

From: [BDC Lgoima](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Official Information Request for backflow of stormwater works Ref: OIA 067/24
Date: Thursday, 6 June 2024 8:59:39 am
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[080524 - Media Release - WaStop installed in Storm Water Network - BDC.pdf](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your official information request dated 19 May 2024, your request was as follows:

“What has been done to stop the backflow of stormwater up the pipes on The Esplanade”

BDC Response:

BDC has, utilising New Zealand Government’s Better Off Funding (BOF) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) funding, fitted WaStop Vales to:

- Bentham Street Stormwater Outfall to the Buller River
- Disraeli Street Stormwater Outfall to the Buller River
- Rintoul Street Wastewater Outfall to the Buller River
- Roebuck Street Wastewater Outfall to the Buller River

These devices aim to prevent backflow of tidal and flood waters into our stormwater and wastewater networks but, unlike the flap valves they replaced, will also allow the networks to pressurise. Once sufficiently pressurized, the WaStop will open (even when submerged in high tide or flooding events) and allow the stormwater pipes to discharge into the river.

Additional devices have been installed across the wider Westport network and have resulted in a marked improvement of our network performance.

An overview of how these devices function can be found here:

www.hynds.co.nz/product/wastop-check-valve/

Buller District Council Media Release: <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/blog/posts/westport-s-stormwater-network-receives-a-resilience-boost/>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the Buller District Council by return email to lgoima@bdc.govt.nz.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/request-for-official-information/responses-to-lgoima-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Kind regards

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08 May 2024

Westport's stormwater network receives a resilience boost

Westport's underground stormwater network is now more resilient and better able to protect against floodwater infiltration (backflow) at many key stormwater outfalls.

Several initiatives have recently been completed to achieve this, with funding secured by Buller District Council from Central Government.

Traditionally, installation of flap gate valves was the main method used to protect against backflow at pipe outfalls.

These relied heavily on regular maintenance to ensure the hinges were free (they were prone to seizing), the mating surfaces were clean to ensure a good seal, and that debris was not restricting the opening or closing of the device.

Luckily, there are a number of modern alternatives to flap gate valves available that offer superior backflow performance, combined with a much lower failure rate.

Of these alternatives, WaStop® brand backflow devices are amongst the best and Buller District Council has installed these recently at a number of key stormwater outfalls across Westport.

WaStop® valves operate through an ingenious mechanism and this can be observed in action via the link below.

Crown Infrastructure partners' Better Off funding has fully covered the cost of supplying and installing 14 of these WaStop® devices at key stormwater outfalls throughout the Westport township.

Outfalls benefitting from this funding and project are:

- Hughes Place/Disraeli Street outfall
- Bentham Street outfall
- Brougham Street 'Brick Arch' outfall (Buller River)
- Brougham Street east outfalls (x 2) into the Orowaiti River
- Eastons Road bend
- Snodgrass culverts into the Orowaiti River (x 2)
- Russell Street north outfall
- Peel Street north outfall
- Romilly Street north outfall
- Wakefield/Domett Street outfalls (x 3)

Additionally, five WaStop® valves were installed between February and September 2023 in stormwater drains around Westport. This work was funded by the National Emergency Management Agency's (NEMA) flood recovery programme.

WaStops have been installed at two locations on Cats Creek at 76 Domett Street, and in Henley Street, Roebuck Street and Kawatiri Place. This brings the total installed in the network to 19.

These, in combination with other improvements, will speed up the outflow of stormwater after a flooding or heavy rain event.

Since they have been put in place, the WaStop® valves have prevented backflow from the Buller River into the stormwater network and reduced the associated backflow into some of our wastewater pump stations.

The use of these valves, in combination with other works has seen better recovery times after heavy rain at several locations throughout Westport.

If you'd like to see a WaStop® valve in action, here's a YouTube clip showing how they work:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJ02xL-ZOh4&list=PLh7q7IecdBKdv9xF0OgKYXG4usDYtqu1_&index=1

-ENDS-

For further information please contact:

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