EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF WESTLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY, 3 AUGUST 2026 COMMENCING AT 1.02 PM

The Council Meeting was live streamed to the Westland District Council YouTube Channel and presentations were made available on the Council Website.

1. KARAKIA TĪMATANGA
OPENING KARAKIA

The opening Karakia was led by Councillor Maitland.

2. MEMBERS AND APOLOGIES

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

NGĀ WHAKAPAAHA
APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor Walker, Councillor Manera, and Kaiwhakahaere Madgwick for late attendance.

Moved Councillor Munns, seconded Councillor Maitland and **Resolved** that the apologies from Councillor Walker, Councillor Manera, and Kaiwhakahaere Madgwick be received and accepted.

INTRODUCTIONS:
Her Worship the Mayor introduced Ashley Stuart, Project Lead for the Head Start programme, and Sarah Polaschek joining digitally from Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions & Transport (MCERT).

Staff present
B. Phillips, Chief Executive; J. Birnie, Strategy and Transformation Manager; S. Hewett, Governance Administrator.

3. WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Interest Register had been circulated to the Mayor and Councillors, and no changes have been made this month.

4. PŪRONGO KAIMAHI
STAFF REPORTS

Head Start Pathway

The Chief Executive introduced the report, noting that Ms. Polaschek is only able to attend for a limited time and invited councillors to ask any questions.

The key questions were addressed as follows:

- The proposal specifically outlines the additional resources that the West Coast would require to achieve its outcomes, therefore, should the government accept the proposal as it stands approval of the additional funding would also be implicit.

Councillor Manera attended the meeting at 1:08pm.

- The proposal will either be accepted as is or rejected and council will be placed in the backstop process rather than enter a negotiation process.
    - Therefore, if the proposal is accepted by the government, and only 2 out of the 3 councils included agree to it, during the detailed design phase the expectation would be that the 2 councils still incorporate all 3 councils in its design.
- There will be an opportunity to make changes during the detailed design phase after the investigative work is done.
- Should Westland District Council be placed into the backstop process it is unlikely that the government will consider the unique issues that the West Coast faces.

Ms. Polaschek left the meeting at 1:20pm and did not return.

- Council should receive an indication early in the process as to whether the additional resource requested will be granted from MCERT or not, and if not then a report will come back to council to assess its viability.
- Should the proposal be accepted the first part of the detailed design phase will be focussed on the financials.

Kaiwhakahaere Madgwick joined the meeting digitally at 1:25pm.

- Concerns were raised about the process and that councils are being asked to make a decision before any feasibility studies have taken place. It was noted that approval to submit the Head Start proposal does not commit the council to establishing a unitary authority or approve any one form of final representation, only that the detailed design work can commence if government approves it.

Councillor Walker joined the meeting digitally at 1:35pm.

- Councillors were assured that, should the proposal be accepted, once the investigative analysis work has been completed in the detailed design phase a report will come back to each council to approve next steps.

Moved Councillor Martin, seconded Councillor Munns and **Resolved** that:

1. The report be received.
2. Council approves the Draft West Coast Local Government Reform Head Start Outline Proposal for joint submission by Buller District Council, Grey District Council and Westland District Council to MCERT by 9 August 2026.

3. Council notes that approval does not establish a unitary authority or approve final representation, local-board, rating, asset, debt, staffing, service delivery, office, transition or implementation arrangements; this would be developed in the next phase of work.
4. Council notes that the proposal seeks Government and MCERT specialist support and coordination for the evidence and detailed-design programme, and that any material unbudgeted Council expenditure would require separate approval.
5. ~~Council notes that if Council approves the recommendation~~ If approved Council will[1]:
    a. If accepted, commence the detailed design phase, including the five agreed workstreams, independent financial and organisational analysis, and development of governance, representation and funding arrangements.
    b. Return the outcomes of the detailed design and community consultation to Council for further consideration before any final implementation decisions are made.
6. Council authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive to approve minor editorial or factual amendments that do not materially alter the proposal, and to sign and submit the final proposal on behalf of Council.

The Motion was put to vote and carried unanimously.

MEETING CLOSED AT 1.45 PM

Next Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 August 2026 at 1.00 pm
Council Chambers, 36 Weld Street, Hokitika and via Zoom

Confirmed by:

Her Worship the Mayor **Date: 27 August 2026**
Chair

[1] Wording amended at the 27 August 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting by Council resolution.