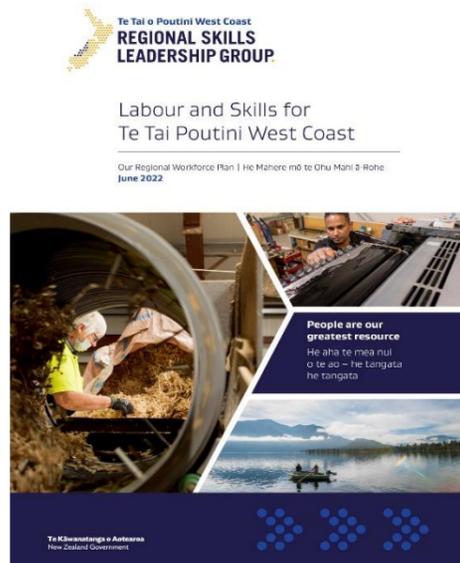


SPOTLIGHT ON LAUNCH OF TE TAI POUTINI REGIONAL WORKFORCE PLAN



The Te Tai Poutini West Coast Regional Workforce Plan (RWP) was successfully launched in Greymouth on 26 July 2022. The event was hosted by Tai Poutini Polytechnic. To view a copy of the plan and the supporting document, visit our website: mbie.govt.nz/tai-poutini-rslg

The launch was well received with a range of regional representatives present, including the Greymouth and Buller Mayors. The RWP has generated plenty of conversation and media coverage across the region, with a number seeking to be part of the solutions and action subgroups going forward.

The RWP builds on the region's economic strategy – Te Whanaketanga 2050. The focus of the RWP is to ensure everyone has access to the skills, education and training they need to find sustainable employment in the region, and that businesses have access to the people they need to thrive.

Over the coming year 2022/2023, the RSLG members along with key partners will be working to implement actions. A key focus will be on ensuring that there is agreement on the actions and that everyone is working together towards a common goal.



RSLG Co-Chairs Lisa Tumahai and Graeme Neylon

TRENDS AT A GLANCE



GDP in the region increased by 4.2% over the year to June 2022 – well above the national rate of 0.9%.



Over the past year there have been 129 new filled jobs in Te Tai Poutini. Job numbers have risen from 14,509 in June 2021 to 14,638 in June 2022 (Statistics NZ). Job growth in all three districts has largely been driven by the construction industry.



House values on the West Coast in June 2022 were up 33.7% from June 2021, the highest growth in the country. This rise reflects climbing house values across the entire region, due to the continued housing supply shortage. Building consents are also strong, with both residential and non-residential consents growing faster than the national average, at 66.5%pa and 31.6%pa respectively.

TOP LABOUR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. The success of Jobs for Nature in South Westland has generated interest in a similar longer term programme.** A hui of key stakeholders was held at Fox Glacier last month to discuss how the region could capitalise on the success of the Jobs for Nature programme. The programme enabled employers to retain staff in full time roles in South Westland and, importantly, kept them connected to their community. A working group has been set up to work on how to develop a more enduring Jobs for Nature-style programme.
- 2. Development West Coast's (DWC) tertiary scholarships are currently open for applications.** Four scholarships are available – valued up to \$32,500 per student – to help fund 3-4 years of tertiary study. One scholarship is available per District, with an additional regional scholarship. The scholarships also offer summer work and guaranteed employment in Te Tai Poutini on completion of the student's tertiary study.
- 3. The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, and Education to Employment Broker funding has been extended.** The Ministry of Social Development has confirmed that funding for both programmes in Te Tai Poutini have been extended for the 2022/2023 year. The programmes have been very successful and this will ensure that more youth will be supported into further education, training and employment.
- 4. The Federation Mining Waiuta mine near Reefton aims to begin drilling in March 2023.** Approximately 45 new positions will be created. Lack of accommodation is however of concern.

TOP LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES

- 1. The region continues to experience severe skill shortages.** Hospitality workers are difficult to find, especially in the remote areas of Franz, Fox and Reefton, with over 100 vacancies to fill. Chefs in particular are in demand. Working Holiday Visa arrivals are slower than hoped and many are finding jobs before they arrive in the South Island. The shortage of skilled health workers continues, with over 50 current nursing vacancies. The impact on the region's health sector has been significant.
- 2. Trades businesses are still struggling** with many in survival mode. The free New Zealand Apprenticeships scheme has been a saviour and is seen as key to keeping the Coast's trade businesses open. Given the tight labour market, businesses are relieved that Apprenticeship Boost has been extended to December 2023.
- 3. Employers report finding the new Accredited Employer Work Visa process both costly and time-consuming.** A number of businesses have reported that they have had to hire lawyers to help them navigate the new process and have not yet seen the benefits from the new scheme.
- 4. Buller District's weather events and declared State of Emergencies continue to impact the community.** Emergency workers and volunteers are exhausted and under strain. The events, compounded with road closures and travel delays, have resulted in many cancelled visitor bookings. Rental companies are also reportedly recommending that customers do not travel to the Coast due to the unknown road conditions compounding the situation.

REGIONAL WORKFORCE PLAN – YEAR 1 ACTIONS

The RWP has 9 key actions for 2022/23 (more information overleaf):

1. Support the establishment of a Conservation and Biodiversity Academy/Centre of Excellence across the Coast
2. Address and overcome barriers to our people obtaining driver licences
3. Investigate and build programmes and initiatives to develop work ready/soft skills for our youth
4. Build a more detailed regional picture of current and future labour market skills needs for Te Tai Poutini
5. Support initiatives to retrain and redeploy workers into new businesses and industries
6. Support the regional Education to Employment Broker to coordinate engagement between careers advisers and employers in our priority sectors
7. Encourage local employment through business mentor programmes and in-school talks by businesses to showcase industries/career opportunities and highlight skills employers are looking for
8. Explore and implement programmes to assist employers to develop skills in good employment practices
9. Develop and share information with businesses about how workplaces can be more inclusive for Māori and their values

OUR FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS:

- Agree on a forward workplan for the 2022/23 year – with a focus on the three top priorities for the RSLG members: a Conservation and Biodiversity Academy/Centre of Excellence, driver licences, and employability and soft skills courses
- Implementation of the Te Tai Poutini West Coast Regional Workforce Plan Year 1 Actions

Labour and Skills for Te Tai Poutini West Coast

Our Regional Workforce Plan - Year 1 at a Glance



OUR VISION

An innovative and resilient economy delivering opportunities and high-paying jobs for our community/hapori. Caring for our people and our environment is part of who we are and what we are known for.

He ōhanga e hihiri ana, e manawaroa ana e kōkiri ana i ngā āheinga me ngā umanga whai rawa ki tō tātou hapori. He wāhanga nō mātou, kua hau hoki tō mātou rongō mō te kumanu i ō tātou tāngata, i tō tātou hapori anō hoki

Te Whanaketanga
Te Tai Poutini West Coast
2050 Strategy

OUR KEY FOCUS AREAS

To achieve our Vision and address the labour market challenges, we have identified five key focus areas. They affect every sector in Te Tai Poutini West Coast and directly link to our Action Plan.

OUR YEAR 1 PRIORITIES (2022/2023)

We have proposed 14 key actions to cover our five focus areas, each with a set of activities, potential lead agency, and partners, and outcomes. Of those activities we have identified nine that will be prioritised over the next year, including the three RSLG member commitments.



OUR KEY FOCUS SECTORS

There are several key sectors that are important for Te Tai Poutini's economy and labour market. They are areas where we know that significant gains can be made and where we currently or are anticipated to have a shortage of skills and labour.

- Accommodation and food services
- Health care and social assistance
- Construction
- Manufacturing

OUR PRIORITY GROUPS

With a key focus on more inclusive employment outcomes and opportunities, we have identified five priority groups within our community.

- Māori
- Women Wahine
- Older Workers Ngā kaimahi kua tūnohunu
- Youth Rangatahi
- Disabled People and/or People with Health Conditions Te Hunga Whaikaha, te Hunga hoki/rānei kua Pāngia e T/ētahi Mate Hauora