Westland's Drinking Water, Stormwater and Wastewater

Find out more about each water service to understand what it takes to deliver safe and reliable drinking water, manage the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater, and handle stormwater drainage to reduce flood risk.

Who manages drinking water, wastewater and stormwater in Westland?

West District Council manages drinking water, wastewater and stormwater through a combination of in-house teams and external contractors.

$81.4m

(Replacement value as of June 2024)

$51.0m

(Replacement value as of June 2024)

$47.9m

(Replacement value as of June 2024)

Drinking Water

9 Treatment plants

45 Reservoirs

134km Pipes

What is involved?

Water is an essential need for everyone in the community to be able to live, work, and play. Council provides drinking water for both domestic and commercial users. This keeps the taps at home running, enables businesses large and small to operate, and supplies community facilities.

This involves collecting water, treating it and delivering it to properties across the district. These processes are regulated through numerous, legislation, guidelines and standards that Council must adhere to.

To ensure no disruptions, Council monitors the water quality and the water supplies in its reservoirs. If there are issues with drinking water quality, it is Council's responsibility to alert the public through a boil water notice.

How is it paid for?

Properties with Council's residential drinking water connections pay an annual charge per rating unit for drinking water services. Commercial businesses using our drinking water are charged on their usage via a water meter.

What does it cost?

2,924 residential properties in the Westland District are serviced with water across nine water supply schemes: Kumara, Arahura, Hokitika, Ross, Harihari, Whataroa, Franz Josef, Fox Glacier and Haast.

Over the course of the next nine years, Council has budgeted to invest $10.96 million into renewing parts of our drinking water infrastructure, $680,000 on expanding and upgrading its drinking water infrastructure and has earmarked $16.99 million to deliver drinking water to your tap.

What are the challenges?

- One of the main challenges is prioritising renewals of aging infrastructure. Assets are reaching the end of their life at the same time, which is requiring high investment levels, prioritising these renewals ensures the distribution of investment.
- We also need to undertake replacements of mains pipes, valves and fire hydrants. in our reticulation network. This will mitigate the 'bow wave' of renewals. Pipes constructed of Asbestos Cement (AC) and PVC are prioritised for these replacements.
- The increasing cost of 3Waters operations is another major challenge. We have to balance the costs of capital projects and operations and maintenance. These increasing costs are driven by increasing costs of contractors and compliance.

Wastewater

4 Wastewater schemes

10 Pump stations

56km Pipes

What is involved?

Council is responsible for the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater from urban areas connected to wastewater networks. This includes management, operations and maintenance of a number of wastewater pump stations, treatment plans, oxidation ponds and pipelines. Wastewater is produced by anything at home or at a business that drains into the wastewater system via sinks, showers, washing machines and toilets. Council operates four wastewater treatment plants in Hokitika, Franz Josef, Fox Glacier and Haast. Under the Resource Management Act, Council requires a resource consent to discharge wastewater into any river or other waterbody. Resource consent has conditions that must be met which relate to the physical environment and the quality of the discharge. These consents expire and must be renewed.

How is it paid for?

Properties with Council's residential wastewater connections pay an annual charge per rating unit for wastewater services. Commercial businesses using our wastewater are charged per pan.

What does it cost?

2,224 residential properties in the Westland District are serviced with wastewater across four wastewater supply schemes: Hokitika, Franz Josef, Fox Glacier and Haast.

Over the course of the next nine years, Council has budgeted to invest $47.78 million into renewing parts of our wastewater infrastructure, $582,500 on expanding and upgrading its wastewater infrastructure and has earmarked $5.71 million to dispose of wastewater from urban areas across Westland.

What are the challenges?

- One of the main challenges is prioritising renewals of aging infrastructure. Assets are reaching the end of their life at the same time, which requires high investment levels, prioritising these renewals ensures the distribution of investment.
- We also need to undertaken replacements of mains pipes and manholes in our reticulation network. This will mitigate the 'bow wave' of renewals. We have included the cost of CCTV footage in our Long-Term Plan so we can prioritise replacements.
- We have expiring resource consents for our Wastewater Treatment Plants. Consents for discharges from all four of our wastewater treatment plants are due to expire within the Long-Term Plan period or just outside. Renewals of these consents will require significant investment in our wastewater infrastructure due to technological advancements and changes in environmental regulations.

Stormwater

1 Stormwater schemes

6 Pump stations

46km Pipes

What is involved?

Stormwater is excess rainfall or water that does not soak into the ground or runs off hard surfaces such as roofs, driveways and roads that collects into the roadside kerb. Council is responsible for collecting and managing stormwater in the district to protect the health and property of the community.

Stormwater in Westland is not treated and is discharged into the river and the sea.

Stormwater along State Highways is managed by Waka Kotahi, however. Rural land drainage and natural waterways, including creeks, rivers and streams, are managed by West Coast Regional Council in partnership with private property owners.

What does it cost?

Properties in Hokitika are serviced by a stormwater network.

Over the course of the next nine years, Council has budgeted to invest $5.72 million into renewing parts of our stormwater infrastructure, $178,000 on expanding and upgrading its stormwater infrastructure and has earmarked $1.29 million to keep the stormwater network operating.

How is it paid for?

Reticulated stormwater is only available in Hokitika, and charged for under a general rate, with the remaining townships having rural drainage.

What are the challenges?

- One of the main challenges is prioritising renewals of aging infrastructure. Assets are reaching the end of their life at the same time, which requires high investment levels, prioritising these renewals ensures the distribution of investment.
- Additionally, climate change is expected to impact on our system capacity. We are expecting higher intensity short duration rainfall which will challenge the stormwater systems capacity.

Please note the financial figures in this document do not include inflation.