



Cover image: Lake Matheson - BareKiwi

# Council Meeting Agenda

13 May 2026

Annual Plan Public Hearings

**WESTLAND**  
District Council | Te Kahui o Poutini



# AGENDA

## RĀRANGI TAKE

NOTICE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF

# COUNCIL

## DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN HEARING

To be held on **Wednesday 13 May 2026** commencing at **9:00am** in the Council Chambers, 36 Weld Street, Hokitika and vis Zoom

Chairperson	Her Worship the Mayor
Deputy and Northern Ward Member:	Cr Burden
Northern Ward Members:	Cr Mackenzie, Cr Maitland
Hokitika Ward Members:	Cr Gillett, Cr Martin, Cr Walker
Southern Ward Members:	Cr Manera, Cr Munns
Iwi Representatives:	Kw Madgwick, Kw Tumahai

In accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, members may attend the meeting by audio or audio-visual link.

## Council Vision

*By investing in our people, caring for the environment, respecting the Mana Whenua Cultural heritage, and enabling investment, growth, and development we will enrich our district and the people that reside here.*

## Purpose

The Council is required to give effect to the purpose of local government as prescribed by section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002. That purpose is:

- (a) To enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and,
- (b) To promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

## 1. KARAKIA TĪMATANGA OPENING KARAKIA

*Kia hora te marino  
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana  
Hei hurahai mā tātou  
I te rangi nei  
Aroha atu, aroha mai  
Tātou i a tātou katoa  
Hui e! Tāiki e!*

*May peace be widespread  
May the sea be like greenstone  
A pathway for us all this day  
Give love, received love  
Let us show respect for each other  
Bind us all together!*

## 2. NGĀ WHAKAPAAHA APOLOGIES

## 3. WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a Member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to Members to review the matters on the agenda and assess and identify where they may have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest, or where there may be a perception of a conflict of interest.

If a member feels they do have a conflict of interest, they should publicly declare that at the start of the meeting or of the relevant item of business and refrain from participating in the discussion or voting on that item. If a member thinks they may have a conflict of interest, they can seek advice from the Chief Executive (preferably before the meeting). It is noted that while members can seek advice the final decision as to whether a conflict exists rests with the member.

## 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public submission hearings and feedback to the Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027

## 5. PŪRONGO KAIMAHI STAFF REPORTS

**Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027 Submission Analysis Report**

Stephen Lewis, Chief Financial Officer to speak to the report.

## 6. DELIBERATIONS

Council will deliberate and decide upon the options they will adopt for the Annual Plan 2026/2027 based on community feedback and staff analysis.

**DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 28 MAY 2026  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM**

A photograph of a forest path with moss-covered trees and a stream, serving as the background for the document.

# **Westland District Council Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027 Submission Analysis Report**

**Prepared for Elected Members**

**May 2026**

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## Executive Summary

Westland District Council received a total of 80 submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027 consultation document.

Overall, submissions reflected a strong awareness from the community of the financial pressures currently facing Council, including increasing operational costs, inflationary pressures, and the challenge of balancing service levels with affordability for ratepayers. While submitters expressed differing views on individual proposals, there was a consistent theme that Council should continue to focus on core service delivery, financial prudence, and ensuring value for money.

Feedback generally supported Council reviewing operational efficiencies across community facilities and services, although several submitters expressed concern about the potential impact of reduced operating hours or reduced accessibility for community assets such as the swimming pool, isite, library, and museum.

The swimming pool generated some of the strongest and most detailed feedback. Submitters emphasised its role as an important community wellbeing, recreation, and water safety asset, particularly for children, working families, rural communities, South Westland residents, swim school, swim club, aqua classes, and organised user groups. A recurring theme was that the relatively small projected savings from reduced operating hours did not outweigh the potential impact on community access, participation, water safety, and wellbeing.

Submissions also highlighted broader strategic issues, including:

- concerns regarding rates affordability and the cumulative financial pressure on households and businesses
- the need to maintain access to valued community facilities where financially achievable
- opportunities to improve efficiency through alternative operating models, staggered hours, integration, pricing, and demand-led service delivery
- requests for practical infrastructure and safety improvements, including parking near Westland High School

The strongest levels of support were received for:

- Option 2 for remittance of rate penalties
- Option 2 for pool operating hours
- Option 3 for library operating hours
- maintaining accessibility to community facilities where possible
- a balanced and financially responsible approach to reserves, depreciation, and heritage-related assets

Overall, the consultation process indicates that the community recognises the need for Council to carefully manage costs, while also placing significant value on maintaining local services, visitor infrastructure, community facilities, and assets that support wellbeing, accessibility, and district identity.

# 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide elected members with an overview and analysis of submissions received on the Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027 consultation document.

This report summarises key themes, levels of support for proposed options, and matters raised by submitters for Council consideration during deliberations.

The report also identifies wider strategic themes emerging through submissions, including affordability pressures, accessibility to community facilities, operational efficiency, and the long-term sustainability of key community and visitor assets.

# 2. Consultation Overview

Council consulted on a range of proposed operational and financial matters as part of the Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027 process.

The consultation document outlined proposals relating to:

- Remittance of rate penalties
- Changes to pool operating hours
- Changes to museum operating hours
- Changes to library operating hours
- Changes to isite operating hours
- Library reserves
- Heritage Park
- Review of fees and charges

A total of 80 submissions were received, with 13 submitters indicating they wished to speak to Council during hearings.

While submission numbers varied across topics, the consultation generated detailed feedback regarding community facilities, accessibility, affordability, operational efficiency, and the future delivery of key community and visitor services.

## 3. Key Themes from Submissions

### 3.1 Financial Prudence and Rates Affordability

A strong and consistent theme across submissions was concern regarding rates affordability and the cumulative financial pressures being experienced by households and businesses.

Several submitters acknowledged the difficult financial environment Council is operating within and accepted that some operational changes or efficiency measures may be necessary. At the same time, there was a clear expectation that Council continue to prioritise essential services, carefully manage debt levels, and identify internal efficiencies before reducing community access to services and facilities.

Overall, feedback indicated that the community expects Council to:

- Prioritise essential services
- Carefully manage debt levels
- Continue seeking operational efficiencies
- Ensure expenditure demonstrates clear community value

### 3.2 Community Facilities and Accessibility

Feedback demonstrated that community facilities remain highly valued by residents and are viewed as important contributors to wellbeing, recreation, learning, visitor experience, and community connection.

Submitters generally recognised the financial challenges associated with operating community facilities, particularly where operational costs are increasing or usage fluctuates seasonally. However, there was also strong concern that reductions in operating hours or accessibility could disproportionately impact:

- Working families
- Rural and South Westland residents
- Children and young people
- Elderly residents
- Organised community groups and volunteers

Several submissions highlighted that community facilities such as the pool, library, museum, and isite provide broader social, educational, tourism, and wellbeing benefits beyond direct financial return.

A recurring theme throughout submissions was support for exploring alternative operating models and efficiencies, including staggered operating hours, demand-led scheduling, collaborative facility use, and operational integration, rather than reducing access outright.

### 3.3 Future of the Swimming Pool

The swimming pool generated some of the strongest and most detailed feedback through the consultation process.

Feedback indicated that the discussion within the community extends beyond operating hours alone and reflects the wider role of the pool as a key community wellbeing, recreation, and water safety asset.

The submissions indicate there is strong community interest in:

- Maintaining accessible learn-to-swim and water safety programmes
- Ensuring continued access for working families, rural communities, and South Westland residents
- Supporting swim club, aqua classes, rehabilitation, and community recreation activities
- Exploring alternative operating models and efficiencies rather than reducing access
- Protecting after-school and evening access which many families rely on
- Recognising the broader health, wellbeing, and social benefits the facility provides

Several submissions also highlighted the importance of the pool within the wider West Coast context, noting the region's proximity to rivers, lakes, and beaches and the importance of swimming and water safety skills.

A recurring theme throughout submissions was that the relatively small projected savings from reduced operating hours did not outweigh the potential impact on community access, participation, and wellbeing.

This feedback indicates strong community value being placed on the long-term role of the swimming pool as an essential community facility and aligns with broader discussions around sustainable operation, accessibility, and future service delivery.

### 3.4 Infrastructure and Community Safety

Additional infrastructure requests were raised through submissions.

One submitter requested Council consider angled parking along Hampden Street adjacent to the Westland High School field to improve parking safety and capacity during weekend sports and community events.

The submitter noted concerns regarding:

- Unsafe or inappropriate parking behaviour
- Traffic flow impacts near the school entrance
- Increased demand during sporting events and community activities

While outside the formal consultation questions, the submission reflects broader community interest in practical infrastructure improvements that support safety and usability.

## 4. Summary of Responses by Consultation Topic

### 4.1 Remittance of Rate Penalties

<b>Option 1:</b>	Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.	Once interest has been charged on an overdue rate demand the charge would stand. This would increase Council revenue from those ratepayers who do not pay their rates demands on time. The overall average decrease in rates would be 0.29%.
<b>Option 2:</b>	Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.	This is how Council currently operates and there would be an increase in revenue. There would be no overall change to rates.

#### Summary of Responses

Response	Number of Submissions
Option 1	10
Option 2	34
No response	36

#### Key Themes

- Submissions reflected strong community concern regarding affordability and ongoing cost-of-living pressures.
- Overall, there was stronger support for Option 2, with many submitters viewing a short grace period for overdue payments as a fair, practical, and community-focused approach.
- Many submitters noted that households and businesses are already under financial pressure from rising food, fuel, housing, and rates costs.
- A common view was that missed payments can occur unintentionally and that allowing ratepayers to correct overdue payments within a short timeframe was reasonable and compassionate.
- A smaller number of submitters supported stricter enforcement under Option 1, emphasising:
  - accountability for payment deadlines
  - fairness for those who pay on time
  - maintaining payment discipline
  - supporting Council revenue collection
- Broader concerns regarding rates affordability also emerged, including:
  - increasing Council debt
  - infrastructure spending priorities
  - the cumulative impact of rates increases on households
- Additional suggestions raised through submissions included:
  - reinstating incentives for annual lump-sum rate payments
  - improving support and communication for ratepayers experiencing hardship
  - ensuring billing accuracy before penalties are applied
- Overall, submissions reflected a community seeking a balanced approach between financial accountability and support for ratepayers facing ongoing economic pressure.

## 4.2 Changes to Pool Operating Hours

<b>Option 1:</b>	All pool users operate within standard opening hours	Under this option, all users would be required to vacate the facility at closing time, rather than finishing activities at that time. Programmed use outside of normal operating hours would cease. This would reduce staffing requirements and improve alignment between operating hours and resourcing. The estimated saving is \$6,500, equating to an overall average decrease in rates of 0.02%. Savings are expected to be higher in practice, as unbudgeted staff time associated with extended hours would also be reduced.
<b>Option 2:</b>	Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours.	This reflects the current operating model, where user groups can operate beyond closing times. There would be no change to operating costs and no overall change to rates.

### Summary of Responses

Response	Number of Submissions
Option 1	13
Option 2	47
No response	20

### Key Themes

- Submissions strongly supported retaining the current pool operating hours under Option 2, with many submitters considering the proposed savings under Option 1 to be disproportionate to the impact on the community.
- The pool was consistently identified as an important community asset supporting:
  - water safety education
  - learn-to-swim programmes
  - swim club activities
  - recreation, fitness, and rehabilitation
  - youth wellbeing and community connection
- Many submitters highlighted the importance of swimming and water safety on the West Coast due to the region's proximity to rivers, lakes, beaches, and other natural waterways.
- Strong concern was raised regarding the impact reduced late afternoon and evening access would have on:
  - working families
  - rural and South Westland families
  - school-aged children
  - volunteer-run swim club activities
  - swim school operations
- Submitters noted that standard daytime hours are often not practical due to work commitments, school hours, and travel distances.
- Several submissions questioned whether the relatively small projected savings justified the level of reduction in community access and participation.
- A number of submitters suggested alternative approaches to achieve savings, including:
  - staggered operating hours
  - reduced operating days rather than reduced evening access

- modest fee increases
  - increased charges for after-hours use
  - collaborative scheduling with user groups
- Swim school and swim club submissions also highlighted potential wider regional impacts on competitive swimming and aquatic participation across the West Coast.
- Overall, submissions reflected very strong community support for maintaining accessible pool services, particularly after-school and evening access for families, children, and organised user groups.

## 4.3 Changes to Museum Operating Hours

<b>Option 1:</b>	Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.	Under this option, operating hours would change as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer: Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 10.00am to 3.00pm</li> <li>• Winter: Saturday 10.00am to 3.00pm</li> <li>• Winter: Closed Sunday and Monday</li> </ul> Weekday operating hours would remain unchanged. This would reduce staffing and operating costs while maintaining access during peak periods. The estimated saving is \$49,000, equating to an overall average decrease in rates of 0.18%.
<b>Option 2:</b>	Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.	Under this option, operating hours would change as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer: Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 10.00am to 2.00pm</li> <li>• Winter: Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm</li> <li>• Winter: Closed Sunday and Monday</li> </ul> Weekday operating hours would remain unchanged. This would reduce staffing and operating costs while maintaining access during peak periods. The estimated saving is \$59,000, equating to an overall average decrease in rates of 0.21%.
<b>Option 3:</b>	Council continues with the current operating hours.	This reflects the existing model, with the museum open seven days a week from 10.00am to 4.00pm year-round. There would be no change to operating costs and no overall change to rates.

### Summary of Responses

Response	Number of Submissions
Option 1	21
Option 2	12
Option 3	11
No response	36

### Key Themes

- Submissions reflected mixed views regarding proposed museum operating hours, although there was general support for maintaining accessibility where possible.
- The museum was identified as an important:
  - heritage and cultural asset
  - visitor attraction
  - indoor activity option during poor weather
  - contributor to the wider tourism offering in Hokitika
- Several submitters highlighted the importance of ensuring operating hours align with:
  - tourism demand
  - weekends and winter visitation
  - bus arrivals and organised tour groups
  - visitor expectations and accessibility
- Some submitters expressed concern that reducing operating hours could limit visitor numbers and undermine the museum's ability to grow following its recent redevelopment.

- A number of submissions suggested Council should focus on increasing visitation, strengthening tourism partnerships, and improving promotion rather than reducing service levels.
- Some submitters questioned the ongoing operational cost of the museum and the value provided to ratepayers, noting the importance of monitoring long-term sustainability.
- Suggestions raised included:
  - retaining stronger weekend opening hours
  - adjusting weekday hours instead of reducing weekend access
  - reviewing admission pricing and revenue opportunities
  - using visitor and demand data to guide future decisions
- Overall, submissions reflected support for maintaining the museum as an accessible heritage and tourism asset while balancing operational costs and long-term sustainability.

## 4.4 Changes to Library Operating Hours

<b>Option 1:</b>	Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.	<p>Under this option, operating hours would change as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.00pm</li> <li>Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm</li> <li>Closed Sunday</li> </ul> <p>This represents a 30-minute reduction in weekday hours and a two-hour reduction on Saturdays. This would reduce staffing and operating costs while maintaining access across six days of the week. The estimated saving is \$39,000, equating to an overall average decrease in rates of 0.14%.</p>
<b>Option 2:</b>	Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.	<p>Under this option, operating hours would change as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.00pm</li> <li>Saturday 10.00am to 1.00pm</li> <li>Closed Sunday</li> </ul> <p>This represents a 30-minute reduction in weekday hours and a three-hour reduction on Saturdays. This would reduce staffing and operating costs while maintaining access across six days of the week. The estimated saving is \$48,000, equating to an overall average decrease in rates of 0.17%.</p>
<b>Option 3:</b>	Council continues with the current operating hours.	<p>This reflects the existing model, with weekday hours to 5.30pm and Saturday hours to 4.00pm. There would be no change to operating costs and no overall change to rates.</p>

### Summary of Responses

Response	Number of Submissions
Option 1	16
Option 2	8
Option 3	26
No response	30

### Key Themes

- Submissions generally supported maintaining accessible library services and recognised the library as an important community facility and social hub.
- The library was identified as a valuable resource for:
  - learning and education
  - social connection and wellbeing
  - internet and public access services
  - families, children, older residents, and homeschooling households
- Several submitters highlighted the importance of maintaining after-school and late afternoon access for working families and rural residents who cannot access services during standard daytime hours.
- A recurring theme was support for more flexible or staggered operating hours, including:
  - one or two later evenings per week
  - reduced hours on lower-demand days
  - balancing accessibility with operational efficiency

- A number of submissions acknowledged the need to monitor operational costs and match opening hours to community demand, provided accessibility and core services were maintained.
- Some submitters also raised broader concerns regarding the ongoing lease costs and long-term sustainability of the current library building.
- Several submissions noted that the library provides benefits beyond book lending, including:
  - educational programmes
  - community events
  - digital access
  - safe and welcoming public spaces
- Overall, submissions reflected strong support for maintaining accessible library services while exploring practical efficiencies and operating models that continue to meet community needs.

## 4.5 Changes to isite Operating Hours

<p><b>Option 1:</b></p>	<p>Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.</p>	<p>Under this option, operating hours would change as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm</li> <li>Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm (year-round)</li> <li>Winter: Closed Sundays</li> </ul> <p>This represents a 30-minute reduction in weekday hours, a two-hour reduction on Saturdays during summer, and the removal of Sunday opening during winter. This would reduce staffing and operating costs while maintaining core visitor servicing during peak periods. The estimated saving is \$32,000, equating to an overall average decrease in rates of 0.12%.</p>
<p><b>Option 2:</b></p>	<p>Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.</p>	<p>Under this option, operating hours would change as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm</li> <li>Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm (year-round)</li> <li>Winter: Closed Sundays</li> </ul> <p>This represents a 1-hour reduction in weekday hours, a three-hour reduction on Saturdays during summer, and the removal of Sunday opening during winter. This would reduce staffing and operating costs while maintaining core visitor servicing during peak periods. The estimated saving is \$52,000, equating to an overall average decrease in rates of 0.19%.</p>
<p><b>Option 3:</b></p>	<p>Council continues with the current operating hours</p>	<p>This reflects the existing model, with extended summer weekend hours and year-round weekday coverage to 5.00pm. There would be no change to operating costs and no overall change to rates.</p>

### Summary of Responses

Response	Number of Submissions
Option 1	15
Option 2	16
Option 3	10
No response	39

### Key Themes

- Submissions reflected mixed views regarding isite operating hours.
- Several submitters supported aligning operating hours more closely with visitor demand and seasonal usage patterns.
- A recurring theme was that the discussion should extend beyond operating hours alone and include consideration of the long-term operating model and sustainability of the isite service.
- A number of submissions highlighted the importance of the isite in:
  - supporting visitor experience
  - providing local knowledge and personal interaction
  - contributing to Hokitika's image as a welcoming visitor destination

- Some submitters noted that while digital information is widely available, official visitor services remain important for tourists unfamiliar with the district.
- Several submissions suggested reviewing opening and closing times to better match visitor patterns and peak visitor periods.
- A smaller number of submitters questioned the overall value and level of community use of the site and supported reducing hours or reviewing the service model to achieve cost savings.
- Overall, submissions reflected support for ensuring visitor services remain effective and sustainable while exploring opportunities for greater operational efficiency and integration with other Council services.

## 4.6 Library Reserves

<b>Option 1:</b>	Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.	Under this option, no additional funding would be added to the reserve through depreciation. Instead, existing reserves would be drawn down to meet forecast capital expenditure requirements. This reflects the current strength of the reserve and its ability to support planned expenditure in the short term. The estimated saving is \$86,000, equating to an overall average decrease in rates of 0.31%.
<b>Option 2:</b>	Continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.	This reflects the current approach, where the reserve is topped up annually to maintain funding for future capital works and renewals. There would be no change to operating costs and no overall change to rates.

### Summary of Responses

Response	Number of Submissions
Option 1	18
Option 2	22
No response	40

### Key Themes

- Submissions generally supported maintaining prudent financial management of the library reserve while recognising current financial pressures facing Council.
- Several submitters supported using the reserve as a short-term measure for 2026/27, provided this did not compromise the long-term sustainability of the fund.
- A recurring theme was that depreciation funding and reserve contributions remain important for future asset renewal and long-term financial planning.
- Some submitters noted the importance of maintaining a healthy reserve to avoid future funding pressures and ensure the ongoing sustainability of library services and assets.
  - Several submissions requested greater clarity regarding:
    - how reserve thresholds are determined
    - when depreciation funding would be reinstated
    - long-term impacts on asset renewal obligations
- A number of submitters considered the financial savings relatively minor and questioned whether changing the current approach was necessary.
- Some submissions referenced the importance of maintaining standard accounting and financial management practices to avoid creating larger long-term infrastructure funding issues.
- Overall, submissions reflected cautious support for short-term flexibility while reinforcing the importance of maintaining sustainable reserve management and long-term financial planning for library assets and services.

## 4.7 Heritage Park

<b>Option 1:</b>	Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.	Council would continue to depreciate the Heritage Park buildings, but it would not fund the depreciation (set the cash aside) . The overall average decrease in rates would be 0.53%.
<b>Option 2:</b>	Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings, even though the Heritage Park would be responsible for their replacement.	This is how Council currently operates and there would be on reduction in rates if it continued with this process. There would be no overall change to rates.

### Summary of Responses

Response	Number of Submissions
Option 1	20
Option 2	19
No response	41

### Key Themes

- Submissions generally supported maintaining a practical and financially responsible approach to Heritage Park funding and depreciation.
- Several submitters recognised the value of Heritage Park as a community and heritage asset supported significantly by volunteers and community effort.
- A recurring theme was the importance of ensuring clarity regarding:
  - Council responsibilities
  - ownership arrangements
  - long-term maintenance obligations
  - any formal agreements between Council and Heritage Park operators
- Some submitters questioned whether depreciation funding should continue if future reinvestment is not required, while others emphasised the importance of retaining reserves for:
  - future maintenance
  - wear and tear
  - demolition or replacement costs
- Several submissions highlighted the importance of maintaining sound accounting and asset management practices, even where short-term savings may be available.
- Some submitters expressed the view that users or operators should contribute appropriately toward costs rather than relying solely on ratepayer funding.
- A number of submissions acknowledged the significant volunteer contribution to Heritage Park and considered that reasonable Council support remains appropriate.
- Some submissions also noted the relatively small financial impact of the proposal on overall rates.
- Overall, submissions reflected support for balancing financial responsibility, community value, volunteer contribution, and long-term asset management obligations.

## 5. Analysis and Discussion

The overall feedback suggests the community generally supports Council taking a measured and balanced approach to cost management, rather than pursuing significant reductions to community services.

While there was no overwhelming consensus across all consultation topics, several consistent themes emerged through submissions:

- The community places significant value on local facilities, services, and community assets
- Affordability and financial prudence remain major concerns for households and ratepayers
- There is an expectation that Council continue to seek operational efficiencies, smarter delivery models, and practical cost-saving measures before reducing community access
- Submitters generally supported reviewing operating models and aligning services more closely with demand, provided accessibility and core community benefit were maintained
- The swimming pool generated particularly strong feedback, reflecting its broader role in community wellbeing, recreation, youth participation, and water safety across the West Coast
- The isite discussion was viewed by many submitters as a broader strategic issue relating to the future delivery, sustainability, and integration of visitor services rather than solely an operational hours matter
- Community facilities such as the pool, library, museum, and isite were widely recognised as providing broader social, educational, tourism, and wellbeing benefits beyond direct financial return
- Community infrastructure, safety, and practical usability improvements continue to be important to residents

The consultation process also demonstrated that while many submitters acknowledged the financial pressures facing Council, there remains strong community interest in maintaining accessible and sustainable local services where financially achievable.

## 6. Matters for Council Consideration

During deliberations, Council may wish to consider:

- The strong emphasis from submitters on affordability, cost management, and financial prudence
- The significant community value placed on accessible local facilities, services, and visitor infrastructure
- The particularly strong feedback regarding the importance of the swimming pool as a community wellbeing and water safety asset
- Opportunities to continue improving operational efficiency while maintaining accessibility and service levels where possible
- Alternative operating models and delivery approaches raised through submissions, including staggered hours, demand-led scheduling, integration opportunities, and collaborative use arrangements
- Infrastructure and community safety matters raised outside the formal consultation scope

## 7. Conclusion

The Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027 consultation process provided valuable insight into community priorities, expectations, and concerns.

Submissions reflected a pragmatic understanding of the financial challenges currently facing local government, while also reinforcing the importance the community places on maintaining local services, visitor infrastructure, community facilities, and accessible public assets.

The feedback indicates broad support for Council continuing to carefully balance affordability, operational efficiency, service delivery, and long-term sustainability.

Submissions also highlighted strong community interest in ensuring future operating models for facilities and services remain practical, accessible, and responsive to community and visitor needs. This was particularly evident in feedback relating to the swimming pool and the future delivery of visitor services through the isite.

Overall, the consultation process has provided elected members with a valuable understanding of community sentiment to help inform deliberations and final Annual Plan decisions.

Submissions Received:

Submission 1:

**Full Name:** Abby Sullivan

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays withing 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comments**

nil

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours

**Comments**

nil

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

**Comments**

nil

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

**Comments**

nil

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

**Comments**

nil

**Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

**Comments**

nil

**Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

**Comments**

nil

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

I understand the increase, but I don't think with everything going on in the world that it is a appropriate time to add more pressure to households who are already struggling.

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

I also don't think it is a good idea to have a rate increase maybe a year for a pause of increases would be ideal and really helpful

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Submission 2:

**Full Name:** Paul Rasmussen

I do not need to speak to council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays withing 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with current operating hours.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Heritage Park**

Option 2 : Status Quo, Council continues to fund deprecation on Heritage Park buildings.

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Keep up the good work & keep the rates down.

---

Submission 3:

**Full Name:** Luca Mckewen

**I would like to speak to Council about my submission:** Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

Hi to the Westland District Council and to the Mayor. It is Luca Mckewen here. I'll let you know now I'm not a ratepayer, but my parents are. And I've been following along and watching the Facebook posts from Joseph Walker WDC. I seen a post recently that the council was proposing an 8% rate increase, and now has been changed to 6%. Now that may be necessary to pay off money that the council has borrowed to build and get new things for Hokitika. For example, the New Cass Square Playground, and Toilets. And in my opinion both were probably not necessary. Others may think different, and thats fine, and maybe it was a great idea, that there is new Cass Square facilities, and Playground. But in order to build, you needed to borrow money, and it would of been cheaper to probably do up the playground and facilities, instead of building brand new ones, I know the playground had been defaced, and graffitied, but a fresh coat of paint, a water blast, and maybe a little reno would probably do. And same with the bathrooms just a few meters down from the park. That would probably have saved a few hundred thousand dollars of borrowing, and would have saved the Ratepayers from having to pay huge amounts in their next rates to pay of the money that was used to build those things. Again no disrespect, or argument towards what has been built, or done. It's the fact that most of that money used to build was borrowed, and the rest may be fundraised. But my point is it would have saved the Ratepayers big time, and that the park probably had another couple of years left in it, before building another one. And the ideas of painting and water blasting, and a bit of a reno isn't cutting corners, it's thinking of better ways to save money for ratepayers. Overall, my point is trying to think of better ways to do things and or build or buy things for the town, but just thinking on how much it will affect ratepayers and future ratepayers because of the money borrowed and how much debt the town is in. And this is separate, has nothing to do with the council, and is out of your control, but thinking about the state the world is in right now, for example, high fuel prices, high food prices is making it hard, let alone raising the rates, it just puts more stress and pressure on families who are struggling. So as said at the start, even though rate rises are probably necessary to pay off money the Council owe, thinking of solutions to save the Ratepayers money, before the Council start making big money involved situations, just have a thought on what the Ratepayers might think, and what they think is necessary, before making the final decision, because remember the Ratepayers, my parents and most people in this town, pay your salary. And they all hope you are doing what is necessary and good by the people, which would mean not spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on new toilets or a playground. Again not an attack, but they are not interested in a new playground, but rather the new flood wall, or well needed infrastructure, such as the Racecourse Terrace. Now there is one other small topic I would like to discuss. When the Council has a Open "Public" meeting on a Thursday at the end of Every month, why at the end is there a closed door meeting, where the public have to leave. Because again, the People in that meeting pay your salary through the rates, they should have the right to know what is being talked about, now I know there's laws that you can use to back that up and all that, and there's "reasons" to have closed door meetings, but at the end of the day, they pay your salary, they should have the right to know what

is being talked about, whether it is rates or another topic which will have an impact on the town, whether it is positive or negative. That is the end of my discussion. Thanks to whoever reads this, again no disrespect or attacks on anyone in the council, just a little insight on how ratepayers like my parents, and a future ratepayer myself think. Luca Mckewen.

---

**From:** Rex and Anthea Keenan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 April 2026 2:08 am  
**To:** Consultation Submissions  
**Subject:** OPPOSE WDC

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

**Westland District Council Hokitika/Iwi**

& other West Coast Councils draft plans - WE DO not agree with your working for us in the capacity that you have shown in draft plan and or previous plans/regime costs: ...

**WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL! HOKITIKA!! UNECONOMICAL...**

Draft annual plan: Strike out liable causes!. only 7215 rateable properties...\$44.8 mil borrowings: YOU must stay with core business function and really could only afford to do that!; Have YOU done the 3 waters plan properly even at Kanieri!! seeing they've signed over for another entity...in the great water take ? WE SAY NO WAY..WE don't agree with your liable cause or for you to conceal fault = deceit... WDC... GDC... WCRC... BDC...DOC.. DWC..CCOS..IWI... and other government entities who are concealing their own fault, FILLING OWN.. NO! you have betrayed us Pioneer descendants and other New Zealanders heritage values. DO NOT agree with you/your staff/directors and or Iwi doing...who've discriminated against us and disrespected our values. WE expect OUR heritage to return to the ownership of us as in Truth.

Yours faithfully

:Anthea -Rose : Keenan

**From:** Rex and Anthea Keenan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 April 2026 4:20 am  
**To:** Consultation Submissions; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Opposition to West Coast Buller Councils Draft Annual Plans

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

WE as small business and home / property owners West Coast oppose Councils and DWC (Iwi & Doc) workings:

Opposing due to:

1. Preferential treatment to Iwi rather than Pioneer Descents of West Coast New Zealand
2. Lack of consultation with us of most interest
3. Meddling with Heritage and well being of our West Coast Buller Communities
4. Selling three waters to another Company when we have continually spoken out about CCOs and assets handed over to failing directorships not returning.
5. Allowing our West Coast Forests to change over to Ngai Tahu
6. Allowing dirty water flows from mining into ours from Ngai Tahu ground
7. Improper planning and consultation
8. Charging small business tourism promotion rates
9. Wasting rate & tax paid monies
10. Failing to comply to own legislation
11. Cause of health issues due to mandated ill informed mass injecting
12. Betrayal and cause of risk

Due to wasting of taxes and grants, WE have had Local Government Commission here on West Coast. WE called for unity, cost effective efficiency yet you have ALL not done that. Instead you have ALL (incl Iwi) betrayed.

Your Long Term Plans and the regime which you carry on in are poorly consulted, the information is not relayed properly so that our people understand, let alone to be well informed. You have been involved in mandating and coercion.

WE do not tolerate authoritarian (governments/iwi) who think they have higher moral ground and see that you as gullible and fearful, risk takers have taken for yourselves.

WE expect that due to us shining our light on your darkness, that our Heritage will be returned to us Pioneer Descendants of West Coast Buller (by Oath) who have spoken with Truth.

The mechanisms which our forebears put in place have been broken by over reaches and failures of governance / leaders and their consultants or commissioners (directors of companies).

WE see that the "crown" make up and all their "corporate body" is not that of royal blood or even respect to our royalty who worshiped greater by Oath.

In saying all of this : we as living man & woman also apply that WE are not any corporate body, we are us as Rex & Anthea (Christian names in full : Rex Anthony Mark and Anthea Rose) and the maxims we apply to listed liable causes on government or other leaders who have shown liable cause which you have: are

1. A concealed fault is equal to deceit (more so evil).
2. Gross negligence is equal to fraud
3. Deceit is an artifice since it pretends one thing and does another.

It is not for government to make law but to comply to law., never meddle with that which does not belong to you. You make an Oath of Allegiance but haven't complied to that. WE/I have given police volunteer award back to local enforcing station as they have also protected the perpetrators.

While WE have called for less health care waiting lists and much improved health care for West Coast Buller you have taken wrongly and with much mis/mal/nonfeasance involvement.

In correcting you all we sign off as living man & woman and our property is ours, our work skills are our God given gifts and in giving & in health care proper. You must resign to the facts that your work is against the grain of general good practice.

In common sense, commonalities and for the common good we shine as

Rex & Anthea Keenan

General Fix It

Submission 6:

**Full Name:** Amigo Galo

**I would like to speak to Council about my submission**

In the Meeting in the Council Chambers

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice

**Comments**

I wish for penalties on rate to be refunded within 7 working days as status quo.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours.

**Comments**

I would like a late night Fridays + Saturdays during daylight savings – thanks.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

What are the hours?

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

**Comments**

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

**Comments**

**Library Reserves**

**Comments**

**Heritage Park**

**Comments**

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Submission 7:

**Full name:** Andrew Thompson

**I would like to speak to Council about my submission**

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

**Comments**

Though a 0.29% decrease is negligible even over a 12-month period. I am supportive of the principle of standing by stated due dates for payment. Otherwise, may as well provide the ratepayer 3 months and 1 week to pay the rates in the first instance.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

The pool is a key civic asset for any community. Having an indoor pool in a small community with this climate means there is an important rainy day activity available. It would be interesting to know what the effect on the budget would be for increasing the fee to use the pool. I consider \$6 per visit or \$45 for 10 visits quite cheap. It seems there is \$1.7m to be allocated to the pool through LTP25/26, LTP26/27 and AP26/27, let's not invest money and scale it back.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

The museum is a novel asset for a community of this size and, if part of a properly-marketed tourism strategy for the town/district, could be a real draw card for out-of-town and international visitors. Cutting hours seems like the path of least resistance. Too often when things are wound back or discontinued, the challenge to get them off the ground again is too big. Reconsider a change to hours and look into attracting more visitors and what the admission price is.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

Libraries are so much more than a place to gain information or borrow books. They are a key social hub for any community. There should not be downward pressure on operating hours and limiting its use.

### **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

#### **Comments**

The isite is integral to Hokitika's image in being a friendly, approachable, cool little town. Yes, it is possible to find things out on the internet, yes it is possible to find things out in other places. But until you have travelled somewhere unfamiliar you may not understand how important and helpful official places like this are. If cost is a driving factor, I see no reason why Council Customer Services and the isite cannot share the current ground floor Customer Service space at 36 Weld Street. There is extensive space which could be used more wisely.

### **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

#### **Comments**

Given the margins which are being presented here, I see no reason to stray from the status quo. The gains are negligible, whereas the ongoing impact to the fund may be greater than this.

### **Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

#### **Comments**

If Council are not responsible for the buildings, then Council should not be paying for them. Acknowledging that again the impact on rates from this option is negligible.

### **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

No comment

### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Is there no philanthropic funding at all? Or perhaps it is absorbed in grants and subsidies or other revenue? \$1.5m Mahinapua boardwalk seems like money which could be better allocated. It is free to access Mahinapua and surrounds, nature walks on the West Coast are a little wet and muddy and that's fine. This could be allocated to other civic services which benefit the ratepayer. The tourism dollar (assisted through a sharpened marketing strategy for the town/district) should be the primary source of revenue. Hokitika revitalisation and CBD is again something else which should be driven by the tourism dollar. Sure there are parts of town looking dated which could be upgraded, but this shouldn't be at the expense of ratepayer-funded civic services.

Submission 8:

**Full Name** Kelly Kyle

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

**Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

Up the entry prices at pool

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Pool is a must have in our community particularly for our learner swimmers and elderly. Dont rely on tourists to keep museum or isite open. Pool and library more important for locals who are paying the rates.

Submission 9:

**Full Name** Beryl Agnew

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

**Comments**

By refunding overdue penalties is not teaching anyone good habits. A due date is a due date, point blank.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours

**Comments**

Anything outside of standard operating hours be charged out at a rate that covers costs if feasible

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

The museum is less of a benefit to the ratepayer than the swimming pool and should be closely monitored re costs and operating hours

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

Regular monitoring of costs versus usage should be a given. The library is however plays an important part of our community

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

The I-Site should be part of the Library or Museum so that there could be more cost savings and not in a seperate building

## **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

### **Comments**

Hopefully, we never lose our library, which is very important in our community, so depreciation should continue for future use

## **Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

### **Comments**

Volunteers are donating their time to build an asset for the ratepayers of Hokitika and should be supported, within reason, in doing so. The support they will require is the buildings will require maintenance in the future, so depreciation monies will be required.

### **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

Fees and charges should be reviewed on a regular basis to align with the costs and match within reason what other Councils are charging

### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

I totally understand why, because of diesel prices, why the swimming pool has to be closed. I do think though that the swimming pool is very important to have open in our small community for the well being of children and adults, those who are recuperating, swimming club, learn to swim, schools and aging adults to name a few. A facility that gets our children away from devices and social media. This facility, in my mind, is more important than the museum and library although they have their place also. Could the swimming pool be emptied during the colder winter months and used for something else? A question to think about!!

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Submission 10:

**Full Name** Hamiria Mere Ngaamo

**Organisation (if applicable)**

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

#### **Comments**

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

#### **Comments**

### **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

#### **Comments**

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

#### **Comments**

### **Changes to Site Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

#### **Comments**

### **Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

#### **Comments**

### **Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

#### **Comments**

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

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Submission 11:

**Full Name** Nicola Sutton

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comments**

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours

**Comments**

However, if user groups are willing to cover the full costs of operating outside standard operating hours then they should be able to fund this.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

**Comments**

Could you reduce week day operating hours by half an hour a day so that the Saturday and Sunday hours can remain extended?

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

**Comments**

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

**Comments**

**Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

**Comments**

Only makes sense as a short term solution - depreciation needs to be funded long term.

## **Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

### **Comments**

This makes sense not to fund depreciation where it is not needed for future investment in that facility.

### **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

Our preferred approach is Option 1 – Increase fees and charges (proposed approach) o Align fees more closely with actual costs o Reduce reliance on rates

### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

It seems the cost cutting is focused on reducing service delivery to community services (pools, libraries, museum etc) but there are likely to be operational savings through other prioritisation of activity. What other operational savings could be made in other areas by reducing levels of service (e.g. lengthen response times, increase fees)?

---

Submission 12:

**Full Name** Olivia Sutton

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

### **Comments**

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours

### **Comments**

### **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

### **Comments**

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

### **Comments**

## **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

### **Comments**

## **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

### **Comments**

### **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

Primarily centred on the listed fees and charges at Jackson Bay. Recreational fishers cannot be charged to use the wharf in its current state as there is no landing and is currently unsafe to load and unload passengers. Potentially look at adding this fee once the wharf upgrade has been completed, although I do not know how this will be achieved. Additional you cannot charge to use the "boat ramp" to launch a boat, there are two makeshift ramps in use, they are not formed ramps with facilities, nor would a formed ramp survive for long due to the changeable weather and sometimes rough northerly seas, and it is not feasible to charge usage. Nor is it feasible to charge parking at the site. There is no allocated parking as such. The potential for a parking plan/allocation was discussed with Mayor Lash at her visit to the Bay in February 2026. The community of Jackson Bay believe the most beneficial way to capture fees from visitors to the region would be to have an entry toll payment at the cemetery between Neils Beach and the road to Jackson Bay. This would capture all day visitors, campers, boaties etc. I live in a very prominent position at Jackson Bay on the waterfront and am privy to the numbers of people coming and going to the area on most days. When the weather is fine and usually around weekends we can have in excess of 200-300 vehicles coming and going through out the day at a fee of \$10-\$20 per vehicle per day would definitely generate some income. The sooner this can be implemented the better to commence the potential funding of upgrading the carparking and the ongoing maintenance required for the Jackson Bay Road. It is a popular place for many people to enjoy and it needs to be maintained to allow for the continued enjoyment.

### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

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Submission 13:

**Full Name** Robyn Pope

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

### **Comments**

Rates are one of the biggest costs to home owners and indirectly tenants. For low income earners a 6% rate increase means cutting the food budget as every other budget is already cut. This leads to more desperation. Desperation leads to more criminal behaviour.

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

#### **Comments**

### **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

#### **Comments**

Tourists need things to do here when it is too wet for "the great outdoors". When I travel, I get frustrated when there are no options open at 9am.

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

#### **Comments**

The library is an essential element for community connection for the lonely.

### **Changes to iSite Operating Hours**

#### **Library Reserves**

#### **Heritage Park**

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

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Submission 14:

**Full Name** James Scott

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comments**

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours

**Comments**

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

**Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

**Comments**

**Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

**Comments**

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

Instead of increasing rates find cost savings of 6%.

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

---

Submission 15:

**Full Name:** Justin Cook

I can come and speak briefly if needed depending on when it is.

About the Band hall in Camp Street Hokitika. I notice there is \$15000 in the long term plan 26/27 but not in the annual plan 26/27.

The roof is currently leaking so really needs repairing immediately. I'm not sure how big a job it is but it needs patching straight away.

---

Submission 16:

**Full Name** Andrew friedman

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

**Comments**

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

**Comments**

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

**Comments**

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

**Comments**

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

**Comments**

**Library Reserves**

**Comments**

**Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

**Comments**

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Submission 17:

**Full Name** Anthea Rose Keenan

WE oppose Westland District Council continued regime/overhead expenses and just changing figures from plan to plan with there being a lack of respect for our Pioneer Settler forebears. WE've noted this on several planning periods where figures are taken out and put elsewhere!

It is showing largely that there is a lack of connection from Council and also Iwi in respect to our foundations and our Law of Divinity – do not meddle with that which does not belong to you. Our building of Pioneer Heritage in New Zealand from 1855 here for our families/large and extended is necessary for our grounded foundation. Learn your Ten Commandments and that by the Bible by Oath of Allegiance. To conceal fault is equal to deceit. Respect all that ours and others have done to build this Country; but also without being remunerated as your are!.

Council have taken \$15,000 from Band Hall funding, also the money for Carnegie Window Repair? Within the Band Hall is all information and good will from previous band players; the band hall is being used by musicians and holds valuable musical instruments; which are being used for music practice and band forming. It is the banding together which forms good community; with musical values. There is a new Constitution formed and the Band Hall is to remain steadfast on MacAndrew Square as it has been for musical forms for 80 years.

I will speak with you further as you have not rebutted the pointed made known to you about the faults as sent. You are therefore not in any position to be able to administer our heritage values, as early pioneer settlers to New Zealand.

WE oppose Westland District Council rating us any further when funds have been wasted/mis spent on unnecessary when also we have had Local Government Commission here; to form unity yet that has gone right out the door due to your regime workings.

Refer to previous listings of where Heritage has been meddled: with lack of respect to our forebears. \$15,000 for the band hall is a must; so too the window funds for Carnegie: not to be meddled by those lacking respect to all the volunteers works and donations/relics given.

Note Guardian today 6th May writers are amiss of our true heritage values and fail to see the wrong doing by those who've in our true heritage values. Our band leader has also spoken to your staff regarding the monies taken out of budget!? It is not for Editor to make comment.

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**Submission to Westland District Council Draft Annual Plan 2026-27**

**Name:** Paul Elwell-Sutton



**Submission**

1.) Section 31(1)(e) of the Resource Management Act (RMA) states that “Every territorial authority shall have the following functions for the purpose of giving effect to this Act in its district...the maintenance of indigenous biological diversity.”

Nowhere in the draft annual plan is there any reference to that function.

I submit that the WDC has a statutory duty to include budgetted measures to be taken to comply with its duties under this section.

The maintenance of indigenous biological diversity applies to that on both private and public land under WDC jurisdiction.

I ask that this omission be remedied in the final plan so that the plan complies with the relevant section of the RMA.

2.) Regarding Haast drinking water supplies, I ask that the WDC include a budget in the Drinking Water section of the plan to report, without further delay, on the benefits and consequences of a Water Services Act s58 application to Taumata Arowai for an exemption to residual disinfection for the Haast township drinking water supply, as agreed to at the WDC public meeting of 29/1/2026, where I presented Haast’s case for an exemption (“Council to produce report on benefits and consequences before meeting with the community.”)

I **do** wish to be heard.

**End of submission**

Submission 19:

**Full Name** Emma Hurley

Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comment**

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

**Comments**

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

**Comments**

**Changes to Site Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

**Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Comments**

**Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

**Comments**

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Can we please put up for consideration to the annual plan angle parking along Hampden street by the Westland High School field. As the field is a significant asset for weekend sports and events, angle parking would allow to reduce risk for parking inappropriately and allow for safer and more people to park and reduce impact to flow to the high school entrance

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Submission 20:

# Share your Feedback – Annual Plan 2026/2027

**Submissions close: 4pm, 10 May 2026** (no late submissions will be accepted)

**Submissions hearing: 9am, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026** (Day two will only be used if necessary)

We would like to know your thoughts about what we are proposing in our Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027.


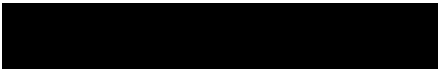
Please **scan and email** this form to the Council. **Email:** [Consult@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Consult@westlanddc.govt.nz)

You can also **call** us with your submission and use the form to help you.

**Phone:** 03 756 9010

**Freephone:** 0800 474 834

Name Inger Perkins Organisation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Email  Address & phone number 

I would like to speak to Council about my submission

In the meeting in the Council Chambers

Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

## Remittance of Rate Penalty

Your preferred option:

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

## Comments

This could contribute to poverty. As it gets harder to pay rates, the ones for whom it is hardest will struggle more and have to pay more. The poor become poorer, worse off and more stressed. The vicious cycle of not being able to pay worsens.

Discussion and support need to be available to find a solution, perhaps connecting to debt counselling or similar, rather than using penalties that will make it less likely that rates will be paid.

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**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours.

**Comments**

Alternatively, if programmed use outside normal operating hours is wanted or needed by the users, costs could be increased to reflect the additional costs of operating outside normal hours or appropriate funding sought/found to subsidise the programme, e.g. making the activity a club activity for a group that could then apply for grants.

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Programmes would also need to be offered during normal operating hours.

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**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

This makes me very sad. A museum would ideally be open every day to give every visitor the chance to enjoy the experience. The museum has been reopened after years of expensive strengthening works and to have days when it is closed would be very disappointing.

The museum benefits from the support of fabulous volunteers. Perhaps there are others who would be happy to contribute a bit of time to help keep the museum open every day.

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**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

These reductions in hours equate to tiny reductions in opening hours. Surely there are bigger ticket items where savings could be made that won't reduce service levels.

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**Changes to iSite Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

You talk about opening hours aligning with usage in a few places but do not share that usage to help readers understand options.

In my view, i-Sites would be open every day, but perhaps in the morning if times need to be restricted, say 9-noon, to help visitors make the most of the day in our special place.

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**Library Reserves**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.
- Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Comments**

For one year only then review carefully.

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**Heritage Park**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

**Comments**

Would the depreciation fund cover costs of repair and maintenance? Keeping the buildings waterproof etc? If those costs are found by the Heritage Park Trust, and they will continue to fund new or replacement buildings e.g. with lottery fundings, there is no need for depreciation as a council cost. If those costs cannot or may not be met by the Trust, perhaps there is a need and/or perhaps the rate of depreciation can be reduced.

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**Review of fees and charges**

Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.

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**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

- install solar panels and batteries to reduce costs of operating water treatment plants

- ensure new vehicles are EVs to reduce fuel costs (and impacts)

- add islands to Hampden Street both sides of Sewell Street urgently before someone is killed there - too many drivers do not stop when crossing Sewell Street there.

- work with NZTA to reduce the speed limit on the north side of town on SH6 to ensure no one is killed visiting the glowworm dell - ideally move the 80k limit to where the 100k limit is now.

- why is there such a big focus on reducing valued services with relatively tiny savings? Surely there are bigger savings elsewhere.

How can you advise a 6% rates increase when you state and I quote: "Individual ratepayers increases vary dependant on location, property capital value and the services provided. The indicative range of changes from the sample rates is from (10.82%) to 19.25%.

If you look at those sample rates, they will no doubt have gone up by double figures each year for the past few years.

This is a dishonest way to present rates increases to those individuals that keep on paying way above inflation increases every year - presumably all individual ratepayers other than those in Bruce Bay, Fox Glacier, Hari Hari and Kumara.

(Please supply a word version next time - filling in a PDF form is a nightmare. I lost a load of text and had to start again.)

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*More pages can be attached if necessary*

Please note, submissions will be publicly available on the council's website, through inclusion in council agendas, and/or retrievable by request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Personal contact details will redacted under the Privacy Act 1993 or by request.

Submission 21:

**Full Name:** Rosealie Erin Robinson

I would like to speak to Council about my submission

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

**Comments**

I would like to speak about the iSite. I worked there this past summer and I was very concerned about what was happening there. The options should not be just about operating hours. The isite should be merged with the Library or the Museum. That should be an option, not just changes to hours.

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

See my comments on the isite. This needs a major overhaul in the way it operates. That is what I want to speak about. I am an accountant.

Submission 22:

**Full Name** Thomas Bleeker

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

**Comments**

I support increasing Council revenue to better fund council-delivered services, and Option 1 is my preferred option. This approach is fairer to those who meet their obligations and supports the financial sustainability of council services.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours

**Comments**

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

**Comments**

I support Option 1 over Option 2, as the estimated additional savings of approximately \$10,000 under Option 2 is relatively small in the context of the broader budget and does not justify the further reduction in service levels.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

**Comments**

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

**Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

**Comments**

I request additional clarity regarding the proposed approach to drawing down the library reserve. Specifically, I would appreciate further explanation of the annual expenditure limit from the reserve, and how this threshold has been determined in relation to the reserve's current and projected balance. In addition, please clarify at what point depreciation funding would be reinstated. For example, is there a defined minimum reserve balance or risk threshold that would trigger the resumption of annual contributions to ensure long-term financial sustainability? Understanding these

parameters would provide greater confidence in how the reserve is being managed over time and how long-term asset renewal obligations are being protected.

### **Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

### **Comments**

#### **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

In particular, I suggest that development fees be structured in a way that provides certainty and consistency for applicants, while still reflecting the actual cost of processing, assessment, and compliance work undertaken by Council staff. This approach should balance affordability and incentive for development with the need to avoid under-recovery of costs that ultimately fall on ratepayers.

#### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

I support an approach that prioritises increasing Council revenue and adjusting rates as appropriate to ensure full recovery of staff time expenditures and other service delivery costs, while maintaining overall fiscal stability. It is important that Council funding mechanisms reflect the true cost of delivering services, including staff time, compliance activities, and ongoing operational requirements. Ensuring rates are set at a level that properly recovers these costs will support long-term financial sustainability and reduce reliance on deferred funding or under-recovered service delivery.

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Submission 23:

**Full Name** Alan Davidson

I would like to speak to council about my submission

Cost of Heating Pool

- Council Officers report discusses cost of diesel and electricity but does not mention costs of heating using coal. In fact coal is not mentioned at all. Greymouth use coal, Milk factory use coal, Grey High School use coal.

Page 30. Provide RATE SAMPLES –

- EXAMPLES are misleading as what are provided are different from what I pay, as I pay GST included – the examples apparently are not GST inclusive. I found it misleading.
  - Why are some properties have reductions when all residential have an increase.
  - Could it be properties have no increase, as opposed to rate reduction.
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Submission 24:

**Full Name** Sally Gallant

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

We do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support your preferred Option 1. We support either Option 2, or other potential alternatives that may achieve cost savings without unduly impacting the Hokitika Swimming Club and the wider swimming community on the West Coast. Hokitika Swimming Club is one of the three clubs that make up the Buller West Coast swimming region. Any decision to reduce pool hours and limit Hokitika Swimming Club's ability to operate will have significant flow-on effects for the Greymouth and Westport Swimming Clubs, and consequently for competitive swimming across the entire West Coast region. Reducing access to the pool will also have wider impacts on the health and wellbeing of local children and young people. Swimming provides an important opportunity for regular physical activity, fitness, social connection, discipline, and participation in organised sport. Limiting access to these facilities risks reducing participation in healthy recreational activities and competitive sport opportunities for West Coast youth.

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Submission 25:

# Share your Feedback – Annual Plan 2026/2027

*Submissions close: 4pm, 10 May 2026 (no late submissions will be accepted)*

*Submissions hearing: 9am, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (Day two will only be used if necessary)*

We would like to know your thoughts about what we are proposing in our Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027.

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You can also **call** us with your submission and use the form to help you.

**Phone:** 03 756 9010

**Freephone:** 0800 474 834

Name Jean Potter Organisation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Address & phone number \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to speak to Council about my submission

In the meeting in the Council Chambers

Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Your preferred option:

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comments**

Some times there is a good excuse for  
late payment

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**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours.

**Comments**

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**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

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**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

I cannot see how you can save money on closing at quiet times unless you reduce staff hours and then staff payments. That is a bad idea.

**Changes to iSite Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

I cannot see the use of an isite. Most tourists use the internet now.

**Library Reserves**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.
- Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Comments**

As long as there is sufficient in the fund for current year and this is not a permanent decision.

**Heritage Park**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

**Comments**

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**Review of fees and charges**

Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.

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**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

The ~~three~~<sup>four</sup> places you plan to reduce hours of opening are important services for rate payers. I can see there are occasions when demand is low but reduced hours could easily lead to reduced staff or reduced staff remuneration. These people are the front-line of Council staff. They are after the only Council staff that ratepayers meet and interact with. They all do commendable work and should not have their income or jobs threatened.

The Council has an obligation to provide these community services.

More pages can be attached if necessary

Please note, submissions will be publicly available on the council's website, through inclusion in council agendas, and/or retrievable by request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Personal contact details will be redacted under the Privacy Act 1993 or by request.

Submission 26:

**Full Name** Chloe Wieblitz

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comments**

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

I do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support your preferred Option 1. I support option 2 (current hours) or propose other potential options that do not unduly impact our community users and the swim club and swim school. I am concerned that the proposed reduced hours, will significantly impact the ability of the Hokitika Swim Club to operate. The club has volunteer coaches who typically work full-time and are often unable to be poolside before 5pm. The proposed reduction to the operating hours would limit training opportunities available to swimmers. The swim club provides a great opportunity for our swimmers to work hard to improve their swimming, compete in regional and inter-regional competitions and benefit their wellbeing. Without the Hokitika Swimming Club swimmers this would severely impact on the ability to make all West Coast based swim meets viable, therefore the decision on reducing pool hours and impacting our club's ability to operate will greatly affect Greymouth and Westport Swimming Clubs and subsequently all competitive swimming on the West Coast. The current proposed reduction is also designed and skewed towards impacting just the late afternoon / evening users rather than being designed in a more equitable manner across all pool users. I support developing a collaborative and mixed operating hour model to accommodate early morning swimmers, aqua classes, swim school and swim club. This could be easily designed with a mix of some days having a later start and later finish and some days earlier start and finish. I recommend and strongly support maintaining sufficient late afternoon / early evening access to enable the Hokitika Swim Club and swim school to provide structured training and opportunity for the swim club to continue to provide our community with the opportunity to improve their swimming and swim competitively.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

## **Comments**

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

## **Comments**

### **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

## **Comments**

### **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

## **Comments**

### **Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

## **Comments**

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

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Submission 27:

**Full Name** Lena Walker

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

## **Comments**

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

## **Comments**

As a rural family who works full time, we have really appreciated the later swimming lessons available and later open times where we can nip in and have a quick swim with our children. With the current loss of facilities of the Hokitika Primary Schools pool, it has been really important for us to use the facilities at the public pool to further teach our children water safety skills - something we wouldn't be able to do in Greymouth due to the further distance and costs involved with travel. I'm sure other families are in the same boat and it would be a shame to lose access facility which has recently been upgraded.

## **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

## **Comments**

## **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

## **Comments**

As a young rural family, we often visit after school hours to the library to obtain literature for my children. We find it has been very beneficial and encourages the children to further their reading and comprehension skills past what their schools are offering. Due to full time work and school commitments, we are unable to do on weekends or during the day.

## **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

## **Comments**

## **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

## **Comments**

## **Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

## **Comments**

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Submission 28:

**Full Name** Antoni Houston

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comments**

People make mistakes and accounts can be missed. Paying within 7 days of an overdue notice is fair and reasonable.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours

**Comments**

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

**Changes to i-site Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

**Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

**Comments**

**Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

**Comments**

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

I am surprised at how low the swimming pool fees are given the amount of money that has been spent on upgrades. Greymouth fees are higher and appear to be more in line with other Council pool fees such as Christchurch. Hokitika doesn't appear to be trying to recoup basic running costs.

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

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Submission 29:

**Full Name** Alice Marshall

**Organisation (if applicable)**

Pool

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Comments**

The pool is a huge part of the community in Hokitika as a mother being able to take her three young boys to the pool to burn energy on a weekday and for myself to do exercise my children have been taking swimming lessons with Pam and Riley and it would be great if they could extend their hours in the pool to allow more time and listen available with the kids

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

This would be great for the swim, School

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

## **Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

I think your decision to shut the pool. Early was not in the interest of any of your Hokitika of residence and ratepayers. Sadly we have all had to get used to the fuel crisis and working ways around saving money but the decision to shut the pool has left Hokitika without one of its greatest assets towards the kids and elderly community of Hokitika if you've ever been to the pool you would've seen the sort of people that use the elderly man that goes every week to keep it fitness app all the kids and parents the kids that get go to swim lessons and the kids that are in swim club sometimes it's not always about numbers in a community. It's about who is using the facilities and who it's going to affect mostly and sadly you've affected the elderly and your youngest generation

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Submission 30:

**Full Name** Cassandra colman

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

#### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

#### **Comments**

Option 2

#### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

#### **Comments**

Option 2 The pool is a VITAL access for our whole community! This includes access being available for children to lose the pool outside of their school hours and for parents able to take their kids swimming before or after the parents work hours. Please don't shut us out of our own pool!

#### **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

#### **Comments**

#### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

#### **Comments**

Option 3. For the same reason we need to keep our library open for use as it currently operates.

## **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

### **Comments**

## **Library Reserves**

### **Comments**

Option 2 Yes we should continue to fund this.

## **Heritage Park**

### **Comments**

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Submission 31:

**Full Name** Abby Clement

**Organisation (if applicable)**

Dr Abby Clement

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays withing 7 days of the overdue notice.

## **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

### **Comments**

Operating hours are already more limited than other towns. Better evening hours are required for health of our community to enable better access after work hours for fitness & learning. My children need lessons later in the evening as this helps us as a working family (& you sure don't want me to reduce my hours as an overworked local GP). Swim club is an amazing local asset & should be supported. Aqua fit is another amazing asset and should be supported. These need to be evening options for swim club teacher access & for aqua fit attendees. As a doctor I regularly encourage adults with arthritis to swim for exercise and if they work then option 2 would reduce this access further. In fact I think you should consider more late night access routinely.

## **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

## **Comments**

Reducing hours would be acceptable but would be good for them to have one later evening option and to continue special events

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Submission 32:

**Full Name** Hannah Matthews

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

## **Comments**

The pool is a huge benefit to this community. After school swim lessons are so important for kids, the improvement we see in our kids throughout the year as they engage in swim lessons every week is incredible and so important living in a community so close to the sea and lakes.

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

### **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

### **Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

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Submission 33:

**Full Name** Andrew Wiffen

### **Organisation (if applicable)**

Wiffen Dairying Ltd

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

#### **Comments**

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

#### **Comments**

Practical access to the pool is very important for local families, especially working families, rural families, and those travelling from South Westland. Standard opening hours do not always work around school, work, farming, travel time, and other family commitments. After-school and evening access is especially important for swim lessons, swim club, and water safety education. These programmes give children confidence in the water and create a pathway from learn-to-swim through to competitive swimming. Limiting access to standard hours would make it much harder for many children to take part. Even though the pool is currently closed, I believe future operating arrangements should protect flexible access for organised groups such as swim schools and clubs. This is not just about recreation — it is about child safety, community wellbeing, and giving local families fair access regardless of where they live or what hours they work. Please retain the current ability for approved groups to use the pool outside standard operating hours.

### **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

#### **Comments**

Match demand

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

#### **Comments**

Match demand

### **Changes to iSite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

#### **Comments**

Match demand

### **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

## **Comments**

Keep standard accounting practice. Look what happened with removing depreciation with three waters

## **Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

## **Comments**

Keep standard accounting practice. Look what happened with removing depreciation with three waters

## **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

User pays but need to be realistic and inline with comparable councils or services.

## **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Balance needs to be struck between rate increases and service provided.

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Submission 34:

**Full Name** Alisa Alspach

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

## **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

## **Comments**

The pool is an important part of our community, especially for those whanau learning to swim or interested in the more competitive aspect of swim club. The swim club is run by volunteers and thus restricting the time the pool is open will be difficult for those working volunteers. Water safety is such an important aspect of living on the Coast and in NZ and our kids need the opportunity to learn water safety in a safe controlled environment. I would suggest that if operating hour reduction is a cost saving exercise, that the fee structure is looked at. The pool is currently easily accessible for all, but the cost could be increased slightly and even more dramatically for non-locals.

## **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

## **Comments**

## **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

I don't want to see the end of week day hour reduced as this makes it difficult for working people to access the library. Saturday hours could be reduced.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

**Comments**

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Submission 35:

**Full Name** Monica Hulme

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

**Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

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Submission 36:

**Full Name** Loraine Haworth

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

**Comments**

option 2

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

**Comments**

option 1

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

**Comments**

option 1

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

**Comments**

option 1

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

## **Comments**

option 1 surely the dry cleaning, AA and courier drop off collection can be moved to Council HQ Transparency required

## **Library Reserves**

### **Comments**

Option 1 transparency on where the funds already in hand will go

## **Heritage Park**

### **Comments**

option 1 with transparency on where the funds in hand will go

## **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

surely the user ought to pay rather than be subsidised by rate payer

## **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

with the 'fuel crisis' hyped up by government and media costs are rising at an incredible rate - object to raising the bar from 5% increase to 6% increase. much more transparency required on council spending

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Submission 37:

**Full Name** Sean Millington

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

## **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

### **Comments**

## **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

### **Comments**

## **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

### **Comments**

## **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

### **Comments**

### **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

#### **Comments**

### **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

#### **Comments**

### **Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

#### **Comments**

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

For the Haast Jackson Bay River Road, suggest a toll station/booth at the end of Neils Beach for all traffic to pay entrance to Jackson Bay. That's fairer than only charging recreational boat users boat launching fee and parking fees and potentially wharf fees (at present no real access onto the wharf, as old jetty connected to wharf has gone, so repairs will be needed).

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Submission 38: **Submission to Westland District Council**

**Annual Plan 2026/2027**

**Submitted by: Hokitika Amateur Swimming Club**



We would like to speak to our submission in the Council Chambers.

The Hokitika Amateur Swim Club appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Annual Plan 2026/2027 and specifically the proposed changes to pool operating hours. The pool is a vital community asset that supports water safety, youth development, competitive sport and community wellbeing.

We do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support your preferred Option 1. We support either option 2 or propose other potential options that may achieve cost savings without unduly impacting our community users and the Hokitika Swim Club and swim school.



### Hokitika Swim Club End of Season Prize Giving 2026

We are concerned that the proposed reduced hours, (currently only reduced for late afternoon and early evening) will significantly impact our ability to operate our club. Our coaches and volunteers typically work full-time and are unable to be poolside before 5pm. This means our 3 squad trainings rely on early evening access. The proposed reduction to the operating hours significantly limits our training opportunities and swimmer participation to the point where we could potentially not be able to operate. This directly impacts our young swimmers (approximately 40 swimmers from Westland District) who are dedicated swimming for 1 to 2 hours, 2 or 3 times per week. They are working hard to improve their swimming and compete in regional and inter-regional competitions.

We consider that the proposed changes are inconsistent with the Functions and Responsibilities of Westland District Council as stated in its Local Governance Statement which states its function as “*enriching the people that reside in it*” and responsibilities and accountabilities in “*Providing and maintaining recreational facilities and facilitating the provision of social and community services*”. While we appreciate there may need to be some savings made, the impact of reduced hours is primarily directed and impacting certain user groups more significantly. This does not help

enrich and provide opportunities for our young swimmers and volunteers looking to give back to the community. There are limited alternatives for swimmers in Westland without significant travel time and costs for training 3 times per week.

We also believe that reduction in hours and impact on our club would subsequently result in less lane rental fees to the pool if the club is unable to operate. This would potentially offset any savings from the reduced hours. In the past season we paid approximately \$2500 in lane hire but are scheduled to increase by \$3 per hour in the coming season (we estimate this would be an approximate \$3900 loss in revenue for WDC if we can't operate).

It is also important to note that the Hokitika Swimming Club is one of three clubs that make up the Buller West Coast Swimming Region and our swimmers are important in the viability of our competitions across the region. The decision on reducing pool hours and impacting our club's ability to operate will greatly affect Greymouth and Westport Swimming Clubs and subsequently all competitive swimming across the entire West Coast Region.

It is also important to acknowledge that the reduced hours will also affect learn-to-swim programmes and general community access, creating barriers for those who depend on after-work or after-school availability. Swimming and the pool provides an important opportunity for regular physical fitness, social connection and participation in organised sport. We believe the current proposed reduction is also designed and skewed towards impacting just the late afternoon / evening users rather than being designed in a more equitable manner across all pool users.

Therefore, we propose that there are other ways the pool could achieve the desired \$6500 annual savings proposed via operating hour changes that is more equitable across the community users:

- 1) Reduce the pool operating days to a 6 day a week operation. Eg The pool is closed every Tuesday (or chosen day). This may still require heating but would save on wages and other operating costs.
  
- 2) Develop a collaborative and mixed operating hour model to accommodate early morning swimmers, aqua classes, swim school and swim club. This could be easily designed with a mix of some days having a later start and later finish and some days earlier start and finish. Eg 7am to 7pm on 3 days per week and 6am to 6pm on other days. This could still enable cost savings but with less impact to a variety of pool users.

We recommend and strongly support maintaining sufficient late afternoon / early evening access to enable structured training and opportunity for the swim club to continue to provide our community with the opportunity to improve their swimming and swim competitively. We also strongly support the concerns raised by the Hokitika Swim School with the swim school often providing a pathway into swim club.

We look forward to working with you to develop an opening schedule that can still provide you with savings but without as much negative impact on our community users including our late afternoon / early evening swimmers including our swim club and swim school.

With thanks

Hokitika Amateur Swim Club



**Happy, confident swimmers with some amazing results at South Island Country and Town, Blenheim 2026 & Buller West Coast Champs, Greymouth 2026**

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Submission 39:

**Malcolm Lawson    John Searle**

**Submission On Westland District Council Draft Annual Plan 2026 – 2027**

This is a joint submission in relation to the Review of Fees and Charges and in particular the proposal to add new fees for car parking and the boat ramp at Jackson Bay.

John Searle is a current home owner and ratepayer at Jackson Bay and has been for 20 years.

Malcolm Lawson is a regular visitor to Jackson Bay and a recreational fisher. We therefore have an interest in the proposals.

We have read the Draft Annual Plan. The inclusion of these two new fees is without any accompanying commentary or explanation. Instead, they are simply added to the bottom of the Schedule of Fees and Charges.

## **Boat Ramp Fee**

The so-called boat ramp at Jackson Bay is nothing more than a section of broken concrete that provides access from the road onto the beach where launching and retrieval of boats occurs. There is also a second area that provides the same access. No information regarding any of the following is provided:

- What does the WDC intend to do?
- How will fees be spent?
- How will fees be collected?
- How is the fee justified?
- Will the fee apply to both areas of access off the road?
- Is there an actual plan or timeframe for some action to take place?
- Will the so-called boat ramp be rebuilt?

The answers to all of these questions are necessary before meaningful consultation – as required by law - can occur.

## **Car Park Fee**

We attended the recent meeting that was held at Jackson Bay between ratepayers and Mayor Lash. It was clear at that meeting that some people had concerns regarding the amount of traffic in Jackson Bay at times. This is comprised of both visitors and fisher's vehicles and boat trailers. As a result, there are times when parking space is at a premium and is uncontrolled. Some attendees saw this as a problem and suggested the formation of a car park:

- What does the WDC intend to do?
- Which area/s will be designated for car parking?
- How will the fee be collected?
- How is the fee justified?
- Will there be parking for vehicles with boat trailers?
- Will a vehicle with a boat trailer have to pay for two parking spaces?
- Is there an actual plan or timeframe for action to take place?

Again, all of this important detail is missing.

## **The Way Forward**

The inclusion of these proposed fees suggests a knee-jerk reaction to perceived problems, the solutions to which have not been articulated in the Draft Annual Plan.

We submit that a proper analysis is carried out on the Jackson Bay area (this may also include Neil's Beach) so that a strategic and management plan that identifies issues

and potential solutions that can then be consulted on with the ratepayers and wider public. This may take some time but will result in a much more integrated, cohesive and financially sustainable solution for the area instead of the current ad hoc situation.

We wish to speak via a remote option at any future hearing.

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Submission 40:

**Full Name** Kelly Stevens

I appreciate the opportunity to submit and provide feedback on the proposed Draft Annual Plan and specifically the reduction in pool operating hours to save just \$6500. I wish to be heard.

I do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support your preferred Option 1.

I support either Option 2, or other potential alternatives that may achieve cost savings without unduly impacting the Hokitika Swimming Club and the wider swimming community on the West Coast.

I believe that the proposed reduction in hours will have wider impacts on the health and wellbeing of local children and young people. Swimming provides an important opportunity for regular physical activity, fitness, social connection, discipline, and participation in organised sport. Limiting access to these facilities risks reducing participation in healthy recreational activities and competitive sport opportunities for West Coast youth. The proposed reduction in hours is skewed towards impacting later afternoon and early evening access which is the key time period for when school children and adults can access the pool after school and work and to access lessons and organised swim club.

The proposed reduced hours, (currently only reduced for late afternoon and early evening) will significantly impact The Hokitika Swimming Club and Hokitika Swim School. I understand the Swim Club coaches and volunteers typically work full-time and would be unable to be poolside before 5pm and therefore would not be able to fit in the needed 1-2 hour training sessions if the pool was closed at 6pm. This proposed reduction to the operating hours would significantly limit the Swim Club and swimmer participation to the point where they may not be able to operate. This would directly impact our young swimmers ability to be involved in this organised sport in both a participation and competitive nature. Hokitika Swimming Club is one of the three clubs that make up the Buller West Coast swimming region and any decision to reduce pool hours and limit Hokitika Swimming Club's ability to operate will have significant flow-on effects for the Greymouth and Westport Swimming Clubs, and consequently for competitive swimming across the entire West Coast region.

I believe the current proposed reduction is also designed and skewed towards impacting just the late afternoon / evening users rather than being designed in a more equitable manner across all pool users. Therefore, I propose that there are other ways the pool could achieve the desired \$6500 annual savings proposed via operating hour changes that is more equitable across the community users:

1. Reduce the pool operating days to a 6 day a week operation. Eg The pool is closed every Tuesday (or chosen day). This may still require heating but would save on wages and other operating costs.
2. Develop a collaborative and mixed operating hour model to accommodate early morning swimmers, aqua classes, swim school and swim club. This could be easily designed with a mix of some days having a later start and later finish and some days earlier start and finish. Eg 7am to 7pm on 3 days per week and 6am to 6pm on other days. This could still enable cost savings but with less impact to a variety of pool users.
3. Changing the fee structure and charging for the pool admissions. The Hokitika pool has a lower entrance price to most other pools now. I suggest adding \$0.50-\$1 per admission, and/or raise the concession card rates overall, which should cover this proposed \$6500 savings amount as well. A child swim rate could increase from \$3 to \$4.
4. I strongly support maintaining sufficient late afternoon / early evening access to enable structured training and opportunity for the swim club as well as wider community benefit we see from pool use.

I strongly support the concerns raised by the Hokitika Swim School and Hokitika Swim School.

I look forward to a positive resolution for the whole community.

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Submission 41:

**Full Name** Kathryn Anne Bennie

JACKSON BAY WHARF/PARKING/RAMP CHARGE WHARF I can't comment regarding commercial as I am not commercial but can as a recreational fisher. I would like to suggest you add under Other Vessels a Recreational Boat wharf use. In the past we initiated and payed an annual fee for a license to occupy. This was at a time when we fished a lot and used the wharf, particularly the landing. We felt, and rightly so that we should contribute. Maybe this is something you could look at in the future. Not to give vehicle access as that should be limited to commercial for obvious reasons but for landing alongside to discharge people. Prior to the landing collapse most (90%) recreational and Commercial used the landing as a safe spot to discharge passengers and gear. (A gentle reminder that it is urgent that it gets replaced before someone is seriously injured. I am aware of a fisherman forced to use the ladder in the absence of the landing falling in recently, fully clothed in gumboots. Lucky he was not a statistic) Once the landing gets re-instated you have something physical that people see as a benefit to them and you could then charge an annual/daily fee for recreational users under a recreational use charge This would then enable at least a partial cost recovery for what is a vital part of the wharf to effectively function. A lot of tourists use the wharf to walk out on and admire the area. Many people fish from the wharf. It has become an icon of the area. A donation box may get some support and while minor could contribute. RAMP You need a ramp to charge a fee and there is no ramp. The steep launching access is not suitable to block with a pay machine. Besides being too steep to stop on while backing down and blocking the road there is just no practical or suitable area in that congested tiny area. People will just move down the beach to the commercial launching access to avoid paying. For these reasons I doubt it can work. PARKING Council would need to develop parking in a specific area if they are to charge. The current informal trailer park has clear access/exit room on the two open sides for people to drive in and swing around. Generally the first few trailers parked set the scene for how parking develops that day. Big tractors/trucks with extra-long trailers are mixed in with smaller trucks and trailers. At times there can be 3-4 commercial operators using the park. Freedom campers spread out in the middle just to add to the mix. Add in tourists in rental cars. It gets messy and tempers flare when people get blocked in because of this multi-use and a lack of common sense when it comes to considering others. If it was charged for then it would need fenced. Unfortunately, fencing/gate ways would render the park too restrictive, and it would be non-useable apart from small vehicles and trailers of which there are very few as the larger ones out number them by far. Mayor Helen recently looked at a possible option on council land behind Talley's. This would need an injection of money to develop but could work in addition to the current area. TOLL ROAD SUGGESTION My suggestion is a toll charge on the road starting at the Jackson Bay Pioneer cemetery. This may solve what could potentially be

quite messy with individual charges for parking, ramp etc with a single all-inclusive user pay charge. A very high percentage of users are non WDC ratepayers. They currently contribute nothing to the infrastructure but benefit greatly from a road that costs WDC & Transit NZ to keep open. Fees collected would need to be protected to support the ongoing maintenance costs required to keep the road open & the wharf maintained. This is an untapped source of income from all road users that freely use it for the price of a coffee. If people are educated about why it has been implemented, they should understand they are contributing in a positive way to keeping it open. With the decline of available funding this untapped user pays resource is an obvious solution to support any funding already set aside. The Day Pass could be supported by An Annual Pass option. I see the annual option as something that should be simple. One fee across the board regardless of who you are. Commercial should not be charged any more than anyone else as they already contribute with a wharf charge. As a resident of the settlement of Jackson Bay, I would willingly contribute.

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Submission 42:

**Full Name** Lez Morgan

**I would like to speak to Council about my submission**

In the meeting in the Council Chambers

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

**Comments**

Option 1

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

**Comments**

Option 1

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

**Comments**

Option 2

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

**Comments**

Option 2

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

**Comments**

Option 2

**Library Reserves**

## **Comments**

Option 1

### **Heritage Park**

## **Comments**

Option 1

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

I do not use any council facilities therefore have no comment.

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Annual Plan 2026/27 like every annual plan before it excludes the real fiscal spending on items that Westland District council does not want to discuss with the ratepayer... Mountain Jade building Wildfoods, cost to ratepayer, despite NOT ONE sitting councillor campaigning on putting this on the ratepayers. Shameful deceit by ALL of you! Consultants Racecourse income Racecourse consultants' fees and future development costs of another playground. The lack of transparency around these items of public interest is unforgivable.

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Submission 43:

**Full Name** Simon Whitworth

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

### **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

### **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

### **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

### **Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

We pay way to much

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

It costs too much

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Submission 44:

**Full Name** Hannah Yeats

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays withing 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

I believe access to the swimming pool outside of 'standard hours' is critically important, given the huge geographic catchment area of the pool, and the fact families need to travel far in order to get to swim lessons etc. Learning to swim is an absolutely crucial skill all children should be allowed.

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Trish Adams (Ratepayer)  
Juliet Adams

8-5-26

To the Council re facilities + venues etc.

Ideas

RECEIVED  
08 MAY 2026  
BY: JR.

My view is this: — Thank you firstly.

We need to (if at all possible) maintain + keep everything we've got.

I fully understand why the swimming pool is shut for awhile (not too long hopefully)

A lot of these venues double as "social hubs" (as well as what they represent currently) on the go by:

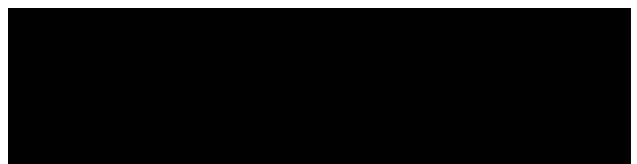
- e.g.s ① Library — essential (all hours needed)
- ② Regent Theatre — essential (double as a town hall) cafe, Small Theatre too — very useful

③ band hall — money goes away from it apparently, and yet a talented, eager musician about to (or already) get the band going again — What's the score on that one?!

Whilst the revamped museum is great we seem to lack a "small hall" or whatever for some multi-purpose exhibition (or what ever) talks etc. At least the cut hours play

Library same as here - don't cut hours please.

Site - really appreciate having an onsite, hands on.  
Valued personal touch for tourists and locals.



Submission 46:

**Full Name** Tayla Mehrtens

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

The swimming is very important for the children to learn water safety. The pool should remain open so our children keep getting their lessons on how to remain safe in bodies of water

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

**Changes to iSite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

**Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

**Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

Submission 47:

**Full Name** Amy Cunningham

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays withing 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comments**

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

So important in our small community!! Swim lessons, access to people traveling from up and down the coast, access in general.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

**Comments**

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

The library is a hub and provides valuable programming, and access to learning.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

**Comments**

**Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Comments**

**Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

**Comments**

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Submission 48:

**Full Name** Louise Morgan

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

### **Comments**

Why is there no option or support to reinstate for those ratepayers who pay their rates in one full annual payment ahead of the payment date? There used to be a slight reduction for those ratepayers who did this. Surely those at WDC should reinstate this system to support ratepayers who do this and to encourage others to do likewise. We already have those who are neglecting to pay their rates and surely this may support change if a ratepayer thinks they may save some percentage off their bill and perhaps make more ratepayers pay their bills on time etc.

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours

### **Comments**

Why not charge extra for pool hire outside of normal working hours?

### **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

### **Comments**

This museum is and has been an ongoing cost to the ratepayers since time began. If it wasn't for the fact it has cost all of us an arm and a leg so far i would suggest shutting it. Considering it uses a lot of unpaid volunteers i am at a loss to understand why this museum still costs so much to ratepayers for such a reduced modern space for the display of Westland's history and its people. Where are all the previous collections and when will we ever see them again? Option 2.

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

### **Comments**

But library should move and stop costing ratepayers money in rent - as per the councilor who also outlined the same opinion as stated in Hokitika Guardian September 10th 2025 Candidate Speak " we should never have allowed current library lease to roll over." Also! Why are ratepayers paying to rent a building and pay for the building depreciation costs also? If this building is rented then why isn't the owner of the building paying for their own depreciation costs and not ratepayers. If you rent a house and the shower does not work you ring the landlord and they pay to have it fixed because they own the property not the person renting. Why are we paying huge amounts in rent and depreciation for a cesspit that is always leaking from the roof in the

front foyer every winter? Or was this a nice wee idea by somebody who set the lease up? Move the library and get on with it.

### **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

### **Comments**

Option 2 for definite or close it would more than likely be the best idea.

### **Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

### **Comments**

Yes but for this year only in 2026/27. To have this fund available is important even if you do not fund it this year it should continue from 2027 onwards.

### **Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

### **Comments**

#### **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

I find it absolutely stunning we are still paying funds as ratepayers to set up and encourage Wildfoods within a township that has many ratepayers who are defaulting on their rates, struggling to pay rent and mortgages, struggling to feed and heat themselves and yet we still manage to pass this great purple elephant around the town like a touch rugby ball on the basis that every Kiwi loves it and needs a big piss up annually whilst eating wriggling grubs and listening to mediocre music played by singing nonentities with no other hires for that weekend. If it were Robbie Williams it could be interesting but still likely not worth the ticket.

#### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

This may not be part of your current proposals concerning the Annual Plan for 2026/27 but are there actually any current thoughts coming out of council chambers as to what council building you are all actually going to be working out of after the next election for council? I mean it is heading towards madness as you do not highlight what building or what upgrades or what exactly you are going to do considering the fact the current building is unsuitable seismically going forward. So any update to this would be good to know so we can all work out what we will be adding to our rates bills going forward. Or will this be something left for the newly elected team in 2027/28 to work out whilst sitting inside a big tent on Cass Square whilst newly elected? Be ever so good to know.

Swimming Canterbury West Coast



To whom it may concern,

Swimming Canterbury West Coast wishes to formally express its strong support for the submission lodged by the Hokitika Swim Club, regarding the proposed changes to pool operating hours currently being consulted on through the Annual Plan process.

We are extremely concerned about the proposal to restrict pool access beyond 6.00pm, as this would have a significant and detrimental impact on the ability of the club to continue operating effectively.

Like many community sporting organisations across the region, the Hokitika Swim Club relies heavily on volunteers to deliver its programs and training opportunities. Many of these volunteer coaches work full-time and are unable to arrive at the pool until approximately 5.00pm to 5.30pm. Given swimming training sessions generally require between one and two hours to operate effectively, the proposed operating hours would make it virtually impossible for the club to continue delivering regular squad training.

The impact of this would extend well beyond the club itself. Reduced training opportunities would directly affect the development and retention of swimmers on the West Coast, limiting their ability to compete both locally and regionally. It would also negatively affect participation in West Coast swimming events and undermine the wider swimming pathway that supports young people in the region to engage in healthy, positive sporting activity.

Community swimming clubs provide far more than competitive opportunities. They contribute significantly to physical wellbeing, water safety, youth development, social connection, and community pride. Restricting access to essential facilities at times when volunteers and working families can realistically participate risks eroding these important community benefits.

We strongly encourage the Council to reconsider the proposed operating hour changes and to work collaboratively with the Hokitika Swim Club and other user groups to identify solutions that ensure the pool remains accessible to the community groups who depend on it.

In summary:

- We do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support the Council's preferred Option 1.

- We support Option 2, which maintains the current operating hours, or alternatively support consideration of other operating models that do not disproportionately disadvantage community user groups, including the swim club and swim school.
- We are concerned that the proposed reduction in operating hours will significantly impact the ability of to continue operating effectively. The club relies on volunteer coaches, many of whom work full-time and are often unable to be poolside prior to 5.00pm. The proposed changes would substantially reduce the training opportunities available to swimmers.
- We believe the swim club provides an important opportunity for swimmers to develop their skills, work towards personal goals, compete at regional and inter-regional events, and enhance their overall health and wellbeing through participation in organised sport.
- We believe the swimmers and programmes provided through the Hokitika Swim Club play a vital role in ensuring the ongoing viability of competitive swimming events across the West Coast. Any reduction in the club's ability to operate would have a flow-on effect to swimming clubs in Greymouth and Westport and would negatively impact the sustainability of competitive swimming throughout the region.
- We are also concerned that the currently proposed reduction in hours appears to disproportionately affect late afternoon and evening users, rather than applying a more balanced and equitable approach across all user groups accessing the facility.
- We support the development of a collaborative and flexible operating model that accommodates the needs of early morning swimmers, aqua fitness classes, swim school programmes, and swim club activities. A balanced approach could include a combination of some days operating with later start and finish times, and others with earlier opening and closing hours.
- We strongly support maintaining sufficient late afternoon and early evening access to enable and local swim school programmes to continue delivering structured training opportunities and providing the community with access to swimming development and competitive pathways.

Thank you for considering this submission and for recognising the vital role community sport and recreation plays across the West Coast.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie', with a horizontal line underneath.

Debbie Rahurahu  
Operations Manager  
Swimming Canterbury West Coast

Submission 50:

**Full Name** Addie Nolan

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

My children both participate in swimming lessons every week. It's half an hour one way for us and my eldest doesn't get home from school bus until 3.40pm. Shortening the hours would stop my kids from attending swimming lessons as we would not be able to get there in time! There are no swimming lessons available in South Westland therefore my kids would have to stop learning to swim altogether apart from at school with unqualified teachers. The pool closing has been a huge disappointment for myself and my kids as they were doing so well at swimming.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to iSite Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

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Submission 51:

**Full Name** Aubyn Wilson-Russ

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

## **Comments**

I personally believe it is so important for the people of Westland to have access to their swimming pool outside of standard operating hours, whether it be for peoples own health or fitness, rehabilitation or just leisure outside of working hours, the significance of changing the available hours would be huge. Not only this, but as a parent of young children who is still learning to navigate water safety, confidence in the water and swimming - this change would be detrimental. We live in an extremely water dense region and the need to have water confidence and swimming ability is of huge importance! The swimming lessons we have attended at the Hokitika Pool have been so invaluable and it would be such a shame to not have the same access to this as we once did.

## **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

Submission 52:

**Full Name** Stacey Brock

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

## **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

## **Comments**

We wish to express our concern regarding the current closure of our local swimming pool and the proposed changes to operating hours. These decisions could significantly affect the availability of after-school swim lessons, which are already limited due to school hours and restricted pool access times. Reduced hours would particularly impact working families, rural communities, and South Westland families who often rely on later afternoon or evening access because of travel distances and work commitments. It is incredibly important that Council carefully considers the impact this may have on children's ability to learn to swim. With the next nearest swimming pool approximately half an hour away, many families may simply be unable to access regular swimming lessons due to travel time, costs, and work commitments. This creates a significant barrier to water safety education for local children. The pool also plays a vital role in supporting pathways from learn-to-swim programmes into swim club and competitive swimming opportunities for local children and young people. Most importantly, water safety education is essential in our region. We are a community surrounded by rivers, lakes, and the sea, and access to swimming lessons and regular pool use is critical for building confidence, skills, and safety in and around water. We

strongly encourage Council to consider the long-term impact these decisions may have on the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community.

### **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

We wish to express our concern regarding the current closure of our local swimming pool and the proposed changes to operating hours. These decisions could significantly affect the availability of after-school swim lessons, which are already limited due to school hours and restricted pool access times. Reduced hours would particularly impact working families, rural communities, and South Westland families who often rely on later afternoon or evening access because of travel distances and work commitments. It is incredibly important that Council carefully considers the impact this may have on children's ability to learn to swim. With the next nearest swimming pool approximately half an hour away, many families may simply be unable to access regular swimming lessons due to travel time, costs, and work commitments. This creates a significant barrier to water safety education for local children. The pool also plays a vital role in supporting pathways from learn-to-swim programmes into swim club and competitive swimming opportunities for local children and young people. Most importantly, water safety education is essential in our region. We are a community surrounded by rivers, lakes, and the sea, and access to swimming lessons and regular pool use is critical for building confidence, skills, and safety in and around water. We strongly encourage Council to consider the long-term impact these decisions may have on the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community.

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Submission 53:

**Full Name** Linda Harden

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

1. As the Council have now signed up to be part of the CCO, should the annual plan be spending money on Drinking Water p.13, Stormwater p.14, Wastewater p.14. Would it be more prudent to hold off until the CCO entity is going. 2. The Blue Spur chlorination building renewal cost of \$500 000 seems an awful lot to build a steel shed to house the chlorinator. 3. The current Borrowings of \$44 000 000 p.9. projected to go down to the Projected Borrowing of \$30 000 000 p.32 does not seem to stack up given a rates income of \$27 000 000 p.9, the wages bill of \$1494 per household \$9 200 000 for year (Greymouth Star 30/04/2026) on top of Employee Benefit Expenses p.16 of \$8 500 000. Not to mention the \$5 000 000 earmarked for joining the CCO. 4. Westland have a pretty

resilient infrastructure for 3 waters. Does joining CCO mean that we will be paying for GDC and Buller coming up to our standard. eg GDC still have 800 residences dumping their sewer into stormwater. (Greymouth Star 02/05/2026)

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Submission 54:

**Full Name** Michelle Urmson

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

**Comments**

Option 2 (status quo) for pool operating hours. With such a small saving relating to option 1, why change the operating hours?

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

Comments made above.

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Submission 55:

**Full Name** Ash

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

**Comments**

Option 2

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Submission 56:

**Full Name** Camine Riley

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comments**

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

## **Comments**

To the Westland District Council, I do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support the Council's preferred Option 1. I support Option 2 (maintaining the current hours), or alternatively, a revised operating model that does not unduly impact community users, the Hokitika Swim Club, and the swim school. I am particularly concerned about the significant impact the proposed reduced hours would have on the ability of the Hokitika Swim Club to continue operating effectively. The club relies heavily on volunteer coaches who typically work full-time and are often unable to be poolside before 5:00pm. Reducing late afternoon and evening access would severely limit the training opportunities available to swimmers. The Hokitika Swim Club provides an extremely valuable opportunity for local swimmers to improve their skills, work toward personal goals, compete in regional and inter-regional competitions, and benefit physically, mentally, and socially through participation in sport. The club contributes positively to the wellbeing of many young people and families in our community. The impact of reducing the pool hours extends well beyond Hokitika alone. Without the participation of Hokitika Swimming Club swimmers, the viability of West Coast swim meets would be significantly affected. This would have flow-on effects for the Greymouth and Westport swimming clubs and would ultimately undermine the future of competitive swimming across the entire West Coast region. I am also concerned that the currently proposed reduction appears to disproportionately affect late afternoon and evening users, rather than sharing reductions more equitably across all user groups. This places an unfair burden on swim club members, working families, and school-aged swimmers. I strongly support the development of a more collaborative and flexible operating-hours model that accommodates the needs of all pool users, including early morning swimmers, aqua classes, swim school, and the swim club. A mixed model could easily be developed, with some days operating on earlier start and finish times, and other days providing later afternoon and evening access. I strongly recommend maintaining sufficient late afternoon and early evening pool access to enable the Hokitika Swim Club and swim school to continue providing structured training opportunities and valuable community programmes. Retaining these hours is essential to ensuring local swimmers continue to have opportunities to improve their swimming, participate competitively, and remain engaged in healthy community sport. Thank you for considering my submission.

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

### **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

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Submission 57:

**Full Name** Hannah Hale

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

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Submission 58:

**Full Name** Paul Clement

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

This pool is an essential part of the community. You need to ensure the pool is open for users convenience. This is obviously outside of standard work hours - early mornings, evenings and weekends. Further you need to operate fairly to enable to swim school and swim club to operate to maximum potential, it is essential that all kids have the opportunity to learn to swim, and obviously this needs to again fall at times when parents/caregivers can take them along - when is this? Outside of standard hours!!!! The fact that this change is even being proposed is just dumbfounding! I would lastly add that the status quo is already a reduction in opening hours and it should be returned to what it was before the current changes.

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Submission 59:

**Full Name** Amy Breeze

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

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Submission 60:

**Full Name** Sue Davis

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays withing 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

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Submission 61:

**Full Name** Ngawai Tahi

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays withing 7 days of the overdue notice.

## **Comments**

Stop being greedy, people might be living paycheck to paycheck paying their rates. 7 days grace period is fair.

## **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours

## **Comments**

I believe water safety is important for the community to learn and I understand they can do trainings within the opening hours, BUT...if “after hours” time is required for community trainings, the council needs to accommodate, especially with Hokitika being so close to rivers, lakes and beaches.

## **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

## **Comments**

Not going to get tourists through the doors to pay if the doors are closed.

## **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

## **Comments**

The community needs the library

## **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

## **Comments**

I don't know how often the isite gets used by the community but I bet rarely ever. Tourists gain the most from this however I wouldn't imagine tourists being charged much for this service apart from trinkets and maps. A reduction in hours could save some money.

## **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

## **Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

## **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

I think we should keep pool access local fees as they are (or slightly increase) but charge tourists extra (pools etc)

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Submission 62:

**Full Name** Theresa pollock

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Comments**

My grandson needs to learn to swim for his neuro diversity, his safety and well being

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

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Submission 63:

**Full Name** Arthur Benjamin Dillon

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

I believe the miniscule savings proposed and almost insignificant affect on rates is no where near sufficient to justify the proposed reduction in access. Considering we live in an area with numerous wild swimming spots, including fast flowing rivers and often rough sea conditions, I believe access to the pool for general swimming and lessons in a safe and secure area must be considered a priority to allow the development of confident swimmers. Finally, having school age children myself I feel the current hours provide a more accessible facility that better allow children to attend, and do not believe the proposed changes would benefit families in any way. Respectfully, please reconsider this option as I do not feel it offers any meaningful benefits.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

**Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

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Submission 64:

**Full Name** Colin Wilson

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

### **Comments**

As a grandparent and parent, the pool has been the only form available for children to learn to swim and water safety in Hokitika. From what I have seen in the consultation document with the changes planned in the preferred option you have a rate savings of 0.02%. I know every little bit helps although the benefits in my opinion far out way the savings. You have parents as far as Franz and Fox make the effort willing to drive up to Hokitika for lessons. When a group or club sign up to use the pool is it not their responsibility to supervise? That cost of staff for the extra 2 hours for 1 staff member to oversee? Don't make the parents, if they can afford it travel to Greymouth

### **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

### **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

### **Comments**

Tourists if they are staying at accommodation the reception their can give info, or the free wifi can help them what they're looking for.

### **Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

### **Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

### **Comments**

Council need more consultation with the operators of the park as past help from the council have been limited

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

As long as the cost is not inflated due to so called "Rising costs"

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

I noticed several contractors or staff water blasting around Cass Square recently. Of course there is a cost for this, but if these are contractors, could the council not supply water blaster and get a club to do the job for funds and a cheaper rate? Just a thought.

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Submission 65:

**Full Name** Reilly and Pamela Enstrom

**Organisation (if applicable)**

Enstrom Enterprises//Hokitika Swim School

**I would like to speak to Council about my submission**

In the meeting in the Council Chambers

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

Submission to Westland District Council Annual Plan 2026/2027 Submitted by: Enstrom Enterprises Ltd / Hokitika Swim School Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027, specifically regarding the proposed changes to pool operating hours and fees and charges. We acknowledge the financial pressures Council is facing and appreciate the need to consider cost-saving measures. However, we are concerned that the proposed reduction in late afternoon and evening operating hours will have a significant impact on learn-to-swim services and access to aquatic education in our community. Key concerns include:

- Most school-aged children cannot arrive before approximately 3:15pm due to school hours.
- Many rural and South Westland families are only able to arrive later in the afternoon or early evening due to travel distance and work commitments.
- Some working families cannot access the pool before 5pm.
- Reduced evening hours significantly limit the number of lessons able to operate before closing time.
- Some families may lose realistic access to swimming lessons entirely.

Potential impacts include:

- Reduced access to water safety education
- Reduced participation in learn-to-swim programmes
- Barriers for working and rural families
- Reduced progression into swim club and competitive swimming
- Reduced community use of the pool overall
- Reduced opportunities for children to build confidence and safety around water

We strongly support the concerns raised by the Hokitika Amateur Swimming Club and believe both organisations are

closely connected in serving the community. • Learn-to-swim programmes are an important pathway into swim club and competitive swimming. • Reduced access to lessons may reduce future participation in club swimming. • Swim school and swim club together support long-term aquatic participation within the community. Over the past four years of operating, our swim school has grown significantly, beginning with fewer than 30 students in our first term and now supporting approximately 150–200 families throughout the year. We believe this reflects the strong community demand for learn-to-swim opportunities and the importance local families place on aquatic education and water safety. We also note that swim lessons often contribute to wider pool usage and community participation. Examples include: • Families combining lessons with recreational swimming • Siblings or friends using the pool while lessons are taking place • Increased overall community engagement with the facility during lesson times

As a result, learn-to-swim programmes can help support broader pool usage and ongoing community connection with the facility. The West Coast has a unique environment surrounded by rivers, beaches, lakes, and unpredictable water conditions. Accessible swimming education is an important safety measure for children growing up on the Coast. New Zealand also places significant importance on water safety education due to our strong connection with waterways and outdoor recreation. We are concerned that the proposed reduction disproportionately impacts after-school and evening users, particularly children and families, while offering limited flexibility for those groups most dependent on these times. We also note that the proposed savings from Option 1 are described as relatively small (approximately 0.02% rates impact), while the practical impact on community users may be significant. For learn-to-swim providers, swim clubs, working families, and rural and South Westland families, flexibility outside standard daytime hours is essential rather than optional. We acknowledge that some increase in fees and charges may be necessary. However, we are concerned that the proposed increase in swim school lane hire fees to \$30 per lane per hour represents a very substantial increase relative to our current arrangement and may create significant financial pressure for both our learn-to-swim programme and the local families we serve. We also note that the proposed swim school lane hire rate appears considerably higher than some other comparable pool hire rates, including private lane hire. As a regular long-term community user providing structured learn-to-swim and water safety education, we would have expected ongoing community programmes to be supported through a more balanced and sustainable fee structure. We also note that if the proposed fee increases proceed, the additional revenue generated from regular community users such as swim schools may potentially exceed the relatively small savings projected from reducing evening operating access. We encourage Council to carefully consider whether reducing community access while simultaneously increasing fees aligns with the long-term goals of participation, accessibility, and community wellbeing. Key concerns regarding fees include: • Increased operating costs for our swim school • Increased financial pressure on

families accessing lessons • Reduced accessibility to swimming lessons and water safety education • Potential reduction in participation due to higher costs We encourage Council to consider:

- A more gradual or staggered increase over time
- A lower initial increase that supports sustainable community participation
- Fee structures that recognise the community benefit of learn-to-swim programmes and aquatic education

We support exploring alternative operating models that could still achieve savings while reducing the impact on community participation, including:

- Mixed operating schedules across different days
- Reduced operating days instead of reduced evening access
- Collaborative scheduling between user groups
- Reviewing operational efficiencies that preserve after-school access

We believe maintaining practical after-school and early evening access is essential for the continued success of learn-to-swim programmes, swim club pathways, and the wider wellbeing and safety of our community. We believe maintaining accessible and practical pool availability strongly aligns with Council's role in supporting community wellbeing, recreation, youth development, and healthy active communities across the Westland District. Thank you for considering our submission and for consulting with the community before making final decisions. Kind regards, Reilly and Pamela Enstrom Enstrom Enterprises Ltd Hokitika Swim School

### **Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

### **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

- We acknowledge that some increase in fees and charges may be necessary.
- We are concerned that the proposed increase in swim school lane hire fees to \$30 per lane per hour represents a very substantial increase relative to the current arrangement for learn-to-swim providers.
- As a regular long-term community user delivering structured aquatic education and water safety opportunities for local children and families, we would encourage Council to consider a more balanced and sustainable fee structure.

Key concerns include:

- Increased operating costs for learn-to-swim programmes
- Increased financial pressure on local families accessing lessons
- Reduced accessibility to swimming lessons and water safety education
- Potential reduction in participation due to higher costs

We also note:

- The proposed swim school lane hire rate appears considerably higher than some comparable pool hire rates, including private lane hire.
- Regular ongoing community programmes would generally be expected to receive more sustainable long-term pricing structures.
- The proposed fee increases may generate additional revenue that could potentially offset some of the relatively small savings projected from reducing evening operating access.
- Reduced access combined with substantial fee increases may unintentionally reduce participation and long-term community engagement with the facility. We encourage

Council to consider: • A more gradual or staggered increase over time • A lower initial increase that supports sustainable community participation • Fee structures that recognise the community benefit of learn-to-swim programmes and aquatic education

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Thank you for consulting with the community before making final decisions. We appreciate the financial pressures Council is facing and understand the need to review operating costs and fees. However, we encourage Council to carefully consider the wider long-term community impact of reducing evening pool access and substantially increasing fees for community aquatic programmes. We believe accessible pool facilities, learn-to-swim opportunities, and practical after-school access play an important role in supporting water safety, youth development, recreation, and community wellbeing across the Westland District. We would welcome continued collaboration and discussion around solutions that balance financial sustainability with maintaining strong community participation and accessibility.

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Submission 66:

**Full Name** Pamela Enstrom

**I would like to speak to Council about my submission**

In the meeting in the Council Chambers

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comments**

I support Option 2. Maintaining flexibility for ratepayers who correct overdue payments within a short timeframe seems reasonable and community-minded, particularly during ongoing cost-of-living pressures.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

I support Option 2. As a parent, evening access is essential. After dinner and bedtime routines, later pool hours are often the only time I can fit in a swim or an aqua class. For other families, it's the only window for lessons after school and work. Limiting evening hours would make it harder for parents like me to stay active and ensure kids have access to swim lessons or water safety. I understand balancing costs, but the savings seem small compared to the impact on family accessibility and community wellbeing.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

### **Comments**

I support Option 3. Libraries are valuable community spaces that support children, families, education, accessibility, and community wellbeing. As a homeschooling family, we appreciate having accessible local resources and spaces that support learning within the community.

### **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

As a parent, I understand that some fee increases may be necessary, but I am concerned that large increases to aquatic programme and lane hire costs could make swimming lessons and activities harder for many local families to afford. For families with multiple children, or those travelling from rural and South Westland areas, swimming already requires a significant commitment of both time and money. I believe learn-to-swim opportunities and aquatic programmes are incredibly important for local children, community wellbeing, and water safety, and I encourage Council to consider more balanced or gradual fee increases that help keep these opportunities accessible for families.

### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Thank you for taking community feedback before making final decisions. From a family perspective, places like the pool and library are more than just facilities — they are important spaces where children learn skills, families spend time together, and people stay active and connected during the colder months. I know there are difficult financial decisions to make, but I hope Council continues to prioritise services that have a strong positive impact on everyday community life.

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Submission 67:

**Full Name** Chloe McBride

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

### **Comments**

I would like to formally oppose Option 1 regarding the proposed changes to the Hokitika Pool operating hours. The Hokitika Pool is a heavily used and important facility within our community. It is not just used for casual swimming, but also for swim school, swim club, children's parties, aqua classes, school programmes, and many other community activities. In a small town like Hokitika, there are limited recreational options available for families and young people, especially during the colder months. The pool provides an important safe, healthy, and social activity for people of all ages. Swimming is also an essential life skill in New Zealand. Reducing access to organised swimming opportunities and after-hours programmes could negatively impact children's

confidence and water safety skills. It also takes away a working income from hardworking community members providing something of huge benefit to our community! The proposal notes that the estimated savings would be approximately \$6,500 per year, equating to only a 0.02% decrease in rates. This is a very small financial saving compared to the significant loss to the community. Many families rely on after-hours activities because they work during the day. If all organised activities must finish before standard closing times, participation in swim club, lessons, and community programmes will likely decrease. Facilities like the pool should be viewed as important community investments, not just expenses. They contribute to physical health, mental wellbeing, youth engagement, social connection, and community spirit. The council has also just spent a large amount of money on upgrading the facilities. It makes absolutely no sense to then turn around and limit the use of the pool facilities. I strongly urge the council to keep the current operating model under Option 2 and continue supporting the many groups and families who rely on the pool. Thank you for considering my submission. Kind regards, Chloe McBride

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Submission 68:

**Full Name** Mark Nicholson

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

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Submission 69:

**Full Name** Maria Eugenia Puntillo

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays withing 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

As a family, we were deeply disappointed by the closure of Hokitika pool. Our two children were enrolled to start swimming lessons this term, as there is no offer of swimming classes here in Franz Josef and surrounding areas apart form what they do as part of the school curriculum, which has proven not to be enough. Services in such an isolated area as this are scarce enough as it is. Please continue allowing the use of the pool after school hours.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

**Library Reserves**

Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

Submission 70:

**Full Name** Raewyn Patton

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays withing 7 days of the overdue notice.

## **Comments**

7 Days late is tolerable. The account is paid.

## **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

## **Comments**

Option 2 allows several local businesses and clubs to continue. The Hokitika Pool exists because the ratepayers want AND use this facility. Well done WDC for creating a well-loved facility that has created jobs, community, and a very necessary safety asset. We are surrounded by deep and dangerous bodies of water on the West Coast. Continue to allow families to train themselves and children in lifesaving water skills. Allow future sportspeople to train and inspire. The hours are 'existing' and appreciated - not "outside standard operating hours". If staffing is a problem, employ more casual staff. Stagger the hours of operation to allow for 6am to 5pm swimmers one day and 9am to 8pm the next. Don't allow for the learning slide to happen over winter months when lake swims are impossible. Keep up the good work, WDC, and continue to support your flagship facility. This one is way more than a tourist or holiday attraction. It is a community learning centre. By all means close on Christmas Day and Anzac Day but don't drop the ball on this one to the detriment of a life lost through lack of exposure to safe practice.

## **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

## **Comments**

The Museum has only just opened. Let the volunteers and public help it grow to an engaging destination, especially through winter months and weekends.

## **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

## **Comments**

An excellent compromise to cost, use, and bothering to open at all on weekends.

## **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

## **Comments**

More than enough.

## **Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

## **Comments**

Good to be able to rely on a healthy reserve. Well done WDC. But definitely review next year. We don't want a white elephant of stale resources.

### **Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

### **Comments**

If the depreciation is not needed then don't fund it. However, be responsible. Wear and tear needs addressing, as do demolition costs. Have something in fall back on when needed.

### **Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

Please don't increase the cost of 60l yellow bags for rural rubbish disposal. The neighbours are already burning their non-organic waste! Please encourage responsible waste disposal not deter it. 60l bags no more than \$5 each please.

### **Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Cost savings are needed. Thank you for trying.

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# Federated Farmers of New Zealand

## Submission on the Westland District Council Annual Plan 2026-27



## SUBMISSION TO WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

To: Westland District Council  
Via email: [consult@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:consult@westlanddc.govt.nz)

Submission on: **Annual Plan 2026-27**

Date: 10 May 2026

Submission by: Federated Farmers of New Zealand

**Simon Cameron**

WEST COAST PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

Federated Farmers of New Zealand

E [REDACTED]@fedfarm.org.nz

Address for service: Hemi Bedggood

SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

Federated Farmers of New Zealand

M [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@fedfarm.org.nz

**We wish to be heard in support of our submission.**

### ABOUT FEDERATED FARMERS

Federated Farmers of New Zealand is a membership organisation, which is mandated by its members to advocate on their behalf and ensure representation of their views. Federated Farmers does not collect a compulsory levy under the commodities levy act and is funded from voluntary membership.

Federated Farmers represents rural and farming businesses throughout New Zealand. We have a long and proud history of representing the needs and interests of New Zealand's farmers.

Federated Farmers aims to empower farmers to excel in farming. Our key strategic outcomes include provision for an economic and social environment within which:

- Our members may operate their business in a fair and flexible commercial environment;
- Our members' families and their staff have access to services essential to the needs of a vibrant rural community; and
- Our members adopt responsible management and sustainable food production practices.

## 1.0 SUBMISSION

- 1.1 Federated Farmers welcomes the opportunity to submit on Council's Draft Annual Plan. We appreciate Council's willingness to engage with the rural community.
- 1.2 The West Coast is a unique and highly productive region, with the economy strongly supported by agriculture, forestry, fishing and tourism. Agriculture, forestry and fishing are among the largest contributors to regional GDP, accounting for 14.3% of the West Coast's total economic output. The region's agriculture, forestry and fishing contribute \$404.0m annually to GDP, employing 10.3% of the total population.

## 2.0 GENERAL

- 2.1 We acknowledge the challenging times for both residents and local government. Ongoing cost-of-living pressures, economic headwinds, and local government reform are reshaping the domestic landscape. This is a difficult period we should endeavor to navigate collaboratively; we appreciate and thank Council for the user-friendly nature of their communications.
- 2.2 Council has identified the following key matters to be considered: rates management, operating and capital expenditure. The feedback from the rural community is clear; **transport infrastructure and land management fees are the most important issues.**
- 2.3 In December 2023 Westland District Council, jointly with Buller and Grey District Councils submitted the West Coast Transport Programme Business Case 2024-27 to New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) for inclusion in the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP).
- 2.4 Federated Farmers congratulates Council for the work they have undertaken to gain funding from NZTA for local and special purpose roads, totaling \$21,751,998 and \$4,477,000 respectively over the 2024–27 period.
- 2.5 Federated Farmers considers further funding support from NZTA, which supports rural roading networks, should be requested by Council. We acknowledge the external pressure Council faces regarding roading budgets, particularly with NZTA heavily restricting co-funding requests across the country. Federated Farmers has lobbied Government for essential rural roading support. In future, perhaps there is an opportunity to work together to leverage our combined regional and national voices to demand the fair infrastructure funding this district needs, reducing the burden on rural ratepayers.
- 2.6 Federated Farmers acknowledges the need to support shipping, rail, and energy sectors; we believe high performing national transport and energy networks are key to unlocking regional New Zealand's potential.

## 3.0 REGIONAL REGULATION

- 3.1 Federated Farmers supports the registration of dogs as a tool for promoting public safety. However, it is important to recognise that rural landowners and farmers are not the primary source of dog-related issues. Working dogs are an essential part of farm operations and should be exempt from registration fees in recognition of their role as productive assets. Where fees are applied, a practical cap set at a maximum of five dogs would avoid placing undue financial burden on farming businesses that often rely on a number of working animals.
- 3.2 Pest management is of the utmost importance to the West Coast farming community, and the economic threat posed by pest species is often underestimated. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to take a greater role as a collaborator in the development of a

pest management strategy.

- 3.3 Under the Resource Management Act (RMA), land management rules have become increasingly restrictive, a trend that has not been afforded the flexibility to be reversed in a timely manner under a change of central government direction. In any future reform, planning frameworks should better enable the subdivision of private property for well-established practices, including farm succession.

#### **4.0 FEES AND CHARGES**

- 4.1 Rates and inflation are closely scrutinised and are viewed as a form of taxation. Increases in fees and charges impose a similar financial burden on ratepayers.
- 4.2 We do not support deposits, fees or charges relating to the subdivision or boundary adjustment of privately owned land. The requirement for a deposit between \$1,500 to \$5,500, in addition to chargeable time for subdivision or boundary adjustment, creates a significant barrier to the routine management of private land. When compared to the 2024 Annual Plan, deposits for land use applications have increased by 11%, deposits for subdivision applications by 8%, and general certificates by 19%. A specific concern is the provision allowing for the return of an incomplete application at the applicant's cost, creating uncertainty due to the absence of a clearly defined charge.
- 4.3 Federated Farmers encourages Council to ensure increases to fees and charges are justified. Local government should provide members of the rural community with confidence that they are complying with permitted activity rules when such advice is requested. This should be provided as a free service, including certificates of compliance, which should be issued free of charge at an applicant's request.

#### **5.0 WATER SERVICES**

- 5.1 Federated Farmers maintains solid waste, stormwater, wastewater and drinking water should be paid for through targeted rates by those who benefit. Those who benefit from an expense 'exclusively' should be paying for a given service. Federated Farmers strongly supports the use of "differentials" and targeted rating zones.
- 5.2 Federated Farmers is not opposed to a combined West Coast water entity. However, Federated Farmers hopes that a new entity for the purpose of increasing debt will not be implemented and result in bespoke fees and charges in addition to the standard rates bill. We believe it is best to consider water services in parallel with local government reforms.

#### **6.0 RATES COMMENTS**

- 6.1 The global economic environment remains challenging. Persistent inflation, debt servicing costs, insurance affordability and energy prices make it difficult to forecast operational and capital spending.
- 6.2 Farm input costs have never been greater, the cost of running a New Zealand farm is over 27% higher than it was before Covid. This places substantial pressure on owners, operators and workers. With record high energy and fuel prices, further increases to rates and water represent an additional cost many are unable to afford.
- 6.3 In 2025, the Office of the Auditor General reported that in 2023/24, councils' operating expenditure was higher than what was being forecast. For all councils, the total operating expenditure was \$18.1 billion. A 14% increase on what was budgeted (\$15.9 billion).

- 6.4 We believe a back-to-basics approach is correct as rural communities and residents struggle to meet the demands of cost of living and fuel crises. Federated Farmers supports Council in delivering essentials before discretionary or aspirational initiatives.
- 6.5 While central government has sought to restore discipline to spending, inflation at 3.1% remains above the target band of 1 - 3%. Headline inflation is projected to exceed 4% over the coming year, with Treasury forecasting that it could reach 7.4% before the end of the financial year.
- 6.6 The average rates increase set out in the LTP was 8.6%. Council is now proposing a revised increase of 6%, which is 2.6% lower than anticipated. The average increase of 6% proposed by the 2026-27 Draft Annual Plan is 2.9% higher than the current rate of inflation and 4% above target inflation.
- 6.7 Total operating revenue and expenditure in 2024-25 were \$41,559,595 and \$37,613,713 respectively. In 2026-27, total revenue is forecast to be \$56,496,640 and operating expenditure \$56,183,151. This represents a 36% increase in revenue and a 49% increase in expenditure. The change is primarily influenced by increased grants from central government. Hokitika Airport is set for a major transformation, with \$9.8 million in funding secured from the Regional Infrastructure Fund and a further \$6.6 million from Development West Coast. In this instance, we commend additional funding support as it relates to critical infrastructure. Under normal circumstances, we recommend that increases in both expenditure and revenue align with the target inflation rate.
- 6.8 Debt is forecast to be \$30,815,277. Federated Farmers understands this may refer to gross debt, although we are not certain this is the case. We ask Council to confirm whether this figure represents gross debt. We also encourage Council to reduce debt over time and believe it would be useful for Council to provide rural ratepayers with an indication of gross debt per rating unit.
- 6.9 Section 21 of the Local Government (Rating) Act provides that local authorities may set a Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) of up to 30% of the total rates revenue for that year at their discretion. Council is currently operating with a UAGC revenue of 15% of total rates revenue. Federated Farmers encourages Council to utilise the UAGC to its legislative maximum of 30%.
- 6.10 The current application of the differential is over complicated. We believe a simple table, comparable to the example below can be implemented. This differential should apply to all rating units associated with farming, across all types of charges.

Differential Category	Differential factor	Rev (\$000)
Standard (Residential)	1.0	
Farming	0.75	

- 6.11 To counter inflation and provide a stable economic base into the future, Federated Farmers recommends rates movements that align with target inflation (2%), and that do not exceed the target inflation band of 1% to 3%.

## 7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Our key concerns are land management regulations and rates paid by farmers. Our understanding is general rates are affected by location and use category (differentials), these are defined for each property.
- 7.2 Federated Farmers supports a simplified differential for farming and an increase to the UAGC. Federated Farmers acknowledges the need to increase tourist and worker accommodation. Clarifying farms won't be captured under fees and charges pertaining to subdivision, boundary adjustment, tourist or worker accommodation is win-win.
- 7.3 Federated Farmers thanks Council for the opportunity to engage in this process and would welcome the opportunity to participate in future rates reviews.

**ENDS**

Submission 72:

**Full Name:** Ann Jones

I do not support the proposed changes to the pool operating hours and do not support your preferred Option 1.

I support other potential alternatives that may achieve cost savings without unduly impacting the Hokitika Swimming Club and the wider swimming community on the West Coast.

I believe that the proposed reduction in hours will have wider impacts on the health and wellbeing of local children and young people. Swimming provides an important opportunity for regular physical activity, fitness, social connection, discipline, and participation in organised sport. Limiting access to these facilities risks reducing participation in healthy recreational activities and competitive sport opportunities for West Coast youth. The proposed reduction in hours is skewed towards impacting later afternoon and early evening access which is the key time period for when school children and adults can access the pool after school and work and to access lessons and organised swim club.

As a past committee member of Hokitika Swim Club I know that the proposed reduced hours, will significantly impact The Hokitika Swimming Club and Hokitika Swim School. The Swim Club coaches and volunteers typically work full-time and would be unable to be poolside before 5pm and therefore would not be able to fit in the needed 1-2 hour training sessions if the pool was closed at 6pm. This proposed reduction to the operating hours could lead to the demise of the Swimming Club. This would directly impact our young swimmers ability to be involved in this organised sport in both a participation and competitive nature. Hokitika Swimming Club is one of the three clubs that make up the Buller West Coast swimming region and any decision to reduce pool hours and limit Hokitika Swimming Club's ability to operate will have significant flow-on effects for the Greymouth and Westport Swimming Clubs, and consequently for competitive swimming across the entire West Coast region.

I believe the current proposed reduction is also designed and skewed towards impacting just the late afternoon / evening users rather than being designed in a more equitable manner across all pool users.

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## Submission 73:



Glacier Country Tourism Group Inc.  
P O Box 78, Franz Josef Glacier 7856

10<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### Westland District Council

Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842

By email: council@westlanddc.govt.nz

**Subject:** Submission on the Westland District Council Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027

Tēnā koutou,

Glacier Country Tourism Group (GCTG) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Westland District Council Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027. GCTG represents over 90 tourism businesses between Whataroa and Paringa, a significant contributor to the Westland economy.

GCTG's approach to this submission is collaborative. We want to work constructively with Council to ensure South Westland and its visitor economy are properly supported and represented in Council's planning and rating decisions.

We note with appreciation that Mayor Helen Lash attended the GCTG hui on 6 April 2026 and made two specific commitments, subsequently confirmed in GCTG's follow-up correspondence to the Mayor:

- To respond to GCTG's formal letter of January 2026 regarding the Waiho River threat to Franz Josef wastewater infrastructure, noting that new information was available.
- To arrange for Council staff to work with GCTG, Franz Josef and Fox Glacier Community Groups to review how the rates are presented and how their application to South Westland is reflected in the Annual Plan.

#### **A note on timing**

The Council staff session committed to by Mayor Lash on 6 April 2026 is scheduled for 21 May 2026. Annual Plan submissions close 10 May 2026. GCTG notes for the record that this submission on the Tourism Promotions Rate has therefore been prepared without the benefit of the rate explanation Council has committed to provide. GCTG requests that Council give specific weight to this when considering this submission.

Our specific requests are summarised below for Council's convenience, with supporting context in the sections that follow.

## Summary of Requests

*Full context for each request follows in the submission below.*

#	Topic	Request
W1	Wastewater	Honour the Mayor's commitment of 6 April 2026 and provide GCTG with a written briefing setting out Council's position on the updated Waiho River risk assessment as it relates to Franz Josef wastewater infrastructure, and what protective measures are currently in place.
W2	Wastewater	Confirm what capital provision is planned to address the Waiho River flood risk to Franz Josef wastewater infrastructure and what the timeline for action is.
T1	Tourism Rate	Publish a full annual breakdown of Tourism Promotions Rate expenditure by activity, with performance measures, in the Annual Plan - this information must not require an Official Information Act request to obtain.
T2	Tourism Rate	Commission a review of the Tourism Promotions Rate examining whether its stated purpose matches its actual expenditure and whether the rating basis is equitable given the geographic distribution of benefits.
T3	Tourism Rate	Provide specific answers to GCTG's governance questions regarding the Hokitika iSite and West Coast Wilderness Trail, including performance measures, decision-making framework, and the nature of the \$31,000 finance costs carried by the Trail.
T4	Tourism Rate	Confirm the GCTG allocation of \$13,000 will be made in 2026/2027 and document it in the adopted Annual Plan.
T5	Tourism Rate	Honour the Mayor's commitment of 6 April 2026 and arrange the Council staff session with GCTG, Franz Josef and Fox Glacier Community Groups. GCTG notes this session is scheduled after the submission deadline and requests Council give specific weight to this submission accordingly.
E1	Engagement	Provide a written response to each point in this submission before the Annual Plan is adopted in June 2026.
E2	Engagement	Establish a regular engagement mechanism between Council and GCTG so that rating and planning matters affecting South Westland are discussed in advance of consultation.

## Franz Josef Wastewater Infrastructure - Waiho River Flood Risk

The Franz Josef wastewater infrastructure is exposed to flood risk from the Waiho River. GCTG understands that a risk assessment has been updated which escalates the level of risk to this infrastructure. GCTG wrote formally to Mayor Lash in January 2026 seeking Council's position and planning in light of this updated assessment. A follow-up with Chief Executive Barbara Phillips resulted in a verbal commitment to provide information. At the GCTG hui on 6 April 2026, Mayor Lash committed to responding to GCTG's January letter.

If the wastewater system is compromised by a flood event, Franz Josef cannot operate as a visitor destination. The consequences for communities and businesses across Westland - and for the district's visitor economy - would be significant.

The 2026/2027 Annual Plan does not appear to include capital provision for Waiho River flood resilience. GCTG acknowledges that infrastructure decisions of this nature are complex and may involve multiple agencies. We ask that Council set out its position on the updated risk assessment and what action is planned in response.

## The Tourism Promotions Rate - Transparency and Equity

GCTG raised substantive concerns about the Tourism Promotions Rate in its Long-Term Plan submission of May 2025.

### Transparency

The Annual Plan's description of how \$415,831 of the Tourism Promotions Rate is spent is a single sentence naming three activities, with no allocation breakdown, no performance measures, and no reporting on outcomes. GCTG obtained a partial financial breakdown through an Official Information Act request in June 2025.

A further concern is the naming and description of the rate itself. The Tourism Promotions Rate is described in the Annual Plan as funding 'part, or all of' three activities - the West Coast Wilderness Trail, the iSite, and community development and assistance. No allocation between these activities is provided. GCTG cannot determine from the Annual Plan what proportion of the rate reaches each stated purpose, including what proportion constitutes the GCTG allocation. Where rate names and descriptions do not accurately reflect how funds are applied, ratepayers cannot assess whether the rate is being used for its stated purpose. GCTG requests that the rate description be updated to accurately reflect its application, with specific allocations disclosed.

### Equity

The LGOIMA response confirmed the following for the 2026 LTP year:

Activity	Rate Funding
West Coast Wilderness Trail	\$293,000
Hokitika iSite	\$273,000
GCTG allocation	\$13,000*

\*Not in Annual Plan - LGOIMA footnote only

Commercial operators across South Westland contribute to the Tourism Promotions Rate on the same capital-value basis as all other commercial operators in the district, with the highest-value commercial properties paying up to \$4,669 per year. The primary assets the rate funds are located outside South Westland. GCTG would welcome evidence of what benefit these assets generate for South Westland, and requests that Council measure and report on this as part of the rate accountability framework.

## iSite and Wilderness Trail

The Annual Plan describes the iSite as a Council community service alongside the library and swimming pool, yet it generates \$160,000 in additional revenue from fees, charges, and other receipts beyond its rate funding - while operators contributing to the Tourism Promotions Rate also pay fees to use the iSite's booking services. The Wilderness Trail carries \$31,000 in annual finance costs whose basis is not explained in the Annual Plan.

GCTG would welcome clarity on how both assets are governed, what performance measures apply, and how decisions about them are made. We have sought this information on a number of occasions and have not yet received clear answers.

## Engagement and Response

GCTG has submitted formally on Annual Plans and the Long-Term Plan for multiple consecutive years and has presented at hearings. We have found that concerns raised through this process have not been reflected in subsequent planning documents.

We appreciate the Mayor's direct engagement at the April hui and want to build on it. A regular engagement mechanism between Council and GCTG - outside of formal submission cycles - would allow rating and planning matters affecting South Westland to be worked through collaboratively in advance of consultation. GCTG is ready and willing to participate in such a process.

GCTG will not be presenting at the hearing this year. In lieu of presenting, GCTG requests that Council provide a written response to each of the requests set out in this submission before the Annual Plan is adopted.

Ngā mihi nui,



**Janelle Shaw**

Chairperson - Glacier Country Tourism Group

# Share your Feedback – Annual Plan 2026/2027

**Submissions close: 4pm, 10 May 2026** (no late submissions will be accepted)

**Submissions hearing: 9am, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026** (Day two will only be used if necessary)

We would like to know your thoughts about what we are proposing in our Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027.

Please **scan and email** this form to the Council. **Email:** [Consult@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Consult@westlanddc.govt.nz)

You can also **call** us with your submission and use the form to help you.

**Phone:** 03 756 9010

**Freephone:** 0800 474 834

Name Charlotte Mitchell Organisation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Address & phone number \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to speak to Council about my submission

- In the meeting in the Council Chambers
- Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)
- I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### Remittance of Rate Penalty

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

### Comments

We have regularly recieved other peoples rates bills to our address. Until the Council ensures their records are correct I do not believe this should change.

### Changes to Library Operating Hours

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

Comments I don't prefer any of the options.

I think the reduction in operating hours could be done differently to make it more convenient to the community. For example in Option 1, 2.5 hours is being saved by closing sooner. What if instead on a Monday the Library didn't open until 12pm and closing times remain the same (5:30pm). It would be the same time reduction without reducing the availability of library services for those who work fulltime.

### Changes to iSite Operating Hours

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

Comments

The statement "to better align with demand" surprises me as someone who provides accommodation. Would it not be better to open later & close later as that would align better with accommodation check-out times?

### Changes to Pool Operating Hours

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours.

#### Comments

The proposed change will impact the locals running the groups drastically for very little benefit. These groups would not be running at those times if it didn't suit those in the local community. The proposed change impacts three groups of pool users and the income generated from them. Have other options been considered? For example does the pool need to be open for every Public Holiday? Could extra income be generated by adding another spa so there is always one going? Could the facilities provided be advertised better to tourists?

### Changes to Museum Operating Hours

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

#### Comments

I would have preferred to have had statistical evidence provided to support the statement "to better align with seasonal visitor demand".

### Library Reserves

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.
- Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

Comments

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### Heritage Park

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

Comments

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### Review of fees and charges

Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.

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Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027

Reading through the proposed changes it has been stated that the options involving operating hours for the library, museum, and iSite reflect demand. However, without seeing any data, combined with my personal experience I am surprised. Then I become doubtful when the proposal for the pool is taken into account as in that situation actual community use of the facility is being disregarded in favour of cost savings.

The options presented for cost savings are all along the same line of closing sooner which makes them appear arbitrary, rather than considering each facility and the service it provides the community on its own. Have options to improve income generation from these assets been investigated rather than limiting community access to save money?

More pages can be attached if necessary

Please note, submissions will be publicly available on the council's website, through inclusion in council agendas, and/or retrievable by request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Personal contact details will be redacted under the Privacy Act 1993 or by request.

# Share your Feedback – Annual Plan 2026/2027

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You can also **call** us with your submission and use the form to help you.

**Phone:** 03 756 9010

**Freephone:** 0800 474 834

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Name Sheryl Evans Organisation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email [REDACTED] Address & phone number [REDACTED]

I would like to speak to Council about my submission

- In the meeting in the Council Chambers
- Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)
- I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

## Remittance of Rate Penalty

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

## Comments

you have no right to bankrupt pensioners  
with your overspending causing rate rises.  
Restrict your spending on nice to haves  
and stick to infrastructure needs of the  
ratepayers.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours.

**Comments**

In hindsight instead of a diesel boiler should be fueled by coal which is locally accesible, cheap ,and put diesel ,electricity,solar as a backup,would stop 3-6 month closure ,  
Where is your social community responsibility  
\* On Facebook Boiling point LTd put up a good alternative , please look in to it . \*  
Get innotive , upcycle, reduce, recyde  
plenty of waste oil here from garages  
and farms with used oil.  
Begin to be a forward thinking identity.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

Do the figures,work out what days are the quietest and close those days  
weekends should be open

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**Library Reserves**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.
- Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Comments**

~~It is accountancy fraud to take funds allocated for the Library to use to prop up other areas of council expenditure that have not performed as required. Individual areas of non performance should be addressed on their own merits but not by disguising through an allocated fund. Previous decisions to defer rate increases provide short term relief, Have a compounding effect over time, it is very shortsighted to not introduce the depreciation to the library fund, the effects being later on when money is needed to use on library infrastructure fitouts etc. Once you start setting this precedence you will not stop doing it and the library fund which is financially strong will be compromised by financial undermining. 0.31% is not significant savings in context with all the other areas for savings.~~

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**Heritage Park**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

**Comments**

~~this is another place that people can interact socially a good learning place for younger people to learn craft/ trades that are slowly dying .~~

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**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

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**Changes to iSite Operating Hours**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

**Comments**

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# Share your Feedback – Annual Plan 2026/2027

**Submissions close: 4pm, 10 May 2026** (no late submissions will be accepted)

**Submissions hearing: 9am, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026** (Day two will only be used if necessary)

We would like to know your thoughts about what we are proposing in our Draft Annual Plan 2026/2027.

Please **scan and email** this form to the Council. Email: [Consult@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Consult@westlanddc.govt.nz)

You can also **call** us with your submission and use the form to help you.

**Phone:** 03 756 9010

**Freephone:** 0800 474 834

Name Kristy Wilson Organisation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Email [Redacted] Address & phone number [Redacted]

I would like to speak to Council about my submission

- In the meeting in the Council Chambers
- Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)
- I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### Remittance of Rate Penalty

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

### Comments

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### Changes to Pool Operating Hours

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Pool users operate within standard opening hours
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours.

Comments

We love going to the pool, I think cutting hours back and readjusting activities to suit hours.

Suggestion, add another spa pool and make them a bit more private. I know a lot of people wanting a spa but feel very watched and on display where it is. make it more private. charge more!!

### Changes to Museum Operating Hours

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

Comments

May though to September,  
4 months should be maximin  
10:00 am / 3:00 pm  
this is standerd for alot of business  
in hokitika that cater for tourism.  
Saturday and Sunday keep closed over  
winter or, 10:00 / 1:00  
just like mitre 10

### Changes to Library Operating Hours

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

### Comments

Out of all of these the library is highly used all year around. myself and daughter go there at least 3 times a month, sometimes more, books, DVDs, awesome activities for children, computers. The staff are brilliant, they help so many people. last time i was there 1 staff was helping a man transfer his kiwi savor from Australia and another staff helping an elderly lady with her phone to do a booking / also access to printers is fantastic!!

### Changes to iSite Operating Hours

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.
- Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.
- Option 3: Status Quo, Council continues with the current operating hours.

### Comments

only needs to be open when there is tourist in town! I have been in tourism in hokitika 30 years! 4 months are very very quiet and most tourist shops are 10:00 am / 3:00 pm no sat or sun needed some business also shut completely June July!! I also agree on isite turning into a kiosk! most people book things and get info on

The internet now days. We need to move with the times

**Library Reserves**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.
- Option 2: Status Quo, continue to fund depreciation to the library reserve.

**Comments**

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**Heritage Park**

Your preferred option:

- Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.
- Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

**Comments**

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Submissions Received After 4:00pm  
May 10<sup>th</sup> 2026

Submission 77:

**Full Name** Paul & Lynley Truman

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

**Comments**

100% agree with this proposal.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

The potential benefit of approx. \$6,500 savings for a year do not outweigh this level of reduction in service, particularly for users who work until 5pm. It would be interesting to sight the statistics on the number of pool users after 5pm.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with seasonal visitor demand.

**Comments**

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

**Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

**Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

**Comments**

**Heritage Park**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to fund depreciation on Heritage Park buildings.

**Comments**

Is there a written agreement between "Heritage Park" and Council? The Community needs confirmation of this otherwise it is not worth taking this risk.

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

There are too many to review and compare in order to comment on this individually but many of them appear excessive. While we agree with User Pay for many services, the loss of revenue in Inspections and Administration due, in part, to increased competition from standalone BCAs indicates that Council's fees are not competitive. A reduction in the fees may actually result in increased revenue overall.

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

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Submission 78:

**Full Name** Reilly Enstrom

**I would like to speak to Council about my submission**

In the meeting in the Council Chambers

**Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to remit (refund) penalties where the rate payer pays within 7 days of the overdue notice.

**Comments**

I support Option 2. Allowing a short grace period for overdue payments seems like a fair and practical approach, particularly during times where many households and businesses are already managing increased financial pressure.

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

**Comments**

I support Option 2. As a parent and community member, I believe flexible evening pool access is very important for many local families. School, work, travel time, and family routines often make evening access the only practical option. The pool is also important for recreation, injury rehabilitation, exercise, mental wellbeing, and community connection, particularly during the colder months. I believe maintaining accessible learn-to-swim opportunities and community pool access has long-term benefits for the health, wellbeing, and safety of the Westland community.

**Changes to Library Operating Hours**

**Comments**

I support Option 3. Libraries are one of the few free and accessible community spaces available to families, children, and older residents. They provide opportunities for learning, quiet study, internet access, and community connection. As a homeschooling family, we particularly value having local spaces that encourage reading, education, and lifelong learning within the community.

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

I understand that reviewing fees and charges is necessary; however, I hope Council carefully considers the effect that larger increases can have on everyday families and community participation. Activities such as swimming, recreation, and community programmes are already a significant expense for many households. Keeping these opportunities reasonably accessible helps support healthier, more connected communities across Westland.

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Annual Plan. I appreciate the importance of managing costs responsibly, but I also believe strong communities rely on accessible local facilities, recreation opportunities, and spaces that support health, learning, and connection. I hope future decisions continue to consider not only financial savings, but also the long-term social and wellbeing benefits these services provide for Westland families and residents.

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Submission 79:

**Full Name** Sharon Savage

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

**Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

**Comments**

I do not support option 1 or reducing afternoon/evening hours - my children are in the swim club and the club will not be able to operate before 5pm due to our volunteer coaches working full time as well. We also swim during and after their swim lessons sometimes, and going earlier is not possible for us. I believe a lot of families and children will be impacted by these reduced hours. We have swum at several other pools on the coast and in Christchurch, and the Hokitika admission rates are lower than almost every other pool. Consider raising your single entry rates by \$0.50-\$1, and either hold or marginally increase the 10 visit concession card - this will help transfer some of the pool cost to single user entries (like visitors and tourists) who are not paying rates anyway. I would support other options that worked in with the swim school and swim club for either reduced hours on only certain days, or staggering the hours so that some mornings start later and end later in the day, others start earlier and end earlier if not other way to recoup those funds were possible.

**Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

**Comments**

but also work in with tourism companies to ensure bus arrivals and opportunities for large group entries are not hampered

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

#### **Comments**

consider staggered times though - for instance 1-2 evenings stay open until 5:30 or 6, but other days close at 4. give full time workers an evening or 2 where they can get to the library without needing the Saturday time only.

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Submission 80:

**Full Name** Kushla Tapper

I do not need to speak to Council about my submission

### **Remittance of Rate Penalty**

Option 1: Council no longer remits (refunds) interest charges on overdue rate demands.

#### **Comments**

### **Changes to Pool Operating Hours**

Option 2: Status Quo, Council continues to allow use of the pool outside standard operating hours

#### **Comments**

The use outside standard hours provides a huge community benefit to our health and well-being.

### **Changes to Museum Operating Hours**

Option 2: Further reduce operating hours to prioritise cost savings.

#### **Comments**

### **Changes to Library Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with usage and operating costs.

#### **Comments**

### **Changes to isite Operating Hours**

Option 1: Reduce operating hours to better align with demand and operating costs.

#### **Comments**

### **Library Reserves**

Option 1: Do not fund depreciation for the library reserve in the next financial year.

#### **Comments**

## **Heritage Park**

Option 1: Council no longer funds the depreciation on Heritage Park buildings and releases funds already held in reserve.

### **Comments**

**Please let us know what you think about our review of fees and charges.**

It makes sense to better align costs with the fees, but not a full user pays model, where it can encourage non compliance. Items where there is a wider community benefit for compliance e.g. waste dumping, animal control etc, should be part general rate and part user pays (fees and charges)

**Please let us know your other thoughts about what we are proposing in our Annual Plan 2026/2027**

Your summary presentation, FAQs, option comparison is very understandable and relatable. Well done.

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**END.**