



Candidate Info Pack

Westland District Council

Chief Executive Officer

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Westland District Council

Background

The Westland District Council, based on the remarkable West Coast of New Zealand, is surrounded by the majestic Southern Alps to the east, and the Tasman Sea to the West. Nature has endowed Westland with spectacular scenery, characterised by flowing icy glaciers like Fox and Franz Josef, rugged coastlines, bush-clad mountains, and crystal clear waterways encompassed by towering native forests.

The district's population is approximately 8,750, with 3,600 living in the main township of Hokitika. The rest of Westland's population reside in the smaller townships spread throughout the Westland District. These settlements include the townships of Fox, Franz Josef, Otira, Whataroa, Ross, Harihari and Kumara.

With State Highway 6 running right through the middle of the District, Westland is not only one of the main gateways to the West Coast, but is also one of the most scenic driving routes New Zealand has to offer. While the District shares its boundaries with eight neighbouring regions, this has made the District a key logistical route for freight and tourism.

Although it contains a small population, Westland has a heritage of tenacity, innovation and progressiveness. The District's economy continues to grow with the ongoing strength and growth of the agriculture sector, while tourism continues to expand, currently contributing \$340m to the economy.

Westland is home to some of New Zealand's most spectacular weather and natural landscapes. Although the District has embraced the notion of being a little bit "wild", the Westland District continues to grow and play a major part not only in West Coast region, but as a key contributor to national economy.

The District



The Westland District covers a large majority of the West Coast and is situated in the south of the region. Although large in land mass, the District contains many small townships, making it one of the most sparsely populated areas in New Zealand.

The District consists of a long thin strip of land between the Southern Alps and the Tasman Sea. The low-lying areas near the coast are a mixture of pastoral farmland and temperate rainforest. Westland rainforests, coupled with its exposed coastal setting, attracts a wet and cool climate, although it is common that clear and sunny weather can sometimes last for weeks.

Agriculture – The Westland District prides itself on its rural roots, with agriculture being one of the biggest contributors to the local economy. Although the wider region is renowned for its mining industry, Westland has had to differentiate itself and has grown a strong agriculture base. The district contains the Westland Milk Products processing plant, located in Hokitika, which is the largest employer in Westland, and currently services 393 local Dairy farms.

Fast Facts on Westland

- Total Land Area – 1,188,017 ha
- Rateable Area – 140,604 ha
- No. of Rateable Assessments – 6,642
- Average general rates per rateable property - \$1,010
- Number of Bridges – 269
- Roading network – 673km of road (57.4km urban, 616km rural)
 - 371.1km sealed
 - 302.3km unsealed

Getting There



Air

- Daily flights from Hokitika to Christchurch



Car

- 35 min drive to Greymouth
- 2 hours to Westport
- 3.5 hours to Christchurch via Scenic Arthur's Pass



Bus

- Coach and shuttle services operation daily to multiple locations



Train

- TranzAlpine Rail Journey run daily from Greymouth to Christchurch with a bus connection to Hokitika



Community Profile

Westland residents enjoy a relaxed quality of life in a beautiful environment, with a strong focus on family, outdoors and the rural way of living.

With this comes a strong sense of community, and the real small-town New Zealand feeling which characterise the rural communities throughout the country.

The main township of Hokitika boasts a vibrant town centre which is easy to walk around and includes many local boutique shops and cafes being popular amongst locals and tourists.

Westland has a friendly and comfortable atmosphere with nature being at the forefront wherever you turn. Whether it be hiking and backpacking through the mountainous countryside, navigating the stunning scenic routes, or experiencing the Districts' natural beauties; Westland has it all!



Tourism

Westland is one of New Zealand's biggest draw cards in the Tourism Sector. Things that can be found within the District range from flowing icy glaciers and bush-clad mountains, to rugged beaches scattered with driftwood and crystal clear lakes and rivers surrounded by native forests.

Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers' which lie in the southern part of the District are one of the most well-known beauties Westland has to offer. These natural attractions are mainly accessed by helicopter flights, with guided walks included in this journey.

The Hokitika Wildfoods Festival is an annual event held in Hokitika and regularly gains global media attention because of the unusual edible items available for consumption. Some of the past food offerings available at this festival have included Huhu grubs, Gorse flower wine and Lambs' tails.

Schools

Westland contains many primary schools which are based throughout the entire district. The area also has two state secondary schools including Westland High School; the districts largest secondary school based in Hokitika, and South Westland Area School, a composite school which encompasses both primary and secondary levels of education, and is based in the southern town of Harihari.

For tertiary education, Tai Poutini Polytech offers many courses throughout the West Coast, and has their main campus located in Greymouth. A smaller learning outpost is situated in Hokitika where a handful of courses are can be taken.



Mayor & Councillors



Mayor Bruce Smith was newly elected in 2016 to lead the Westland District Council. His main objective is ensuring that the council delivers the highest level of service to the ratepayer in the most responsible and respectful way. He wants the council to work for the ratepayer, ensuring there is greater transparency and clarity around Council processes and projects.

He is especially excited about the District's performance in both the tourism and agriculture sector; through sound Council leadership and management the district can drive growth and efficiency for Westland.

"We have an experienced group of councillors who are steering the council to deliver high-quality services. We as a council are currently facing a big strain on our local infrastructure, given the growth that is occurring, so this issue and those associated with it need to be addressed. We are seeking a chief executive officer who has proven leadership skills and sound financial management to deliver excellent core services to the greatest value to Westland ratepayers. We want the council to be trusted and respected by the public, and we can only do this by improving how we deliver Council's core services."

Councillors

The Westland District Council is led by a Mayor and eight Councillors that were elected in October 2016. They will hold office for a three year term.

The elected Council is responsible for determining local legislation and defining the overall vision for the district

Northern Ward

Cr Durham Havill

Cr Graeme Olson

Cr Jane Neale

Hokitika Ward

Deputy Mayor Latham Martin

Cr Des Routhan

Cr Latham Martin

Southern Ward

Deputy Mayor Helen Lash

Cr Gray Eatwell



The Council

The Westland District Council was formed in 1989 following the amalgamation of Westland County Council and Hokitika Borough Council. The Council offices are located in Hokitika

Vision

Westland District Council will facilitate the development of communities within its district through delivery of sound infrastructure, policy and regulation.

The Vision will be achieved by:

- Involving the community and stakeholders.
- Delivering core services that meet community expectations and demonstrate value and quality.
- Proudly promoting, protecting and leveraging our historic, environmental, cultural and natural resource base to enhance lifestyle and opportunity for future generations.

Key Metrics

The council has total operating revenues of circa \$23.37 million. For the year end June 2016, the Council reported an operating surplus of \$764,000.

With 53 FTE’s, the Council has a wide range of projects and initiatives for the diversity of the Westland community.

Council Executive Management

The Mayor and Councillors employ the Chief Executive who, in turn, manages Council staff. The Chief Executive heads a team of three senior managers, each of whom manages key areas of council operation.

Council staff provides the elected Council with policy advice and implements policies under the direction of the Chief Executive. The staff initiates methods and means of achieving the goals to implement the policies set down by Council.

Executive Structure

