



Media release – 31 August 2011

Development West Coast assets continue to grow

Development West Coast has achieved another year of steady returns, continuing to grow the Trust's assets.

The Trust has today released its annual report for the year ended March 2011. DWC ended the financial year with total net assets of \$115.92m. This represents an increase of \$2.9m from the previous financial years result of \$112.99m.

"This was a very strong result in a year of ongoing financial market uncertainty," says DWC CEO John Chang.

Total income of \$7.3m together with unrealised gains from investments of \$4.1m delivered total consolidated revenue of \$11.4m. The total operating expenses for DWC were \$2.40m compared to \$2.47m the year before.

"This translates to a 17% decline in total operating expenses since 2009. What is even more pleasing is that this was achieved without the loss of any key services or activities that deliver economic benefits to West Coast communities," says Dr Chang.

The Trust made its' largest ever community distribution allocating \$5.34m to the region in comparison to the previous year of \$3.02m. This was due to a number of substantial unbudgeted community grants including \$1m to a Pike River Mine relief fund, \$1.5m to two regional cycle-way projects and \$100,000 to the Canterbury earthquake relief fund.

"These unbudgeted community distributions of \$2.6m did have a negative financial impact on DWC's bottom-line. However, Trustees are confident with solid advice received that they have made the correct decisions," says Dr Chang.

The 2011/12 financial year will also see significant community distributions. Trustees have committed to an extraordinary distribution of \$6m which will see Buller, Grey and Westland District Council's provided with a special one-off fund of \$2 million each. The \$2 million is expected to provide an economic boost to the three districts through to March 2016 and enable each district to fund various community assets and projects at their discretion.

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