

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY LAUNCHED

A roadmap to guide economic development on the West Coast over the coming decades has been officially launched - Te Whanaketanga Te Tai Poutini West Coast Strategy 2050.

Te Whanaketanga steering group chair, Johny O'Donnell, said the strategy is about "planting new seeds and nurturing existing ones to help shape a future for the Coast that is sustainable, inclusive and prosperous."

"It's a strategy that's an enduring roadmap, not a detailed plan where every step is defined, but a blueprint that will guide the West Coast over the next 30 years," Mr O'Donnell said.

The development of the strategy was facilitated by Development West Coast.

Over 150 people from across the West Coast participated in workshops held to design the strategy. This included the initial contributions of over 20 young Coasters who were instrumental in setting the direction and tone of the strategy.

The workshops that were held to shape the foundation for the strategy included businesspeople, central government, local government, unions, mana whenua and the wider community.

Mr O'Donnell said there was engagement from every corner of the Coast, and from people from all walks of life.

"It doesn't belong to any one organisation. It's a strategy that is of the Coast by the Coast and represents that collective commitment and aspiration for the future."

Te Whanaketanga is endorsed by the four West Coast councils, manua whenua and Development West Coast with a collective commitment "to unlock the potential of Te Tai Poutini (the West Coast) by carving our own path, front footing the

change required and working in partnership with open minds and a solution-based approach to the wero (challenges) we face."

With the promotion of social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, Te Whanaketanga will deliver on the intergenerational outcomes comprised of three key missions: build confidence, diversify and strengthen our economy, and strengthen our communities.

These distinct missions contain 11 priority projects and 23 actions that have been identified through the strategy process.

Mr O'Donnell said while the framework of the strategy is enduring, the actions are expected to evolve and change over time.

"There is a really healthy list of actions that we are focusing on right now to get wins on the board and build momentum in the implementation of the strategy."

The steering group for Te Whanaketanga will meet next month to initiate this work.

Regional Economic Development Manager Jo Birnie said Te Whanaketanga is a critical tool in enabling us to shape the future we want and create it together.

"It sets out our shared vision for improving the lives of all Coasters and shows us the pathway forward to achieving our aspirations as a community,"



www.tewhanaketanga.nz/

UPCOMING EVENTS



Co.Starters Karamea | Online

9 March - 11 May, 5:30pm - 8:30pm | \$400 + GST
10 week business startup & development programme
Register online at www.dwc.org.nz



Co.Starters Hokitika | Westland RSA

22 March - 24 May, 5:30pm - 8:30pm | \$500 + GST
10 week business startup & development programme
Register online at www.dwc.org.nz

DWC ATTRACTS EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR PATHWAY ADVISORS

The West Coast has six new Pathway Advisors to help enable our youth to be better informed and to prepare for their future.

10.4 percent of 15-24-year-olds on the West Coast are currently 'not in education, employment, or training' (NEET), according to data from Infometrics.

DWC Vocational Coordinator Latham Martin said those in the 'Education to Employment' sector identified a gap in the provision of pathways advice and guidance within secondary schools and beyond.

As a response, DWC successfully applied for external funding from Lotteries Funding for Change and the Todd Foundation to cover the costs of staffing for Pathway Advisors for a period of 12 months to help address the identified gaps.

Working with West Coast secondary schools, BullerREAP and WestREAP, six Pathway Advisors have been engaged across the region: Shoshy Perchig-Gibli (Greymouth High School), Jane Brownie (Westland High School), Lisa Morris (Reefton Area School), Michelle Maiava (Karamea High School), Jenny Keogan (Westland and Grey District NEETs, South Westland Area School, John Paul II High School) and Mary-Rose O'Loughlin (Buller District NEETs).

Yvonne Simpson has also been appointed as Project Coordinator, to mentor and monitor the Pathway Advisors in providing all West Coast school leavers with a transition plan and appropriate support.

Latham Martin said the Pathway Advisors will strength the support available to students and NEETs on the Coast.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support from Lotteries and the Todd Foundation, which has allowed us to put in place a great team of Pathway Advisors across the Coast.

"Pathways Advisors will help connect students with already existing services to ensure the best support available for each and every student on the West Coast."

westcoast.co.nz/education-to-employment/



Greg Bell (Grey Ford), Brent Oldham (DWC Trustee), Harvey and Beverly Sara.

HARVEY RECEIVES HIS FORD RANGER

Harvey Sara, the 87 year-old winner of DWC's 'Car up for Jobs' initiative, was lost for words when his brand new Ford Ranger arrived.

DWC partnered with Grey Ford in an effort to boost West Coast vaccination rates, with doubled vaxxed Coasters going in the draw to win a major prize of a brand-new Ford Escape or 2WD Ranger.

West Coast Economic update

(2021)

Source: Infometrics

Employment

West Coast jobs	2020:	2021:
	16,713	17,398 ▲685 jobs

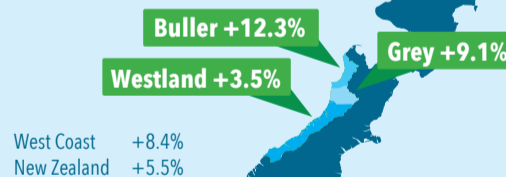
Growth	West Coast	+4.1%
	New Zealand	+1.7%
	Buller District	+1.2%
	Grey District	+0.0%
	Westland District	+9.7%

House Values

2021 house values	West Coast	New Zealand
	\$327,527	\$1,028,097

Growth	West Coast	+29.8%
	New Zealand	+27.8%
	Buller District	+30.8%
	Grey District	+31.5%
	Westland District	+25.0%

Economic Growth



GDP

West Coast GDP	2020:	2021:
	\$2,269m	\$2,351m +\$82m

Consumer Spending

Growth	West Coast	+2.5%
	New Zealand	+5.0%

House Sales

Growth	West Coast	+6.5%
	New Zealand	+3.5%

Residential Consents

Growth	West Coast	+89.6%
	New Zealand	+24.0%