



**PRESS RELEASE: EMBARGOED UNTIL 4pm**

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## **Mayor thrilled with river protection funding**

Southland District Mayor Frana Cardno is thrilled by the Government's announcement of \$13.1 million funding for the upgrade of the Cleddau River Protection Works in Milford Sound.

"Improved protection works will enable Milford Sound to progress because the vital infrastructure of the area will be protected to a much higher level," Mrs Cardno said.

"The upgrading of the stop bank has been an issue that has been discussed for a long time," she said.

Mrs Cardno congratulated the Government on providing a solution to this issue and in doing so recognising the national importance of this unique part of New Zealand.

Council has not issued any resource or building consents on the Cleddau River Delta for some time now because of the fear of flooding and had told the Department of Conservation it required the protection works to be capable of preventing overtopping in a 1:100 year flood.

"This funding will allow the protection works to be constructed to this level, giving the people who live and work in Milford Sound and also the visitors to this iconic New Zealand attraction some degree of security," she said.

Fiordland National Park, including Milford Sound, pumps \$280 million into the national economy every year so the work is of national importance, she said.

It is also a good example of local councils and government departments working together as DOC, Council and Environment Southland have joined forces to make sure Milford Sound remains a world-class experience.

"Milford Sound is very important to Council and we have worked with the community in establishing the Milford Community Trust so the community has a voice at council level, too," Mrs Cardno said.

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