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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Cycleway projects receive substantial grants**

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Development West Coast grants of \$750,000 each will assist two cycleway projects which are projected to bring millions to the local economy.

The funding applications submitted to Development West Coast (DWC) from both the Mokihinui-Lyell Backcountry Trust and Westland District Council for their cycleway projects were formally considered by DWC at a recent meeting.

With a total project cost estimated between \$4.2 to \$5 million, the Mokihinui-Lyell Backcountry Trust's application sought DWC funding of \$754,000 to complement National Cycleway funding of \$2 million and further funding sourced locally of around \$1.1 million to near complete the 160km "Old Ghost Road" cycle trail.

Given the substantial work undertaken and funding secured for this project to date, DWC approved a grant of \$750,000 which will be available over a 2-3 year period, subject to agreement of key achievements being reached.

This trail has been under development for several years and was well positioned when the National Cycleway funding programme was announced.

The Westland Wilderness Trail project is estimated to cost \$8.6 million and has attracted National Cycleway funding of \$3.2 million. The funding application to DWC sought the balance of the project cost of \$5.4 million. Parts of this trail will utilise existing infrastructure, such as the Kawhaka hydro canals, Kapitea reservoir, Mahinapua and Ross-Ruatapu rail corridor.

DWC has also approved "in principle" funding of \$750,000 for the Westland Wilderness Trail over a 2-3 year period. "We were not able to support the full \$5.4 million application from WDC having given the project consideration against all DWC's other priorities. This being so, we still remain supportive of the concept and DWC Management is keen to advance discussions with the WDC around other options to attain the balance of the required local funding share", said DWC Chief Executive, Dr John Chang.

DWC Chairman, John Sturgeon, said "Trustees recognise the benefits the projects could bring to the region, but we have to be realistic about the level of funding available to contribute to them. Community funding is limited and DWC's Major District Initiative funding continues to remain a priority over any new community funding applications."

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For further information, contact: Dr John Chang, CEO, DWC, 021 332 556