

Candidate Briefing Westland District Council

7 July 2025

Council's structure



- Elected members who govern the Council are made up of:
 - Mayor,
 - 3 members for the Northern Ward,
 - 3 members for the Hokitika Ward
 - 2 members for the Southern Ward,
 - plus a representative for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio.
- The business of Council comprises:
 - Office of the Chief Executive – responsible for service to the Mayor and elected members, HR and representing the operations of Council with district leaders.
 - Corporate Services – responsible for in-house business services such as finance and IT.
 - District Assets – responsible for the district's infrastructure, such as three waters and transportation.
 - Planning – responsible for the Council's function under the Resource Management Act.
 - Regulatory and community services – responsible for Building Control, Animal management, liquor and food licencing, and community services such as the library, swimming pool and museum.

Current meeting arrangements

These are the committees under the current Council. Each new Council will have its own committee structure.

- Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month.
- There are currently 4 standing committees and 2 subcommittees.
- Committees meet at least quarterly.
- The Hokitika Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Oversight Subcommittee meets at least quarterly, the Tenders subcommittee meets on an ad-hoc basis as needed.

Current major projects

- Hokitika Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Hokitika Racecourse Enabling Infrastructure development
- Council headquarters

Role of elected members – time commitments

- The role as an elected member involves:
 - Reading meeting agendas and forming opinions on the contents, prior to attending the meeting.
 - Attending Council workshops.
 - Meeting with community members to gather information and understand their issues.
 - Attending meetings as a representative of Council with community associations and interest groups.
 - Attending meetings with other Council's and organisations around the district.
- To be effective as an elected member, the time commitment is generally similar to a part-time job.