



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

Connect

Keeping you up-to-date with news from your Buller District Council

Papatowai
Metrosideros umbellata

Photographer: John Sawyer
New Zealand Plant Conservation Network - nzpcn.org.nz

Mayor's Message



As the year draws to a close, it's a great time to reflect on the highlights of 2024 and to look ahead with hope and optimism.

This year has been a positive one for the Buller District. We've seen progress on key projects, strong community events, and continued recovery efforts following the challenges of recent years. It's been inspiring to see people working together to make Buller an even better place to live. Whether it's been improvements to our infrastructure, local businesses innovating, or the success of community initiatives, many people are working hard to keep us moving in the right direction.

Christmas is a time to come together and celebrate what's most important—our families, friends, and the connections we share. It's a chance to slow down, enjoy the moment, and appreciate the incredible district we call home. Whether you're relaxing at the beach, picking a winner at the races or enjoying a backyard barbecue,

summer in Buller has so many affordable opportunities to spend time with loved ones. I hope this season brings you good health and some time to relax, whatever that means for you.

It's also a time to think of others. A simple act of kindness can mean so much, especially to those who may be struggling during the holidays. Let's continue to support one another, just as we have throughout the year.

Looking ahead to 2025, there's a lot to be excited about. There is no doubt that there are significant challenges ahead, but by working together and thinking strategically, we can keep building on the progress we've made and explore the new opportunities that arise.

I want to thank the many volunteers for everything you do to make Buller such a special place. On behalf of the Buller District Council, I wish our community, staff, elected members and our families a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy New Year.

Jamie Cleine
Mayor, Buller District

FREE garden green waste drop-off

If you live in Buller, you can drop off your garden green waste for free at the Westport and Reefton Transfer Stations.

You can bring anything that grows in your garden, like hedge trimmings, tree branches or grass clippings.

Flax, cabbage tree leaves, and wood/logs over 30 cm in diameter are not suitable for processing and must be disposed of separately.

When loading your green waste, keep an eye out for rocks, plastic items, and other rubbish. This prevents accidental damage to the mulching machine.

Your green waste will be shredded with an industrial mulching machine and transported to the Westport Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Once wastewater has been through the whole treatment process, we are left with an end-product called sludge. The sludge and the mulched green waste are mixed and will be turned and stored to decompose at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The end product is a compost that can be utilised for a variety of end-uses, for example as a soil

conditioner for landscaping.

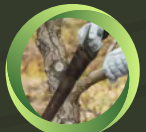
People living in Karamea, Inangahua, Maruia and Springs Junction can also transport their green waste to the Westport or Reefton Transfer Stations.

The key to the success of this initiative is that only suitable garden green waste is dropped off. Unsuitable items like flax, cabbage tree leaves or rocks must be disposed of separately.

Suitable for drop-off



Hedge trimmings



Tree branches



Grass clippings

Unsuitable for drop-off



Flax leaves



Timber over 30 cm



Cabbage tree fronds

Come home safe this summer

If you're at the West Coast's boating hotspots this summer, you may see our Sumer Safe Boating Advisor out and about providing safer boating tips, advice and giveaways to help you make informed decisions out on the water.

Maritime New Zealand has provided funding for this six-week position over the holiday period. The initiative is part of a nationwide MaritimeNZ campaign, which has a harm prevention approach and aims to encourage people on recreational craft to enjoy the water safely.

Our national water fatality statistics are distressing, and the West Coast's recreational fatality rate is higher than in other areas of Aotearoa.

Our advisor will cover the whole West Coast, including launching areas like Westport's Floating Basin and

some lesser-known spots, popular recreational boating locations Lake Brunner and Lake Kaniere, and local sports retailers.

Keep an eye out if you're at the South Island Wakeboarding Championships at Lake Kaniere 25 January 2025 or the Buller Bay Fishing Competition at Buller Anniversary weekend.

BOATING SAFETY CODE



WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET



TAKE TWO WATERPROOF WAYS TO CALL FOR HELP



CHECK THE MARINE WEATHER FORECAST



AVOID ALCOHOL



BE A RESPONSIBLE SKIPPER

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
SAFERBOATING.ORG.NZ

A remarkable journey: Westport's drinking water infrastructure

Westport's treated water trunk main replacement is due to be completed in 2025. This vital pipeline supplies your drinking water and runs from the Water Treatment Plant at Sergeants Hill, right through to the intersection of Queen and Roebuck Streets in the Westport township.

When this project is complete, the original cast iron and steel pipelines installed from the early 1900s onwards will have been completely replaced with new, 400 mm diameter polyethylene pipe – which is thicker, incredibly resilient and able to withstand greater seismic events than its steel predecessor.

The treated water trunk main, along with the raw water tunnel pipelines and distribution mains on Derby Street and Queen Street form the physical backbone of Westport's water infrastructure. The completion of the trunk main replacement will cap off a significant programme of works. It's a huge achievement for our ratepayers, consumers and Council alike, including both strategic projects and many successive year-on-year capital renewals and replacements.

Click here to check out a video of this incredible journey, 2000 to 2025!

Christmas closure hours



Council facilities will close for the Christmas/New Year break at 12 pm Tuesday 24 December 2024.

Council’s Westport office at Brougham House will close at 12 pm on Tuesday 24 December 2024, reopening 8:30 am Monday 6 January 2025.

Buller District Libraries will close at 12 pm on Tuesday 24 December 2024, reopening 10.30 am - 1 pm on Saturday 4 January 2025. Normal hours resume from 9:30 am Monday 6 January 2025.

The Reefton Visitor and Service Centre will close at 12 pm on Tuesday 24 December 2024, reopening normal hours 9 am Monday 6 January 2025. Reduced hours and

limited services (visitor information, NZ Post, NZTA) will be available between these dates.

To notify urgent issues during this time, call 0800 807 239. For water and roading matters, you will be directed to Council’s contractor WestReef Services Ltd.

For urgent noise or animal complaints, call the Animal Management Team on 0800 807 239

To raise a non-urgent service request, go to Council’s website and we will respond after 6 January 2025.

Visit: bullerdc.govt.nz for full Reefton Visitor and Service Centre and Westport and Reefton Transfer Station opening hours.

Building consent processing and building inspections over Christmas

Processing of Building Consents and Code Compliance Certificates

From 20 December 2024 the 20-working day processing timeframe will be paused for all applications governed by a statutory clock. The clock will restart on Friday, 10 January 2025.

Applications can continue to be submitted as normal via the Objective Build online system.

Inspections

Inspections will be carried out until 3 pm on Monday 23 December 2024 and resume on Monday 6 January 2025.

Due to reduced staffing between 6 - 20 January 2025, there will be fewer inspections available during this period. Regular operations resume on Monday 20 January 2025.

To ensure the smooth progress of your building project, please book your inspection early.

Resource consents and planning enquiries

The Resource Management Act 1991 states that the period between 20 December and 10 January each year is excluded from the ‘working days count’ for all timeframes.

Any weekdays during this period will not be counted as a working day when processing a resource consent application.

You can lodge a planning enquiry until noon on 24 December 2024 and after 8:30 am on 6 January 2025.

Send your planning enquiry to planning@bdc.govt.nz, while Council is closed.

The planning team will respond after 6 January 2025.

Water supplies

Council would like to remind **all consumers** to flush their taps by letting about a mugful of water run through in the morning, prior to use.

This applies to all supplies including rainwater. Visit Council’s web page ‘water – plumbosolvency’ for details. There are different levels of water treatment in Buller.

The **Cape Foulwind** water supply (Wilson’s Lead Rd and Bulls Rd) is for stock use only and is not intended for human consumption.

A permanent boil water notice applies for **Little Wanganui Subdivision, Mōkihinui, Ngakawau/Hector, South Granity and Waimangaroa.**

You can sign up to Council’s email list and receive key information about your local water supply under bullerdc.govt.nz/do-it-online/water-supply-update-sign-up/

Want to connect with your Council face-to-face?

Looking for advice and guidance on Council processes?

Come along to our Community Outreach Days in Ngakawau, Karamea, Charleston and Punakaiki.

These bimonthly drop-in sessions will provide an opportunity to meet council staff from different departments and seek advice on using our services.

[Click here to find out more](#)

Meetings December 2024 - January 2025

The full meeting calendar can be found at bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/

Please check the calendar for any updates and additional meetings.

Long Term Plan Strategy Workshop

- 18 December 1:00 pm Clocktower Chambers

Ordinary Council Meeting

- 18 December 3:30 pm Clocktower Chambers

Inangahua Community Board Meeting

- 21 January 2025 5:00 pm Women’s Institute Rooms, Reefton

All Council meetings will be livestreamed to Council’s YouTube channel:

Buller District Council

There may be elements of the meeting that are public excluded. The meeting agenda will explain why the public is excluded under LGOIMA 1987.

A public forum session is available at the beginning of Ordinary Council meetings. If you want to address Council during the public forum session or have any questions about these meetings please contact:

Governance Assistant, phone **0800 807 239** or email governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz

Originair landing in Westport 3 January 2025



Westport office
6-8 Brougham Street, PO Box 21,
Westport 7866, New Zealand
Freephone 0800 807 239
Phone 03 788 9111

Reefton Visitor & Service Centre
67-69 Broadway, PO Box 75,
Reefton 7851, New Zealand
Phone 03 732 8821
Phone 03 732 8391

24 hr Noise & Animal Control Services
Phone 03 788 9115
After hours Operations emergencies
Phone 03 788 9119 Westport,
or 03 732 8821 Reefton



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bullerdc.govt.nz