

**From:** Mike Sexton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 February 2017 5:08 p.m.  
**To:** LGC  
**Subject:** West Coast Local Government Consultation Submission

Dear CEO.

I have read the Summary of Community Feedback and the Original West Coast Reorganisation application relating to the District and Regional Councils on the West Coast.

I support the restructuring of the three district councils into a single council with the aim of reducing the duplication of personel (and staff costs) who are employed to perform the same functions across the three local bodies. There should be elected councillors from Buller, Grey and Westland who would represent their constituents and a single elected Mayor. The administration would be a single CEO with supporting staff who would be responsible to the West Coast and its council as a whole. The council functions will be those for which the district councils take responsibility now.

In spite of the feedback I favour retaining the Regional Council because its functions are wider than the largely infrastructure focus of the district councils and it is beneficial to have the two groups with one being a monitoring influence on the other. While this can produce tensions, as recently seen in the Hawkes Bay and its water contamination, overall such oversight is likely to benefit the community and the environment.

It is unconscionable that central government through DOC administers such a large proportion of territory on the West Coast but does not contribute to the local government costs for providing the infrastructure which supports access to, and the maintenance of, these areas. As the feedback has indicated, the rating base for 10% of New Zealand's land area is less than 1% of its population. This is not sustainable.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,

Michael A Sexton  
[REDACTED]