



Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee

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Early planning and budget discussions for Te Tai o Poutini Plan

Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee met at the West Coast Regional Council offices on 31 January.

A decision paper about urban objectives and policies, and three information papers were presented by staff. Principal Planner, Lois Easton, said that “the Committee provided thoughtful and valuable input on the papers.” Ms Easton appreciated members’ insights on the role of visitors to the region, and how this impacts the economy and provision of facilities.

The Committee received confirmation that the project is proceeding to schedule and budget for the current financial year. Proposed expenditure for the 2020/21 financial year, including the addition of a research item, to ensure decisions made by the Committee are well informed and robust, was presented.

The Committee voted to accept the proposed budget.

There was in-depth discussion about how to raise revenue for the 2020/21 budget. As the West Coast Regional Council is required by law to raise a regional rate to develop Te Tai o Poutini Plan, the District Council and Iwi representatives expressed unanimous support for the Regional Council to rate for the entire amount.

The Committee also believes that the West Coast experience in developing a combined district plan will provide learnings for other regions, and therefore agreed to explore opportunities for funding from other national and local entities.

Westland Mayor, Bruce Smith, said “there are some good savings to be made by developing one district plan instead of three. It will be easier to use, and will support development in the right places.”

Committee Chair, Rex Williams, highlighted the constructive and collaborative atmosphere around the Committee table.

“The Committee will not be making its decisions in isolation, and will be seeking community views on the plan content on multiple occasions”, said Mr Williams. He urges community members and landowners to attend ongoing workshops and drop in sessions to talk about their issues, as well as their aspirations for the future.

Drop in sessions will be held region wide during February and March 2020. More information on the dates and locations will be published on Te Tai o Poutini Plan website – www.ttp.westcoast.govt.nz

Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee is made up of the Mayors and Chair of the four councils, a further representative from each Council and the Chairs of the two Poutini Ngāi Tahu hapu on the West Coast.

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