

## TOP REGIONAL INSIGHTS



### A new economic development strategy is being developed for Tai Poutini.

Development West Coast (DWC) are in the process of reviewing its economic development strategy, and they held a successful hui in late June 2021 with close to 100 attendees. The outcome was positive, with a draft future vision, mission, and key strategic priorities identified, and a second workshop planned for early August 2021.

**There is ongoing hardship for South Westland tourism and hospitality operators.** The ongoing lack of visitors to the Glacier Country with the latest COVID-19 Australian border lockdowns is hurting operators. The ongoing funding for the local Jobs for Nature initiative is crucial to retaining employees in those businesses. The Department of Conservation West Coast office has made a bid for further funding to allow the programme to continue for another two years.

**Tai Poutini Polytechnic is leading the way as the first in NZ to partner with the national online learning provider – NZ Open Polytechnic.** Under the partnership, learners will be able to enrol in Open Polytechnic's online courses while also being able to access study support services at Tai Poutini Polytechnic's Greymouth and Westport campuses. This includes access to health and study support, library and computer facilities, plus all the benefits of campus life and activity.

## TRENDS AT A GLANCE



**450** The increase in the number of filled jobs from May 2020 compared to May 2021.

(Source: Statistics NZ, Monthly Employment Indicators)



**40** The increase in the number of people receiving the Jobseeker benefit between April-May 2021. This is the first time since December that the number of recipients increased month to month.

(Source: MSD, Monthly Benefit Update, May 2021)



**-110** The decrease in the number of people on Employer Assisted Temporary Work visas between Jun 2020 and Jun 2021.

(Source: Immigration NZ, 2021)

## TOP LABOUR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. The annual West Coast Pathways Career Expo was recently held in Greymouth,** where over 40 tertiary providers and businesses were able to showcase career opportunities to school students from across the Coast. The successful event was led by the Tai Poutini Polytechnic, and they provided free bus transport for students with inspirational guest speaker William Pike.
- 2. Coast Connect is an exciting new way to link job hunters with Coast-based training opportunities and local jobs.** It is funded by Tai Poutini Polytechnic and is specifically designed for the West Coast. It is based through an app which is designed to address the issue of young people leaving the region to look for employment elsewhere. Polytechnic staff also help with interview skills and CVs.
- 3. The Fishing Academy Big Day Out was a massive success, with 16 enrolments for a Trades Academy course** which starts at the end of this term. Facilitated by West Coast Trades Academy, the day gave students from across the Region the opportunity to learn about training and job opportunities in the Fishing Industry.

## TOP LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES

- 1. There is growing demand for construction worker training in Buller** to help with retaining workers in the district. Tai Poutini Polytechnic are investigating whether it is feasible to run this course in Buller to support the gap.
- 2. There is continuing difficulty in recruiting experienced farm workers and labourers.** Reports are increasing of competition amongst the larger farms for workers and labourers, and we expect to see a shift in wages and better working conditions as a result.
- 3. Lack of aged care facilities is a key issue facing the Coast.** With the second highest aging population in NZ, the lack of retirement housing and aged care facilities are compelling older persons to leave the Coast. Reports are that many are leaving to take advantage of the Christchurch and Nelson retirement villages and facilities.
- 4. Youth on the Coast are saying they will not stay.** The DWC recently held an economic development strategy forum for Youth. Of the 22 participants only one said they would still be living on the Coast in the next 30 years, while two were unsure. Reasons included a perceived lack of jobs and lifestyle opportunities.

## TE TAI O POUTINI | WEST COAST REGION

By the end of 2022 over 3,000 workers will be required to meet the demand for the construction and infrastructure sectors – with an estimated shortfall of 2,400 workers

Coal prices are on the rise, with Stockton mine back to a five day roster to meet demand

We are pleased to announce the permanent Co-Chairs for the RSLG are Lisa Tumahai and Graeme Neylon

## OUR FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS:

- Transitioning to the permanent Regional Skills Leadership Group and ensuring appropriate membership representation of iwi, community, workers, sectors and local government
- Preparing the foundation work for the development of Te Tai o Poutini | West Coast Regional Workforce Plan.