decrease and the number of older people aged 65+ increases. By 2033 people aged 65+ could comprise about 27% of the Westland District population.

Population growth is one indicator of how attractive a district is to live and work in.

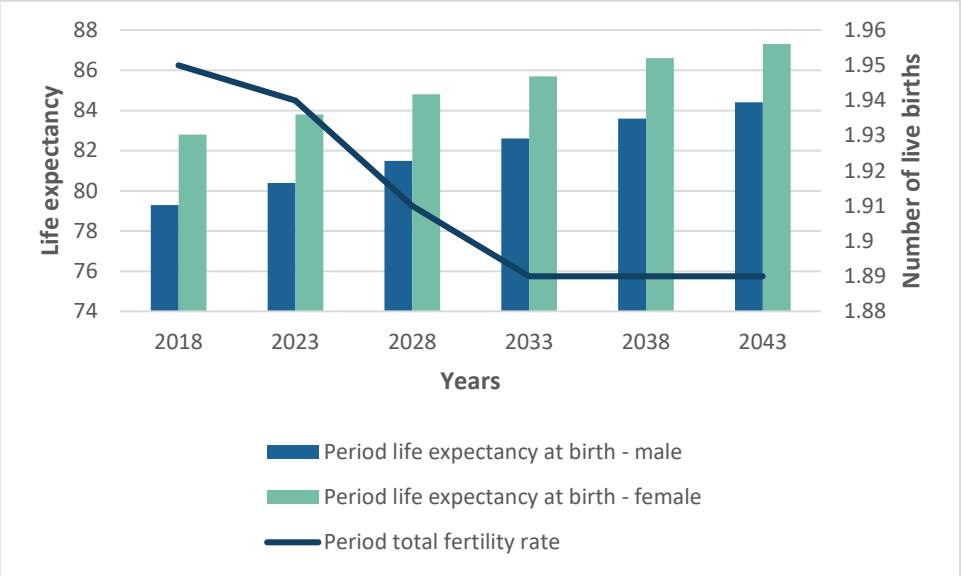
Figure 5: Subnational ethnic population projection, by age and sex, 2013 (base) - 2038



While the population who identify as European / other, will remain predominant in the Westland region, populations of other ethnicities are predicted to increase between 2018 and 2038 (Figure 5). Between 2013 and the 2018 census' the Maori population grew by 225 people, a 19% increase.

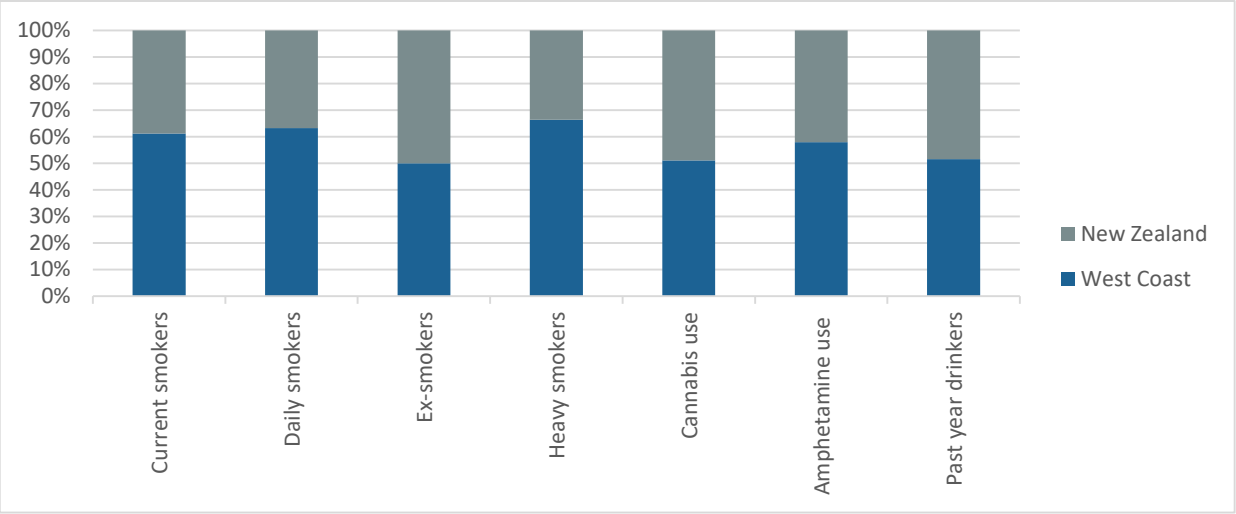
Health

Figure 6: Westland District population projections, projection assumptions 2013 (base) – 2043 update



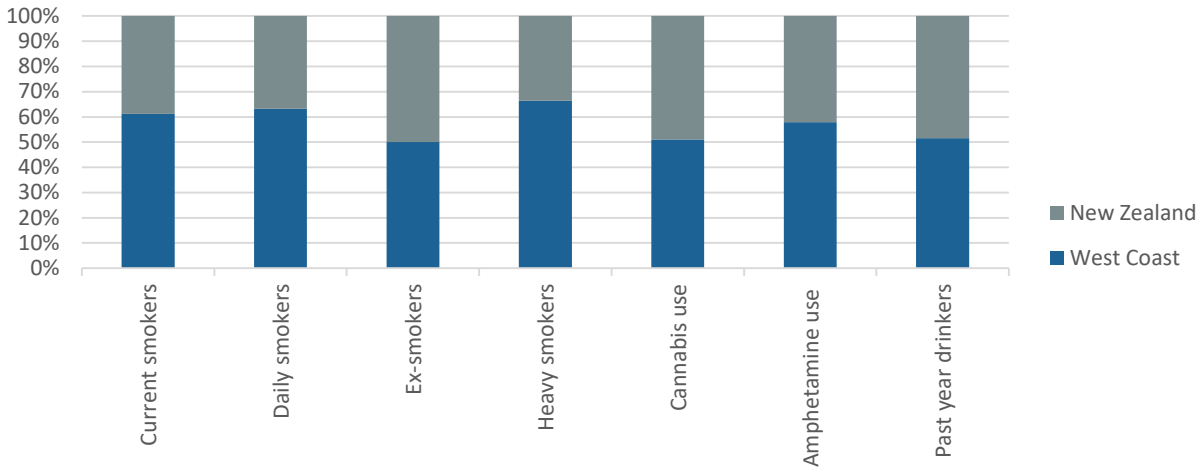
All ethnicities in New Zealand are projected to be living longer and families will have fewer children. In Westland the average life expectancy for women is projected to be 87.3 years and 84.4 for men, with and live birth rate of 1.89 by 2043 (Figure 6).

Figure 7: Regional Results 2014–2017: New Zealand Health Survey - Adults, aged 15 and over, Self Rated Health[7]



[7] Unless otherwise noted, health statistics are from Ministry of Health. 2018. Regional Data Explorer 2014–17: New Zealand Health Survey [Data File]. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2014-17-regional-update

Figure 8: Regional Results 2014–2017: New Zealand Health Survey - Adults, aged 15 and over, tobacco use, illicit drug use and alcohol use

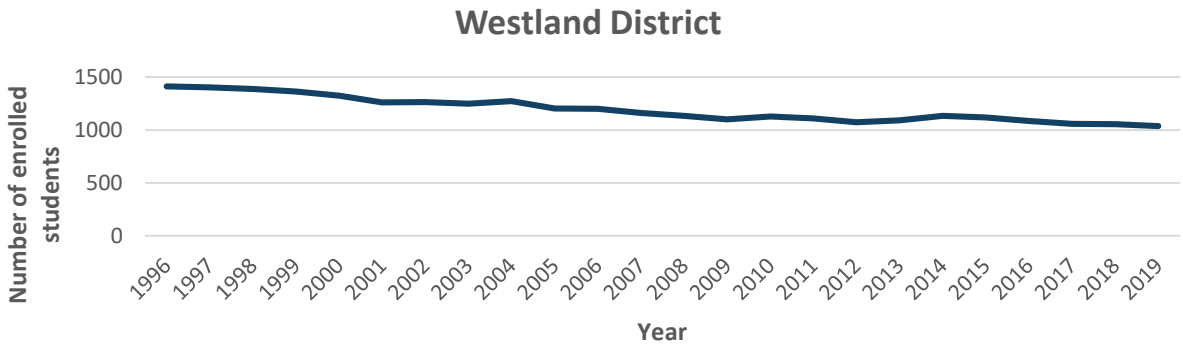


Adults, aged 15 years and over, who live in the West Coast region generally rate their health to be excellent - good at a similar rate to the New Zealand average (Figure 7).

Figure 8 shows that in comparison to the New Zealand average on the West Coast there are still a high number of current smokers, along with high use of illegal drugs. However heavy alcohol use is lower than the New Zealand average.

Education

Figure 9: Student roll by territorial authority 1996 – 2019

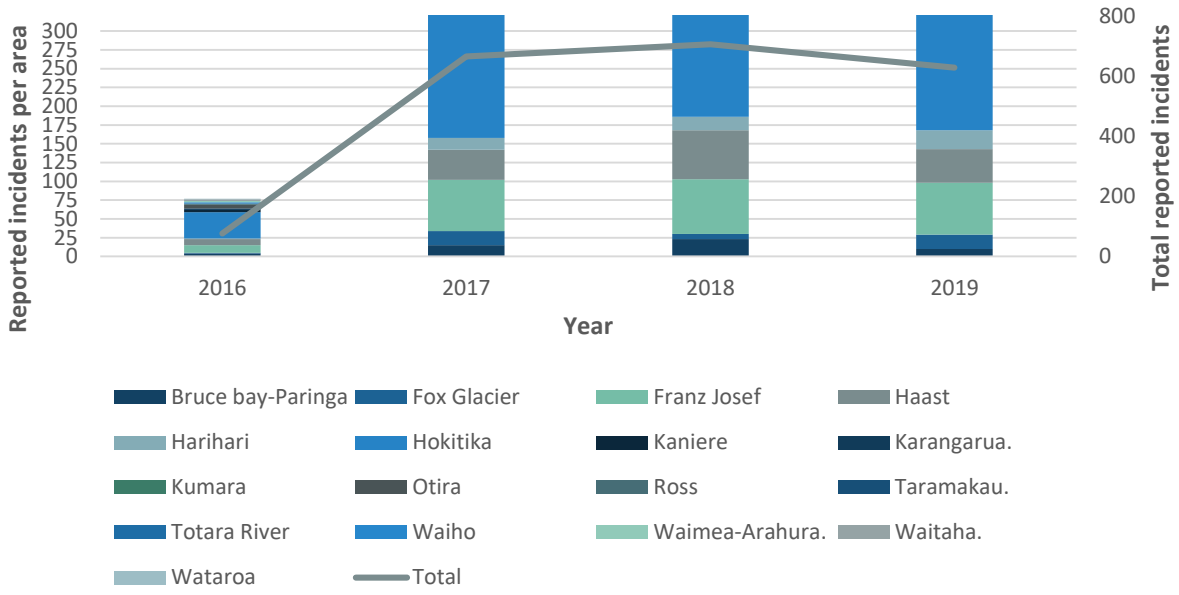


From Kumara to Haast Westland has 12 schools for primary to secondary age students. School rolls have steadily decreased over the last 20 years[8]. With the projected decrease in live births and residents below the age of 65+ living in the district, this trend is likely to continue.

[8] As at 1 July 2019, Ministry of Education: https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/student-numbers/6028

Crime

Figure 10: Reported / Recorded Occurrence of Crime Westland District - December 2016 to November 2019[9]



The Westland District crime rate has remained fairly steady from 2016 through to 2019. Traffic related crime occurrences are the most reported crime statistic across the region. This is to be expected with a high tourist area as the statistic covers all types of traffic related offences. Other commonly reported offences around the region include theft and related offences, unlawful entry with intent / burglary, break and enter, and property damage and environmental pollution.

Technology

Figure 11 – Wireless and ADSL coverage Westland District

[9] https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/statistics-and-publications/data-and-statistics/demand-and-activity

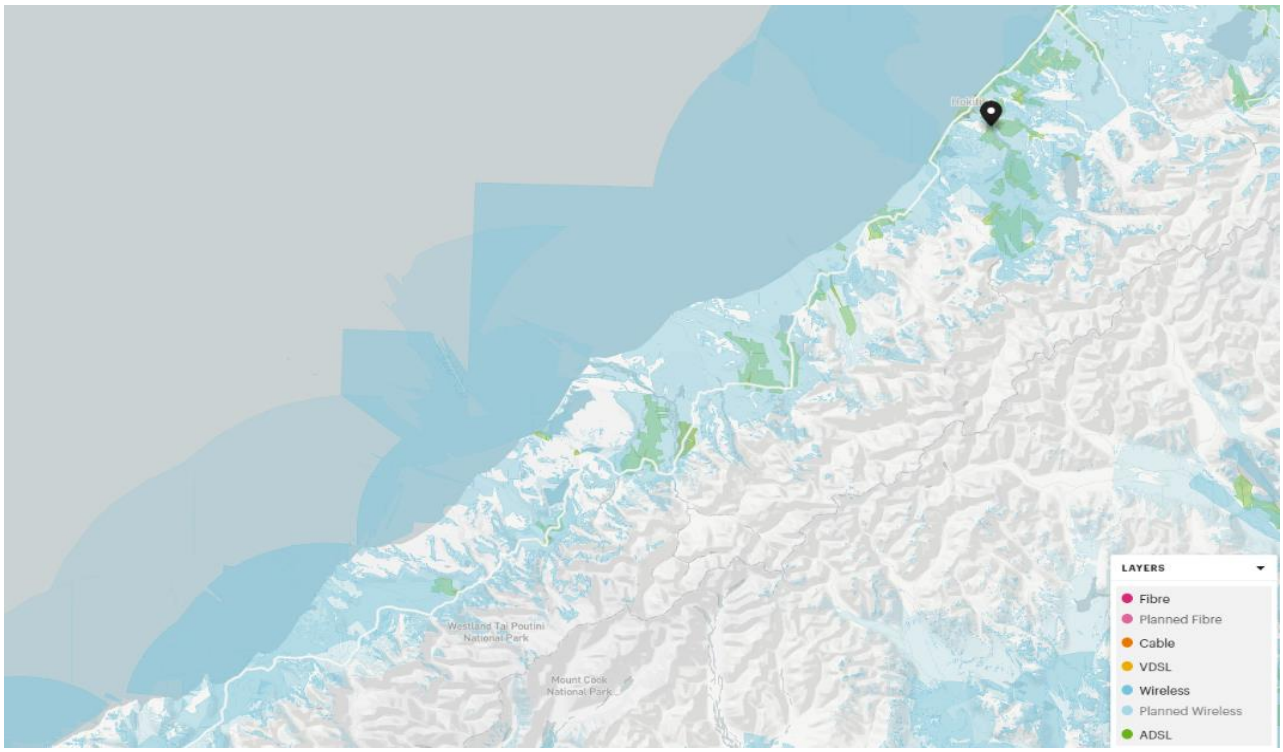
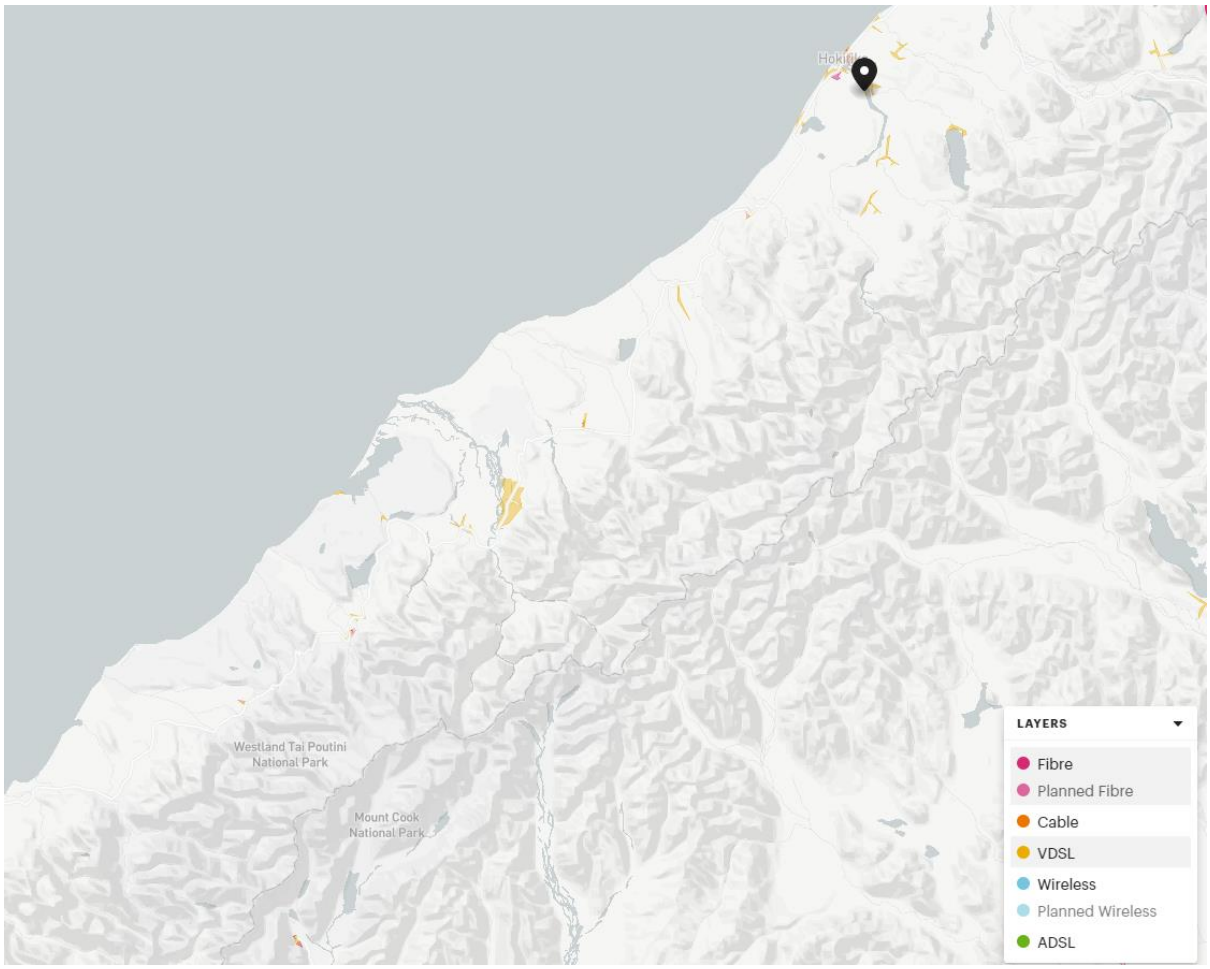


Figure 12 – Fibre and VDSL coverage Westland District



Westland is not well connected to internet and cellular phone services[10]. Figure 20 shows current Wireless and ADSL coverage for the district. Fibre and VDSL coverage is shown in Figure 21. Lack of access to internet and cellular services limit people's ability to connect with the modern world and reduce learning opportunities for the outlying parts of the district. This impacts their lives as more services move online. These communities, which are already isolated through reduced technology coverage, become extremely isolated during emergency events.

Implications for Westland District Council

Assumption	Implications
Aged Care Services	With the projected increase in population over the age of 65, there will be an increased demand for medical services, subsidised pensioner housing, retirement accommodation and nursing home facilities.
Mobility / Accessibility	Accessibility is currently contained within the major township of Hokitika. As private vehicle use declines there will be more demand for transport services for outlying areas to assist in access to major centres for aged care services. Maintaining footpaths that are suitable for mobility scooters and pushchairs in all areas would also be a consideration.
Recreational Facilities	Recreational facilities in the region should cater to all ages, however ensuring that there are more recreational and social facilities available for older citizens needs to be considered.
Investment in Council assets	The need to invest in Council assets has been identified through the previous Long Term Plan and the changing regulatory environment for 3 waters. With an ageing population with static incomes and the projected decrease in population the ability to gain significant rate increases to pay for this investment becomes more unlikely.
Access to technology	Encouraging improvements in access to technology will reduce isolation in the wider district and give people more opportunities to ensure that they can participate in the modern world.
Preventing population decline	Living in this district is a lifestyle choice for many people. Providing facilities that enhance their lifestyle could reverse the trend for population decline and address issues around Council's ability to rate appropriately for investment.

[10] https://broadbandmap.nz/

Economic

In 2019 the economy grew 2.4 percent on an annual average basis. New Zealand's economic growth has been declining on an annual average basis over the past year.

Stats NZ reported that beneficiary, super annuitant and low income households faced the largest increase in household living costs over the year ended September 2019. Higher housing rental costs adversely affected beneficiary and low income households, while an increase in property rates was a significant factor behind higher household costs for super annuitant households.

New Zealand's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in the September 2019 quarter. The unemployment rate has been generally trending downward since a post-global financial crisis peak of 6.7 percent in the September 2012 quarter where 156,000 people were unemployed.

House prices rose by 3.3 percent over the year to November according to QV's House Price Index. Nationally average house prices rose above $700,000.

The Reserve Bank has forecast annual inflation to briefly rise above two percent in the year ended March 2020 followed by an easing to a range between 1.7 – 1.9 percent over 2020-21. Annual inflation is then forecast to reach two percent in the December 2021 quarter.

Coronovirus (Covid-19)

The long-term effects of the Covid-19 virus are uncertain. Many countries are restricting traveller entry and movements and imposing quarantine regulations. World financial markets have become unstable and the tourism, student, fishing, timber, export and manufacturing markets to and from China have reduced.

The Economic Advisory Group, led by Treasury forecast three potential scenarios for the New Zealand Economy in March 2020:[11]

1. temporary global demand shock where we experience a temporary but significant impact on the New Zealand economy across the first half of 2020, before growth rebounds in the second half as exports return to normal.
2. based on a longer lasting shock to the domestic economy, as the global impact feeds through to the economy for a period of time, and where there are cases in New Zealand, and,
3. planning for how to respond to a global downturn if the worst case plays out around the world, and we have a global pandemic.

The current impacts for the Westland District in March 2020 are reduced tourism as international and domestic tourists are restricted in movement, timber and fisheries as the export market to China has been cut off.

Maintaining capacity and capability, consumption activity and protecting jobs, is largely dependent on the actions of central government and financial institutions. Central government implemented fiscal policies that maintained levels of employment and incomes for many in the short-term during the lockdown period when many businesses were unable to generate revenue. The long-term effects of these policies are yet to be known. Along with carefully constructed fiscal policy, monetary policy will need to be responsive to a downturn in consumption and the major changes to the tourism industry to support jobs and disposable incomes in the domestic economy.

Local Economy

A strong local economy, with plentiful job opportunities will help the district retain its population and could attract new residents from other districts and abroad.

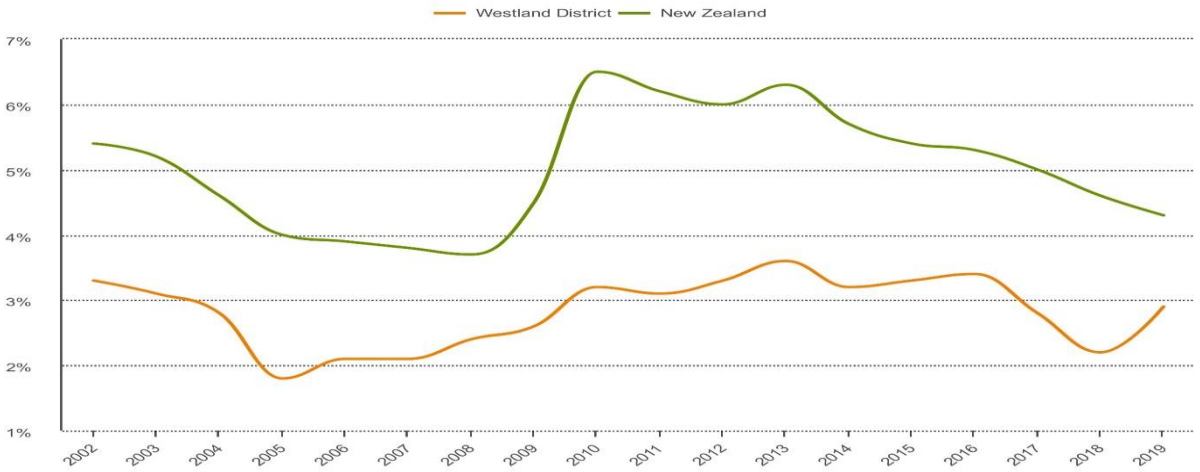
[11] https://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/nz-economy-strong-position-respond-coronavirus

Figure 13: Annual GDP Growth 2001 - 2019

Westland District's GDP grew by 3.4 percent over between 2014 and 2019. Economic growth averaged 2.07 per cent over the 10 years to 2019, slightly less as the New Zealand economy at 2.41 percent.[12] Over this period, the biggest contributors to economic growth were Manufacturing, Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services, and Accommodation and Food Services.[13]

Employment

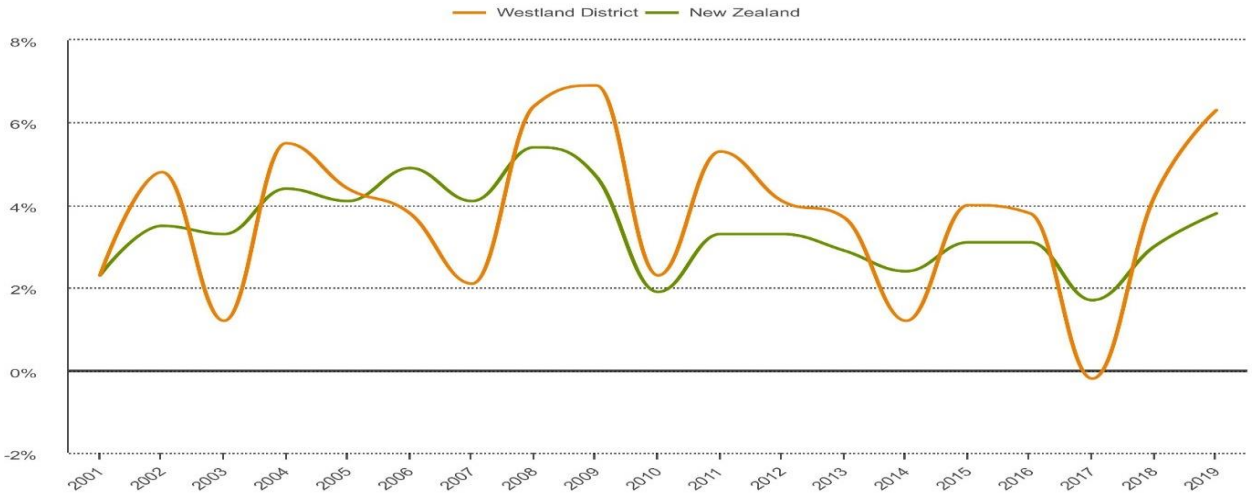
Figure 14: Unemployment Rate 2002 – 2019



New Zealand is experiencing a period of low unemployment. Westland District stands out with lower unemployment than the national average at 5% over the ten years from 2002 – 2018, compared to 9% nationally. Jobs in Manufacturing, and Accommodation and Food Services created the most jobs for the district between 2008 – 2019.

[12] Statistics and tables in this section come from Infometrics, Westland District Economic Profile, https://ecoprofile.infometrics.co.nz/Westland%20District, unless otherwise noted.
[13] https://ecoprofile.infometrics.co.nz/Westland%20District

Figure 15: Mean earnings growth, 2001 - 2019

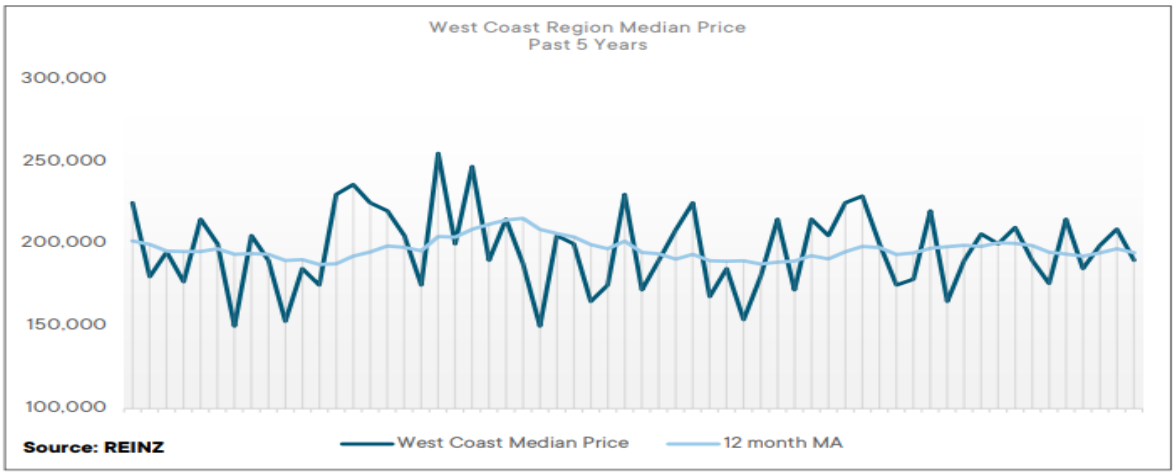


According to the most recent data available the average income in Westland remains low at $55,564 per annum, reflecting the lower wages of primary and secondary industries.

Housing

Home ownership

Figure 16: West Coast Region Median House Price past 5 years



Westland District remains an affordable place to purchase a home, but is the least affordable on the West Coast. While current median[14] NZ house prices are over $600,000, in Westland the median prices was $345,000 in December 2019[15] (compared to $190,000 for the West Coast Region).

[14] There are technical reasons why the median provides a more accurate picture of what is happening to the prices of houses rather than the "average". The median is the price of the middle house sold in a range, which more accurately reflects what the majority of houses sold for.
REINZ uses medians to provide a more accurate measure of the "mid-point" of house prices that reflects what most people are going to be buying and selling houses for. https://www.reinz.co.nz/statistics

[15] This is a 25% increase on the median price of $276,000 in December 2018, and 43.75% increase on the median price of $240,000 in November 2019. REINZ Residential Statistics Report for December 2019, https://www.reinz.co.nz/residential-property-data-gallery

Figure 17: Home ownership in Westland District, number of households 2006 and 2013 census[16]

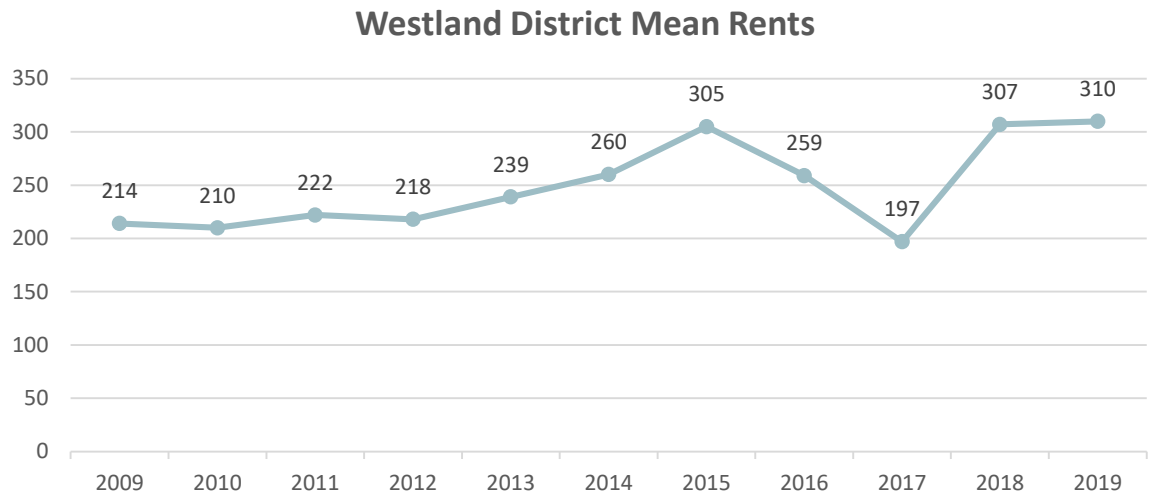
Westland District trends show a high level of ownership.[17] Home ownership rates in Westland are slightly better than New Zealand as a whole, and homes are more likely to be lived in by owner-occupiers than owned by a family trust.[18]

There are 7322 properties listed on the Westland District Council ratings database (this includes all types of property, not just residential housing). A search shows that 1978 of these property owners have a postal address is outside of the district, suggesting that 27 percent of property owners are not resident in the district. [19]

[16] https://figure.nz/chart/3moIw8j6xQcEpl4U-lRU6TIHh6opJHUJh
[17] Due to the fact that this data is over five years old it should not be relied on to give and accurate picture of the current state of home ownership and rental accommodation in the district.
[18] 2006 and 2013 census data, https://figure.nz/chart/3moIw8j6xQcEpl4U-iB17SohkkDQnQEbQ
[19] Westland District Council Magiq database, January 2020.

Rental

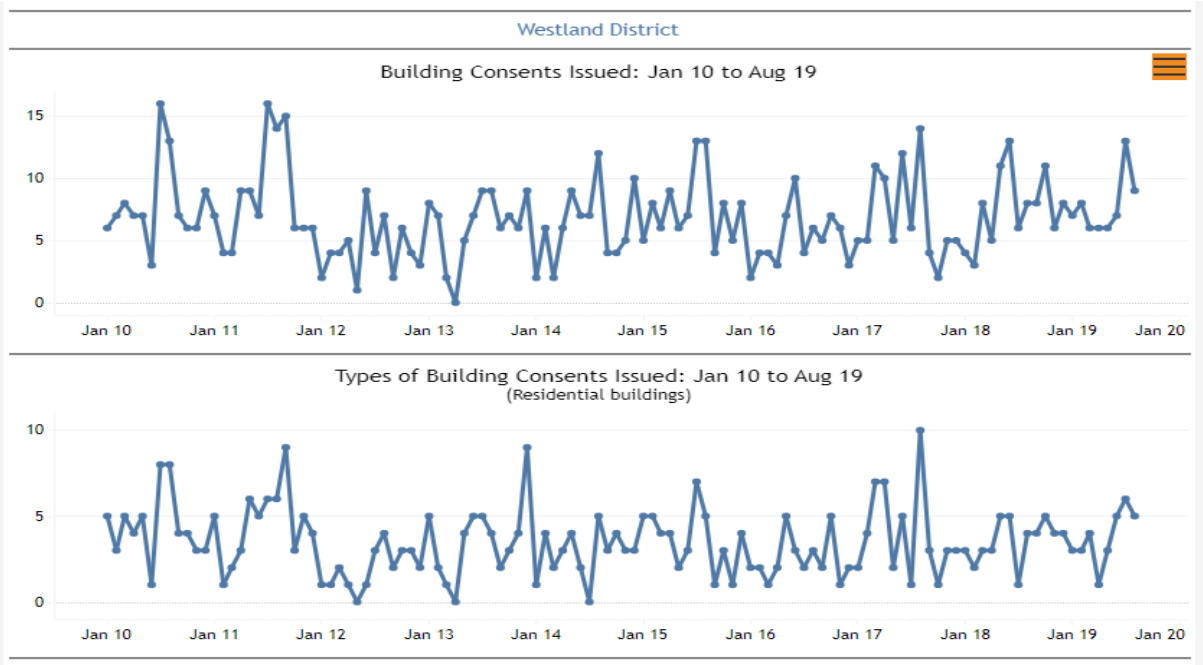
Figure 18: Westland District mean rents 1 June 2009 – 1 June 2019



Mean rental prices in the district have generally shown a steady increase over the last 10 years from $214 in June 2009 to $310 in June 2019, a percentage change of 45 percent.[20]

New building resource consents

Figure 19: New Building Resource Consents Issued and Figure 20 Type of Building Consents Issued (Residential Buildings) January 2010 – August 2019 – Westland District[21]



[20] The data is sourced from lodging of private bonds with MBIE. 'Private' means private sector landlords.
This data comes from the MBIE tenancy bond database, which records all new rental bonds that are lodged with MBIE each month. Median data is not available.
https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/tenancy-and-housing/rental-bond-data/

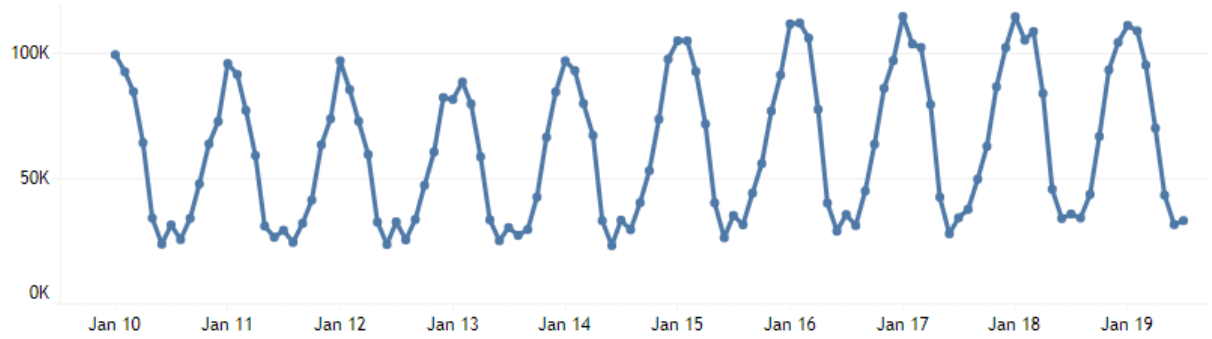
[21] SOLGM Wellbeing Dashboard, dataset from Statistics NZ: Building Consents

Over the past 10 years there has been fluctuations in the number of new building consents for all building types issued in the Westland District. For the month of July between 2010 and 2019 an average of 7.41 new building consents were issued.

During this period the bulk of consents for new buildings have been for residential buildings. There is a slow and steady demand for new residential building in the district as current housing stock ages and renters position themselves to purchase homes.

Tourism

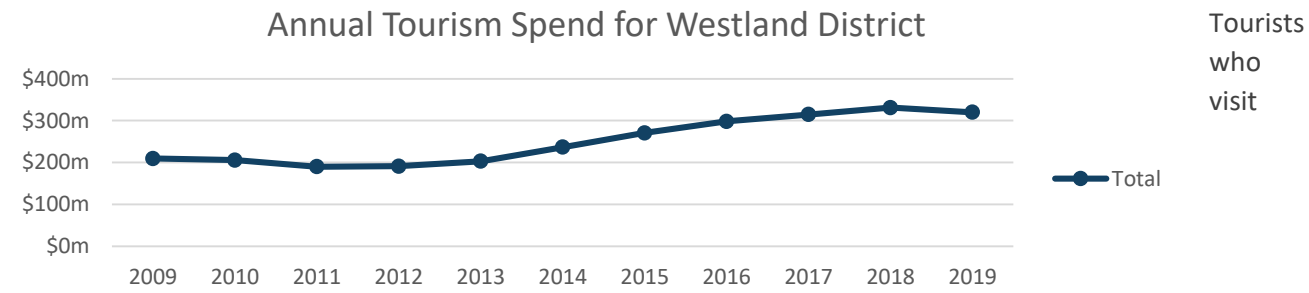
Figure 21: Westland District Guest Nights January 2010 – July 2019



Visitor arrivals to New Zealand are expected to grow 4.0 per cent a year, reaching 5.1 million visitors in 2025.[22] The number of guest nights in Westland District has seasonal peaks and troughs (Figure 37). The effects of the storm in March 2019 reduced the number of bed nights in the district by 13,472 compared to March 2018.[23]

A search of overnight rental accommodation providers in the Westland District for shows about 3.8% of the total properties in Westland listed on short-term accommodation rental websites.[24] This indicates that these properties are not available to residents looking for long-term accommodation, however the use of these properties for overnight stays increases revenue from tourism and encourages visitors to stay in the region.

Figure 22: Annual Tourism Spend for Westland District



Westland spend money, particularly among international tourists Tourists spent $320 million dollars in

[22] https://www.mbie.govt.nz/immigration-and-tourism/tourism-research-and-data/international-tourism-forecasts/2019-2025-international-tourism-forecasts/

[23] Statistics NZ: Accommodation Survey – Territorial Authority by variable (Monthly), http://datainfoplus.stats.govt.nz/item/nz.govt.stats/38574cd6-b696-41a5-b311-41bfa5611a99/78/.

[24] The search using Google is not comprehensive and data is approximate only. The percentage of properties used for overnight rental has been calculated with the figure for all rateable properties in Westland, not just rateable residential properties.

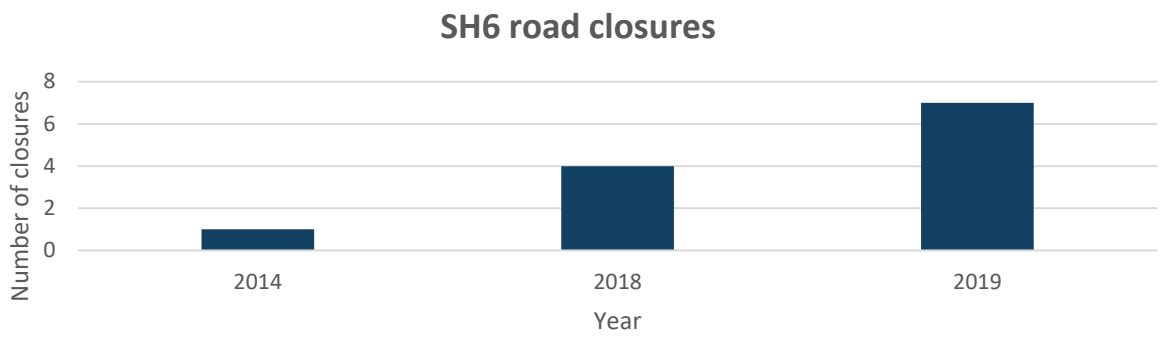
Westland in 2019, $11 million less than peak spending in 2018 (Figure 38)[25]. This again could be attributed to the severe weather events experienced in the region over that time.

Obstacles to economic growth and stability

Transportation network

Westland is 350km long and serviced by only one major road, SH6. This leaves the district vulnerable in the event of road closures. The road is heavily used by tourists travelling through the district, as well as milk tankers and other logistical transportation businesses.

Figure 23: State Highway 6 unplanned road closures greater than 10 hours, south of Hokitika, 2010 – 2020[26]



Road closures have a significant impact on businesses in the district as tourists may become trapped, or are unlikely to travel to or through the district, and farmers are unable to transport milk. Road closures due to severe weather events have become more common in the past few years.

The rest of the district has a local roading network, which requires maintenance and some upgrades from gravelled to sealed roads. Residents, visitors and logistical transportation use the local road network. This network is vulnerable to the same issues as the State Highway network, as the loss of Dorothy Falls Road for an extended period of time in 2019 shows.

The port at Jackson Bay is under-utilised and improving the port facilities and roading infrastructure could allow commercial fisheries to grow their businesses in this part of the district.

Communications and power

As discussed in previous sections, the communications network in the Westland District is not consistently distributed throughout the District and many townships are left without telephone or internet services in the event of a natural hazard event. Many townships also suffer from unreliable power networks as most of the power transmission network is located outside of Westland. These towns are reliant on diesel generators when the power supply is cut.

Labour

Impediments to increased growth of the labour market in Westland District are the ageing population, lack of relevant training institutions in Westland District resulting in disengagement from education, valuable young people moving out of the district for further education and not returning due to perceived lack of

[25] Data Source: Monthly Regional Tourism Estimates (MRTE), Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, https://www.mbie.govt.nz/immigration-and-tourism/tourism-research-and-data/tourism-data-releases/monthly-regional-tourism-estimates/

[26] 10 year closures SH6, NZTA, West Coast Maintenance Contract Manager

appropriate employment, uncertainty about the reputation and future of training institutions in the West Coast region.

Opportunity for economic development

The West Coast Regional Development Strategy 2018 – 2015 identified the following opportunities for economic development:[27]

Figure 24: Opportunities for economic development in Westland District

A number of these are now in the process of being developed further. These initiatives will widen the base of industries in Westland and provide additional jobs and cater for the ageing population.

27 https://www.dwc.org.nz/images/01.HOME_PAGE/05.RESOURCESINFORMATION/West_Coast_Economic_Development_Strategy_2018-2025.pdf, p 75.

Implications for Westland District Council

Assumption	Implications
Housing and accommodation	While housing and rental in Westland is more affordable than other parts of the country, lack of supply or suitable housing may discourage people to remain or move to the district. The increase in people over the age of 65 needing suitable housing or nursing home care is a consideration that needs to be addressed to ensure the right facilities are available for the people of the district. Tourism and the growth of housing being used for short-term accommodation is putting pressure of the housing and rental marked and needs to be further addressed.
Supporting Rural Communities	As the district ages Council will need to find ways to continue to provide and improve services for rural areas and small towns. Encouraging these communities to flourish will help to improve socio-economic outcomes, continue to maintain the appeal for tourists and help to maintain adequate numbers of residents.
Transport Infrastructure	The region's economic development is dependent on reliable transport infrastructure to connect people, goods and services with the region. Roads, airport, rail and the port need to increase connections and capacity to grow the region economically as primary industries remain important to the district's economy.
Digital / technological infrastructure	It is vital in the modern world that the district has sound and reliable digital and technological infrastructure. Ensuring that infrastructure meets the needs of businesses, visitors and residents is important for allowing businesses to grow, residents to be able to connect to banking, education and government, and encouraging visitors travelling in the region.

Physical environment

Sustainably managing the natural environment and reducing the impacts of climate change are challenges facing New Zealand. Central government has been undertaking reforms to manage the physical environment and climate change. These are discussed in the next topic.

With over 80 percent of the 400km of land in Westland District under Department of Conservation stewardship, the activities that can be undertaken are limited but the natural environment receives protection. However, this reduces the rateable land in the district and puts the burden of rates onto the small number of landowners in the district.

Climate Change

It is internationally acknowledged that climate is changing. Impacts such as increases in extreme weather and rising sea levels will affect the Westland District.[28] Other physical environment challenges of concern are the district's vulnerability to natural hazards, such as the potential for the alpine fault to rupture and the impact that this will have on the district's communities.

Climate change projections for the West Coast

These projections depend on future greenhouse gas emissions, which are uncertain[29].

Table 3: Predicted Seasonal temperature and rainfall by 2090

By 2090, seasonally the region could expect*:

Season	Changes
Spring	0.6°C to 2.5°C temperature rise 4 to 9 per cent more rainfall in Hokitika
Summer	0.6°C to 3.2°C temperature rise 2 to 4 per cent more rainfall in Hokitika
Autumn	0.7°C to 3.1°C temperature rise 2 to 5 per cent more rainfall in Hokitika
Winter	0.7°C to 3.1°C temperature rise 8 to 29 per cent more rainfall in Hokitika

*Projected changes are relative to 1995 levels. The values provided capture the range across all scenarios. They are based on scenario estimates and should not be taken as definitive. For more information, see the full report on climate projections.

For detailed information about the following conditions, refer to https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/likely-impacts-of-climate-change/how-could-climate-change-affect-my-region/west-coast

Temperature

Compared to 1995, temperatures are likely to be 0.7˚C to 1.0˚C warmer by 2040 and 0.6˚C to 3.0˚C warmer by 2090.

Rainfall

The West Coast is expected to become wetter, particularly in winter and spring. Winter rainfall in Hokitika is projected to increase by 8 to 29 per cent by 2090.

[28] Ministry for the Environment 2018. *Climate Change Projections for New Zealand: Atmosphere Projections Based on Simulations from the IPCC Fifth Assessment, 2nd Edition*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment.
[29] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/likely-impacts-of-climate-change/how-could-climate-change-affect-my-region/west-coast

Wind

The frequency of extremely windy days in the West Coast by 2090 is likely to increase by between 2 and 5 per cent.

Storms

Future changes in the frequency of storms are likely to be small compared to natural inter-annual variability. Some increase in storm intensity, local wind extremes and thunderstorms is likely to occur.

Snowfall

The West Coast region is likely to experience significant decreases in seasonal snow. Less winter snowfall and an earlier spring melt may cause marked changes in the annual cycle of river flow in the region. So there is the possibility for larger winter floods.

Glaciers

Overall glacier ice mass has decreased by 25 per cent over the last 60 years in New Zealand, and is expected to continue to do so into the future. One climate modelling study suggests the Franz Josef glacier may retreat approximately 5 km and lose around 38 per cent of its mass by 2100.

Sea-level rise

New Zealand tide records show an average rise in relative mean sea level of 1.7 mm per year over the 20th century. The two main drivers of global rise in sea level are:[30]

- Rising temperatures, which warm ocean waters and make them expand.
- More water being added to the oceans from melting of land-based ice in glaciers and ice-sheets, as well as increased runoff of fresh water.

Table 4: Planning for sea level rise

Current guidance for planning around sea level rise indicates:

Land use	Guidance
Coastal subdivision, greenfield developments and major new infrastructure	Consider 1.9m to avoid risk
Changes in land use and redevelopment (intensification)	Adapt to hazards by conducting a risk assessment using the range of scenarios and using the pathways approach.
Land-use planning controls for existing coastal development and assets planning.	1.0 m
Non-habitable short-lived assets with a functional need to be at the coast, and either low-consequences or readily adaptable (including services)	0.65 m (relative to 2000 levels)

Natural Hazards

Alongside sea-level rise, coastal environments will be affected by changes in weather-related coastal-hazard drivers, such as storm surges, waves, winds and the frequency and intensity of storms.

Westland is seriously affected by natural disasters and the townships are very vulnerable to extreme weather events and the potential damage when the alpine fault ruptures.

More heavy rainfall will increase the risk of flooding, erosion and landslides, which is already high in many parts of the region. Many Westland communities are located along narrow coastal and river strips beneath mountain ranges, leaving them exposed to increased risks of storms, flooding and landslides.

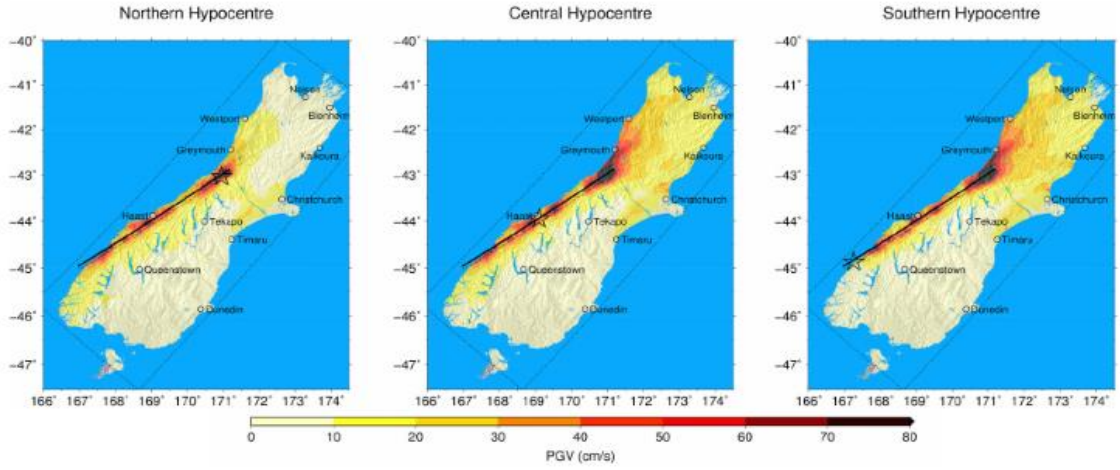
[30] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/MFE_Coastal_Fact%20Sheet%207.pdf

Table 5: Cost to the insurance industry of extreme weather events 2015 -2019

Event	Dates	Cost[31]
Flooding and Storm North and South Islands	6 – 7 March 2015	$1.3 million nationally
Flooding and Storm South Island West Coast	19 – 22 June 2015	$8.6 million (inflation adjusted)
Flooding	23 – 24 March 2016	Nationally $30.9 (inflation adjusted)
Cyclone Fehi	28 Jan – 30 Jan 2018	Nationally $45.9 million
Ex-Tropical Cyclone Gita	3 Feb – 19 Feb 2018	Nationally $35.6 million
West Coast wind and flooding	26 March 2019	$4.09 million
Extreme rainfall	6 – 7 December 2019	Not yet available

Table 8 demonstrates that extreme weather events have become more frequent and more severe over the past few years, with increasing costs to households and businesses.

Figure 25: Intensity models for three Alpine Fault rupture scenarios on Alpine F2[32]



The Alpine fault, which has a high probability (estimated 30 percent) of rupturing in the next 50 years,[33] is predicted to cause extensive damage throughout Westland. An earthquake scenario developed by Otago University Department of Geology suggests that a 400km rupture along the West Coast would break the earth surface, could cause avalanches, rockfalls and landslides. Strong ground shaking would affect properties and destroy bridges.[34] With these severe consequences Westland could become isolated for a long period of time with roads and communications networks cut off and disruption to power and water services.

No detailed tsunami inundation modelling has been done for the West Coast. Below is a simplified estimate scenario modelling for coastal urban areas, assuming the beach ridge extends the full length of the coast with a height of 6 m (except at river mouths).[35]

[31] Costs listed here are the cost to the insurance industry in paying claims for damage resulting from these events. Loss of business and reputation cost may not be included. https://www.icnz.org.nz/natural-disasters/cost-of-natural-disasters/

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

[33] https://www.gns.cri.nz/Home/Learning/Science-Topics/Earthquakes/Major-Faults-in-New-Zealand/Alpine-Fault

[34] https://www.otago.ac.nz/geology/research/structural-geology/earthquakes/400alpine.html

[35] *Improving Resilience to Natural Disasters West Coast Lifelines Vulnerability and Interdependency Assessment*, Main Report and Supplement 4: Tsunami, prepared for the West Coast Emergency Management Group, August 2017

Table 6: Areas of Westland exposed to tsunami risk

Area	Model
Kumara Junction to Hokitika	• Much of the 18km of road and railway is likely to be inundated
Hokitika	• Particularly vulnerable with all the CBD and the town west of SH 6 potentially flooded by up to 4m from both the beach and the river. • Extensive building damage would compound inundation and both service stations and the telephone exchange could be affected. • Oxidation ponds could be flooded and stopbanks overtopped probably as far inland as the diary factory. • The Hokitika Bridge abutments are at risk together with services on it.
Hokitika to Ruatapu	• Could have sections of SH 6 flooded • Power lines might be affected by scour at poles which would also impact on the fibre-optic cable. The power line and cable are exposed along much of the way between Ruatapu and Bold Head
Okarito	• Probably would be severely affected with the loss of power and telephone lines and damage to roads.
Bruce Bay	• About 1km of SH 6 on the beachline is vulnerable to scour and possibly complete destruction, with a further 4km within the inundation zone. • The power line is similarly exposed.
Haast area	• Sections of SH 6 totalling 6km would be inundated, as would large parts of the road between Haast and Jackson Bay. • Power lines would be lost and some bridges are also vulnerable. • The wharf at Jackson Bay would be destroyed.

Implications for Westland District Council

Assumption	Implications
Coastal protection	Consideration of managed retreat for parts of the district that lie on or just above sea-level may be the most sustainable long-term approach. However, these communities are likely to prefer new or enhanced coastal protection works to protect both public and private property. Funding of these works will be up to the ratepayer unless central government steps in.
Flood management	Increases in storm intensity and frequency of storms with increased rainfall will reduce the effectiveness of current flood protection infrastructure and require increased works to maintain levels of service. Managed retreat in these areas may also need to be considered.
Emergency Management	Emergency management plans must be robust with a strong base of knowledgeable staff and volunteers able to ensure the district keeps running in the event of increasing severe weather events and the potential alpine fault rupture. Townships should be equipped to deal with long periods of isolation.
Stormwater / drainage infrastructure	Increases in frequency of storms with increased intensity and higher intense rain will reduce the effectiveness of current storm / drainage infrastructure.
Climate change implications	Some of the implications are discussed above. Other implications include: • Increasing frequency and intensity of flooding / sea level rise puts community safety at risk. • Increasing frequency and intensity of flooding / sea level rise reduces the effectiveness of infrastructure around closed landfills. • Impact on tourism which relies on the natural environment that is being affected by climate change.
Growth limited to urbanised areas	Further growth of the district will happen in areas that are already urbanised and may see smaller townships in the district struggle to maintain services and their economy due to restrictions on land use due to natural hazards and climate change.

Legal

Local government is bound by many Acts and Regulations. Central government has been working on a wide spectrum of legislative and policy changes that affect what local government does and how it is done. The following provides information on topics that may affect Westland District Council now and into the future.

Three waters review

The Three Waters Review[36] for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater was established in mid-2017 by central government, alongside the Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry, as a cross-agency initiative led by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) to look into the challenges facing our three waters system; and to develop recommendations for system-wide performance improvements.

The review seeks the following outcomes:

- Safe, acceptable (taste, colour and smell) and reliable drinking water.
- Better environmental performance from our water services.
- Efficient, sustainable, resilient and accountable water services.
- Achieving these aims in ways our communities can afford.

Taumata Arowai—the Water Services Regulator Bill

This Bill is the first step in the Three Waters Review and implements the Government's decision to create a new regulatory body to oversee, administer, and enforce the drinking water regulatory system.

Three waters service delivery and funding arrangements

The Three Waters Review Team has been considering responses to the wider affordability and capability challenges facing the three waters sector. This includes supporting councils to investigate collaborative approaches to water service delivery.

To support such collaborative initiatives, the Government has agreed to provide, on a case-by-case basis, financial assistance to eligible regions that are investigating financially sustainable changes to their water service delivery arrangements.

Tai Poutini One District Plan

Under the Resource Management Act (RMA), every territorial authority (TA) must prepare a district plan. District plans must give effect to National Policy Statements (NPS) and regional policy statements and must not be inconsistent with regional plans and any applicable water conservation orders.

Background to Te Tai o Poutini Plan

In 2015 members of the West Coast community asked the Local Government Commission to consider local government reorganisation on the West Coast. The Commission ran a collaborative process with the four West Coast councils, looking at their current systems and options to improve them.

In 2018 the Local Government Commission released its proposal. The Local Government Commission recommended:

- Transferring the statutory obligations for preparing District Plans from the three West Coast district councils to the West Coast Regional Council.
- Delegating these obligations to a joint committee comprising all four councils and local iwi, with an independent chair.

[36] https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Three-waters-documents/$file/Three-Waters-Review-High-Level-Outline-Mar-2019.pdf

Rather than each of the three District Councils preparing individual plans, Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee is responsible for preparing and approving a new combined District Plan covering the whole of the West Coast. [37]

Membership of Tai Poutini Plan Committee

Membership is comprised of the Mayor or Chair and one other Councillor from each council and one representative each from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio. It is chaired by an independent chairperson.

The Committee has full decision-making powers, and the make-up of the Committee ensures each district has equal input and voting rights on what goes in the Plan.

Funding, resources and support

The reorganisation scheme requires the West Coast Regional Council to rate for the operation of Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee. The Regional Council also provides corporate and administrative support services.

Plan Objectives

The objective of a district plan is to promote the purpose of local government. A Te Tai o Poutini Plan covering the whole of the West Coast needs to:

1. Support democratic local decision-making;
2. Enable action to meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure and local public services; and,
3. Ensure performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most efficient, appropriate and cost-effective for households and businesses.

How Te Tai o Poutini Plan will meet these objectives

1. Each district and rūnanga has representatives on the decision making Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee, the Technical Advisory Team and the Steering Group, to ensure local issues are considered in the decisions.
2. The district plans are due for assessment to meet Central Government requirements. Updating the plan now provides the opportunity to better plan for current and future community needs.
3. All of the West Coast district plans require updating to meet current national policy and standards.
4. Rather than re-writing and paying for three plans, it will save time and money writing one combined plan.
5. Te Tai o Poutini Plan will also provide consistency for things like development rules and natural hazard management across the region.
6. Standardising policies, rules and consenting processes will make the plan easier for the community to use, and will reduce the need to submit on multiple plans.

Resource Management Act

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is New Zealand's main piece of legislation that sets out how we should manage our environment[38]. The RMA is based on the principle of sustainable management..

As well as managing air, soil, fresh water and coastal marine areas, the RMA regulates land use and the provision of infrastructure which are integral components of New Zealand's planning system.

The RMA has brought a number of benefits. Importantly, New Zealand's natural and physical resources are now managed in a sustainable framework, with a raft of environmental bottom-lines.

[37] https://ttpp.nz/about-the-plan/
[38] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/about-rma

While the RMA provides an overarching guide on what's best for our environment, with national direction on significant issues, it allows communities to make decisions on how their own environment is managed through regional and district resource management plans.

This framework means that most decisions on resource management are made by local government.

Regulations under the Act

There are 16 regulations under the RMA covering a broad range of activities, including:

- requiring authority approvals
- heritage protection authority approvals
- marine pollution
- metering of water takes
- national environmental standards

RMA review

The Government is undertaking a comprehensive review of the resource management system with a focus on the RMA. [39]

This is an opportunity to design a system that delivers better outcomes for the environment, people and the economy.

This includes:

- New Zealand's physical characteristics and unique biodiversity
- the Treaty and the relationship between iwi/Māori and the Crown
- the significant ways we all value and connect with the environment.

The Resource Management Review Panel is leading the review.

Amending the RMA

The Government is proposing several specific changes to the RMA through the Resource Management Amendment Bill (the Bill). [40]

The Bill includes a new freshwater planning process which will support implementation of the upcoming National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.

The Bill also addresses issues with:

- resource consenting
- enforcement
- Environment Court provisions within the RMA.

Public submissions will be called for when the Bill is referred to a select committee.

Emissions Trading Scheme

The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) [41] is the Government's main tool for meeting domestic and international climate change targets. The scheme aims to encourage people to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The government plans to improve the current scheme by introducing a 'cap' on emissions covered by the scheme. Consultation on this reform was undertaken from late 2019 until the end of February 2020.

[39] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/rmreview
[40] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/improving-our-resource-management-system
[41] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/new-zealand-emissions-trading-scheme/about-nz-ets

Zero Carbon legislation

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019[42] provides a framework by which New Zealand can develop and implement clear and stable climate change policies.

The changes do four key things:

- set a new domestic greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for New Zealand.
- establish a system of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones towards the long-term target
- require the Government to develop and implement policies for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- establish a new, independent Climate Change Commission to provide expert advice and monitoring to help keep successive governments on track to meeting long-term goals.

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill received royal assent on 13 November 2019.

Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

In November 2019, the Ministry for the Environment published a draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (draft NPS – Biodiversity),[43] which sets out objectives, policies and implementation requirements to manage natural and physical resources to maintain indigenous biological diversity (indigenous biodiversity) under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act).

This draft NPS – Biodiversity ensures as many of our remaining species, habitats and ecosystems as possible persevere. This places value not only on the pristine, but also on the modified and degraded habitats and ecosystems that make an important contribution to maintaining indigenous biodiversity.

This draft NPS – Biodiversity states objectives, policies and implementation requirements for those matters of national significance and acknowledges the role that Māori have as kaitiaki in all aspects of indigenous biodiversity management.

While this draft NPS – Biodiversity supports local authorities' existing good practice, it seeks a step change in management, recognising the opportunity before us to better protect indigenous biodiversity and support New Zealand's identify for generations to come.

Draft National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

In September 2019, the government issued the Draft National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (draft NPS - FM) for public consultation. [44] It sets out the objectives and policies for freshwater management under the Resource Management Act 1991.

The draft NPS-FM is proposed as a full replacement of the NPS-FM 2014[45] (as amended 2017). It is part of a package of proposed freshwater regulations set out in Action for healthy waterways: a discussion document on national direction for our essential freshwater.

The objective of the NPS - Freshwater is to ensure that resources are managed in a way that prioritises:

a) first, the health and wellbeing of waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems; and
b) second, the essential health needs of people; and
c) third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing, now and in the future.

[42] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/zero-carbon-amendment-act
[43] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Biodiversity/draft-npsib.pdf
[44] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/fresh-water/draft-national-policy-statement-freshwater-management
[45] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Fresh%20water/action-for-healthy-waterways.pdf

Crown Minerals Act

The Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) sets out the broad legislative framework for the issuing of permits to prospect, explore and mine Crown-owned minerals within New Zealand. [46]

Crown-owned minerals include petroleum, gold, silver and uranium, and all minerals on or under Crown land.

In some cases the Crown also has rights to certain minerals in some private land. There are also some cases of private mineral ownership on or under Crown land.

Reasons for reviewing the Crown Minerals Act 1991 [47]

In November 2019 the government began consultation on a review of the CMA.

Central government aims to build an economy that is productive, sustainable and inclusive. The CMA is being reviewed to ensure it can best support these objectives, as well as being fit for the purposes of iwi/hapū, industry, our communities, and Government.

Waste Disposal Levy

The Waste Disposal Levy[48] encourages New Zealanders to start taking responsibility for the waste they produce and to find more effective and efficient ways to reduce, reuse, recycle or reprocess waste.

It also creates funding opportunities for waste minimisation initiatives.

Half of the levy money goes to territorial authorities (city and district councils) to spend on promoting or achieving the waste minimisation activities set out in their waste management and minimisation plans (WMMPs).

The remaining levy money (minus administration costs) is put into the Waste Minimisation Fund.

A conservative approach was taken to setting the levy amount so it:

- is less likely to result in behaviour such as illegal dumping
- reduces the impact on businesses and households
- reduces the risk of inefficient spending of the revenue
- allows the effects, both positive and negative, resulting from the levy to be assessed.

Reducing Waste: A more effective landfill levy

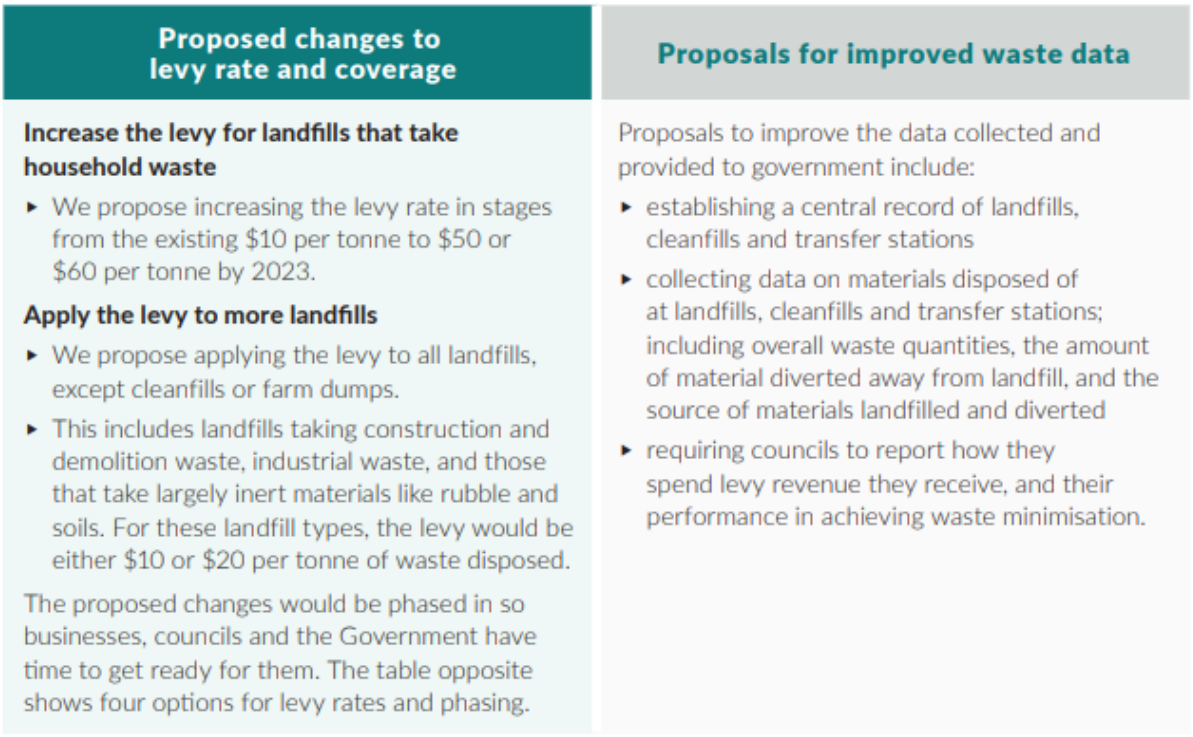
In November 2019, the government began consultation on a more effective landfill levy. Final policy decisions are scheduled to take effect from mid-2020. [49]

The Government is proposing to increase the landfill levy and apply it to more types of waste.

Increasing the levy will better reflect the full environmental, social and economic costs of waste disposal and encourage materials to be reused and recycled rather than sent to landfill.

[46] https://www.mbie.govt.nz/building-and-energy/energy-and-natural-resources/energy-generation-and-markets/liquid-fuel-market/crown-minerals-act-regime/
[47] https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/7320-discussion-document-review-of-the-crown-minerals-act-1991
[48] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/waste/waste-guidance-and-technical-information/waste-disposal-levy/about-levy
[49] https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/landfill-levy

Figure 26: Proposed changes to Waste Disposal Levy and improved waste data



Proposed changes to levy rate and coverage

Increase the levy for landfills that take household waste

- We propose increasing the levy rate in stages from the existing $10 per tonne to $50 or $60 per tonne by 2023.

Apply the levy to more landfills

- We propose applying the levy to all landfills, except cleanfills or farm dumps.
- This includes landfills taking construction and demolition waste, industrial waste, and those that take largely inert materials like rubble and soils. For these landfill types, the levy would be either $10 or $20 per tonne of waste disposed.

The proposed changes would be phased in so businesses, councils and the Government have time to get ready for them. The table opposite shows four options for levy rates and phasing.

Proposals for improved waste data

Proposals to improve the data collected and provided to government include:

- establishing a central record of landfills, cleanfills and transfer stations
- collecting data on materials disposed of at landfills, cleanfills and transfer stations; including overall waste quantities, the amount of material diverted away from landfill, and the source of materials landfilled and diverted
- requiring councils to report how they spend levy revenue they receive, and their performance in achieving waste minimisation.

The Levy Investment Plan (LIP) will guide government investment decisions on the Waste Management Fund, and on other waste minimisation projects and activities (eg, those funded by other government agencies). It is also intended that the LIP will inform territorial authorities' waste management and minimisation plans, which guide how territorial authorities spend their share of levy revenue.

Freedom Camping

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 received Royal assent on 29 August 2011, and is administered jointly by the Department of Internal Affairs and the Department of Conservation.

Westland District Council adopted a Freedom Camping Bylaw in November 2018, which sets out prohibited and restricted areas. Freedom camping is permitted in any area unless it is a restricted or prohibited area in accordance with the Bylaw or another enactment. Designated Responsible Camping sites are provided in Schedule 3 of the Bylaw.

Implications for Westland District Council

Legislation	Implications
Three Waters review	New regulatory scheme that may reduce Council's autonomy over water services and require further investment in improving infrastructure. Potential of additional operating costs from increased monitoring, compliance requirements (oversight of private schemes) and increased auditing.
Tai Poutini One District Plan	Staff resource savings over the long-term and a consistent approach to planning across the West Coast
Resource Management Act review	This will determine any changes required to the way Council currently manages Resource Consent Activities. In the short term any change will result in cost to Council while processes are adapted to fit parliamentary changes.
Emissions Trading Scheme	The emissions trading scheme is now at the maximum level. Due to variables in market prices and the impacts of new Zero Carbon Legislation future costs are difficult to establish. This scheme impacts local businesses as well as Council.
Zero Carbon Legislation	Council needs to consider ways to reduce carbon emissions and work with the community to assist and educate in reducing emissions.
Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity	The cost of this process will be carried by West Coast Regional Council who will be required to rate for it across the District. Identification of Significant Natural Areas is a process that WDC agreed to complete within three years back in 2002 and has not completed. There is concern regarding the interpretation of the significance criteria and what this would mean for Westland as it is too ambiguous to forecast the impact. We are requesting financial assistance through every step of this process and MFE have indicated that they are willing to consider this. The potential unknown cost to Council is the potential for litigation due to the ambiguous identification criteria.
Draft National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management	There are potential unintended impacts for our South Westland sheep and beef farmers who currently and have historically run low levels of stock in large river valleys. These activities have been in place for 150 years in some valleys and the legislation would require that the stock are fenced out of all waterways. There is no exception to the type of stock or how large or small the waterway is. In this instance they are braided systems which are not feasible to fence and on DOC land.
Crown Minerals Act	This does not affect Council directly although it would affect the amount of licences to mine road reserve (managed by Destination Westland) and would affect our mining community. It would be a catch all that would unfortunately impact even the small scale black sand miners.
Waste Disposal Levy	If the Waste disposal levy is increased, Council will have to pay higher levies, which will in turn be passed onto residents and ratepayers. The 3 west regions have jointly supplied a submission overviewing the impacts the additional financial burden will have on residents. There may be increased revenue returned to Council under the scheme in order to implement strategies under the Waste Minimisation Policy
Freedom Camping	There are no implications for Council under the current legislative regime and bylaw.

Figures and Tables

Figures

Tables

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