

MAY 2025



Mayor's comment

The past few years have presented significant challenges for our district and New Zealand as a whole. From dealing with the cost of living crisis to navigating economic uncertainty, many in our community have faced difficulties. Despite these obstacles, Grey District continues to move forward, driven by the resilience and strong sense of community that defines us.

We are now entering a critical phase with the consultation on our draft Long Term Plan (LTP) for 2025-2034. This plan sets the direction for our district over the next decade, and it's important that it reflects the needs and priorities of our community, given the resources available. As part of this consultation, we are focusing on two key issues that directly impact the services we provide: the maintenance and renewal of footpaths and cycle paths, and the future of the Harbour Board and History House Museum buildings.

Key Issue 1: Funding for Footpaths and Cycleways

Council has traditionally received funding from Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) to support its roading programme. For the 2024-2027 period, our allocation under the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) is less than requested, but more than the previous triennium. However, the way this funding is split has shifted due to the Government's focus on roads of National Significance, with no such roads listed on the West Coast.

As a result, some areas of funding have increased (such as road maintenance), while others have seen reductions, including the maintenance of footpaths and cycleways. In response, we are proposing two options for managing this challenge:

- **Option 1:** Provide an additional \$250,000 of rates funding per annum to maintain the current level of service for footpaths and cycleways.
- **Option 2:** Reduce the programme to fit within the available funding, which would result in a decrease in the quality of service.

Based on the 2023 Resident Satisfaction Survey, where 58% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with footpath maintenance, we recommend Option 1 as the preferred choice. This will allow footpath and cycleway renewal programmes to continue at their current level, focusing on priority areas with the greatest need.

**PLAN TO DELIVER
&
DELIVER TO PLAN**

**O U R
L O N G
T E R M
P L A N**

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TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Key Issue 2: The Future of the Harbour Board and History House Museum Buildings

Council currently owns two earthquake-prone buildings on Gresson Street, Greymouth: the Harbour Board building and the History House Museum building. Neither building is required for Council operations, and the cost to upgrade them to meet earthquake strengthening requirements is significant.

- **Harbour Board Building:** Previously used for Port Operations, this building is no longer in use, and the associated Port staff have relocated. It is considered surplus to Council needs.
- **History House Museum Building:** This building operated as a museum until 2017, when it was closed due to safety concerns. It remains unused and unlikely to be needed for future Council operations.

Given the high cost of earthquake strengthening and Council's other priorities, we are proposing to sell both buildings. The proceeds from these sales would go into the Land Sale Reserve and could be used for other community priorities. The option of selling these buildings would allow others to repurpose them or redevelop the land, breathing new life into these sites.

We invite you to provide feedback on these two key issues during the consultation period from **1 May to 31 May 2025**. Your feedback will help us make decisions that best serve the community and ensure we are prioritising the right investments for the future.

I encourage all residents to read the full consultation document and share your thoughts. Together, we can continue to build a thriving, resilient, and connected Grey District.



Tania Gibson
Mayor



www.haveyoursay.greymouth.govt.nz/ltf

Investment in Greymouth Port Strengthens Grey District

The Grey District is set for economic growth with a major investment in Greymouth Port infrastructure.

Upgrades at Greymouth Port are set to enhance resilience, particularly at the Blaketown Pens area, a key site for loading and unloading. The improvements include better infrastructure, added security, and an ablation block, directly addressing the needs of the fishing industry.

This work is funded by \$2.3 million from the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF), administered by Kānoa – the Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit, with an additional \$1.2 million from Development West Coast. The investment is part of a wider \$15.3 million effort to improve infrastructure across the West Coast, reinforcing the region's economic vitality.

Mayor Tania Gibson thanked the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) for their support, emphasizing the importance of strengthening local infrastructure.



Read the full article here



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Ask at the front desk or call 03 768 5597 to make an appointment.

West Coast Connect

Your local community directory

West Coast Connect is a community service provided by Family Start West Coast/Buller to connect and inform the Te Tai o Poutini community.

The West Coast Connect directory offers searchable listings of community groups, support services, and organisations available on the West Coast, helping locals find the support they need.



Visit West Coast Connect to explore the directory and discover the many services available in our region.

CIVIC AWARDS

2025 Civic Awards Nominations Open 19 May 2025!

Nominate someone who's made an outstanding voluntary contribution to the Grey District in areas like recreation, social welfare, education, and more!

For more details, scan the QR code or visit our website: www.greydc.govt.nz/03your-community/civic-awards

Nominations close: Friday 11 July 2025

Contact: catriona.bayliss@greydc.govt.nz.



COAST EMPLOYMENT EXPO

Discover | Explore | Connect

DISCOVER LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES, EXPLORE LOCAL POSSIBILITIES,
CONNECT WITH LOCAL INDUSTRIES

Westport / Kawatiri Event

Date: Monday 26 May 2025

Location: NBS Theatre

Greymouth / Māwhera Event

Date: Wednesday 28 May 2025

Location: Westland Recreation Centre



Welcoming all Community, Kura and Rangatahi!

For more info contact Jade Mahuika - jade@dwc.org.nz

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of the **West Coast**



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The Warmer Kiwi Homes Programme provides grants of 80-90% off the cost of insulation and 80% off the cost of a heatpump or wood/pellet burner, up to \$3450.

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- Own and live in your home
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Check today and prepare to live in a warmer, drier house this winter.

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