



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

Connect

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



 **Mayor Jamie Cleine and Reefton RSA Women's Division**
Photo by John Bougen

Mayor's Message

Welcome to the winter edition of Connect. It's hard to believe we are halfway through the year already.

With the shortest day now well behind us, it is always nice to think we are on the cusp of spring and the fresh beginnings that it brings.

Council has now completed the Enhanced Annual Plan, which I acknowledge as being a tough one for our community this year. Staff and Councillors are now collectively focussed on delivering the approved work plan over the next 12 months.

The coalition government is rolling out significant policy changes at great pace, which is good in many ways. However, it does create very limited timeframes for Council to provide submissions to legislative changes. The Regional Infrastructure Fund criteria is soon to be announced, and I continue to work closely with my West Coast leadership colleagues to ensure that projects are packaged appropriately for consideration. Local Water Done Well policy is also an area that Council is working closely to navigate this year, with serious concerns about the affordability of this policy on ratepayers as councils are required to meet compliance and develop water service delivery plans.

Over the next few months, we will have clarity on what is required to integrate stormwater into the flood protection plans for Westport. This will lead to fresh discussions with the Government on funding options.

I continue to welcome opportunities to meet locals in the various parts of our district, especially if you are coming together for some reason. I was in Reefton recently to attend the inaugural community volunteer awards. It was an honour to acknowledge the important and much valued work carried out by volunteers every day in support of our community.

Mayor Jamie Cleine



 **Sharon Haarsma, MBC Flora Project team leader & Sacha Healey, BDC Flora Project liaison** Photo by Zak Shaw, Development West Coast.

Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Flora Project draws to a successful close

Supported by The Nature Conservancy Aotearoa, the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao 'Restoring and Protecting Flora' Project finished three years of ecological restoration at the start of June 2024, having delivered 27,253 hours of work across Buller Kawatiri. The project's main focus was weed control, targeting threats including Old Man's Beard, pampas, ginger, wilding kiwifruit and pine. The target species were controlled where they threaten native ecosystems; for example, vine species can cause mature native forest to collapse and smother regeneration.

A huge planting effort was also completed to help kickstart ecological restoration at important sites, such as around estuaries. In total, nearly 30,000 native plants have gone in the ground, with the incredible help of community volunteers and students from Karamea Area School, Buller High School and Westport primary schools.

Across the top of the South Island, Buller has the lowest levels of some very costly weeds, and the highest intactness of native ecosystems. Getting to know the plants makes a walk so much more interesting, as the details of different species start to pop out of the bush. There are some great plant ID apps you can download to learn more about natives and www.weedbusters.co.nz is a fantastic website to learn about weeds. While the Flora Project has made massive gains, it takes the whole community to protect our unique environment into the future – reporting weeds to West Coast Regional Council helps us keep Buller the special place it is.

Out and about in Buller

Local news

Even though it's winter, there is plenty going on in our community. Find out what's happening and learn about some of the awesome initiatives you can get involved in.

NBS Theatre launches winter movie special



Buller District Council and Westport's NBS Theatre are currently running a three-month 'Winter Special' movie programme with a reduced-price feature film showing at least once every week.

This initiative aims to encourage people to get out and about this winter and enjoy everything their local theatre has to offer.

The NBS Theatre staff are very excited about being able to introduce, or reintroduce, the wonder of the big screen movie experience to as many people as possible and we hope this opportunity will be well received.

This community-focused initiative to increase theatre patronage is provided at no additional cost to Buller ratepayers, we encourage everyone to come along and make the most of this special offer.

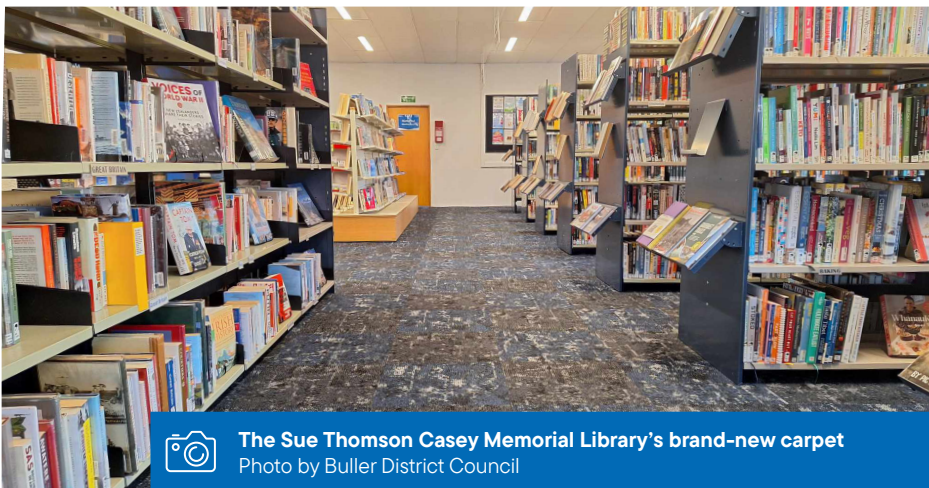
The featured movie, screening day and screening time will change each week, so it's important movie-goers check the NBS Theatre schedule carefully before they turn up. You can do this by:

- **Looking out for the NBS movie schedule online**
- **Keeping an eye on the NBS Theatre e-newsletter**
- **Checking the theatre's Facebook page**
- **Tuning in to Coast FM on Thursday mornings at 8:30 am.**

There are a range of different movies featured and the specials are scheduled on different days of the week, meaning there is something for everyone. **All tickets are \$5.**



The Reefton Cinema is trialling earlier screening times on Saturdays at 6 pm instead of 7 pm, during the winter period. Keep an eye on the online schedule, Facebook page and the Clarion each week for further details.



The Sue Thomson Casey Memorial Library's brand-new carpet
Photo by Buller District Council

Sue Thomson Casey Memorial Library carpet replacement project a success

The Sue Thomson Casey Memorial Library's recent carpet replacement went like clockwork, thanks to the incredible efforts of the contractors and library staff involved.

The carpet replacement project was a massive task - all of the library shelving and 25,000 books were packed up and moved to make way for the new carpet, then reinstated back into their original positions.

When the carpet was pulled up, it was very much apparent that it had well and truly

reached the end of its life. The underlay was disintegrating, all of edges were fraying, and there was widespread soiling throughout. The new carpet means we now have a much cleaner, safer, more welcoming space for our library users, which should last another 15-20 years.

The replacement industrial carpet incorporates a scattered design pattern, which is much better at hiding 'sins' than the previous plain carpet. The blue, grey and black tiles are quite busy, but well-suited to a community building with high foot traffic.

Carpet tiles have been used, which means they will be much easier and cheaper to replace in the future if an area gets damaged or soiled, as the tiles can be replaced individually.

The staff are thrilled with the new carpet, as it has freshened up the entire space, almost making it look like a brand-new library. They particularly love the children's area, where the carpet layers have incorporated a fun detail as a surprise, which will surely delight children and families for years to come.

The project had strong backing from the community, with other organisations lending a hand to ensure continuity of services.

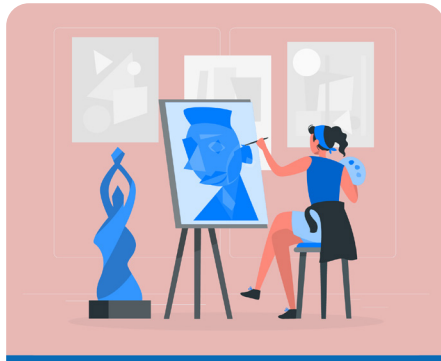
The carpet replacement project budget was \$141,000, with the work identified in the 2021-2031 Long-Term Plan and confirmed in the 2023-2024 Annual Plan.

Buller District Council funding opportunities

The Buller District Council (BDC) offers a range of funding opportunities throughout the year, reflecting our commitment to supporting and enhancing our community. These funds, managed by BDC and provided by both the Council and external organisations, support community groups and organisations to deliver programmes, initiatives and projects for our communities.



Important funding dates for 2024-2025



Creative Communities Scheme
Round 1 (of 3) closes 5 August 2024



Community-Led Revitalisation Fund
Closes 24 August 2024



Community Grants
Round 1 (of 2) closes 24 August 2024



BDC Facility Hire Fund
On-going until funds run out



Rural Travel Fund
Closes 22 February 2025

For full details about each fund or grant, including eligibility criteria and application instructions, please visit our website.

If you require further information, please email grants@bdc.govt.nz.

Learn more about our funding opportunities:
bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/community-funding/

Discover more funding opportunities!

Need funding but don't qualify for Council-administered funds? Seeking additional support? Buller District Council has partnered with GrantGuru to bring you the Buller Funding Finder—a user-friendly, free, and powerful tool designed to empower community groups and organisations in finding and applying for grants or funding.

Unlock your funding potential with the Buller Funding Finder

Comprehensive search: Access a wide range of relevant grants.

Custom filters: Find the best options by industry and project type.

Expert advice: Tips to maximize your funding success.

Complimentary access: The Buller Funding Finder is available at no cost to the community, ensuring that all community groups and organisations can benefit from this valuable resource without any financial burden.

Alerts and updates: Stay informed about new funding programs.

Visit: grantguru.com/nz/buller to explore and start applying today!



Recycling and waste

Catch up on recent developments around Buller's recycling and waste systems and what you can do to maximise your recycling efforts.



E-waste at the Westport Transfer Station
Photo by Buller District Council

E-waste recycling programme extended for another year in Buller

Buller District Council, Smart Environmental Ltd and TechCollect NZ have extended their partnership to provide Buller residents with another year of free information and communications technology (ICT) e-waste recycling, through to March 2025.

The programme partnership began in July 2021, and has been well-received by everyone in the community seeking sustainable solutions to manage their unwanted electronics.

To date, a combined total of 3,688 kilograms of accepted e-waste items have been recovered from the Westport and Reefton Transfer Stations for environmentally sound recycling.

Buller residents and small businesses can continue to drop accepted e-waste items off at the Westport or Reefton Transfer Stations for this free service, funded by TechCollect NZ's members.

TechCollect NZ is a not-for-profit helping the technology sector manage the life cycle of its products and works with best-in-class recyclers in the New Zealand market to recover and recirculate as much of the valuable and finite resources as possible.

All e-waste items recovered by the programme are treated by TechCollect NZ's local recycling partners, who meet stringent health, safety, and environmental standards.

Items such as laptops, desktop computers, keyboards, printers and cameras are among the e-waste items accepted for recycling. Televisions and other non-ICT electronics are not accepted.

Mobile phones can however be dropped into council's Westport office to be recycled through the RE:mobile programme.

This e-waste recycling programme is one of the many no-cost alternative recycling initiatives available to Buller residents, which help decrease the amount of items otherwise not accepted as recycling going to landfill.

Info

Decision made on Zone One rubbish collection from July 2025

Buller District Council decided how rubbish will be collected and paid for in Zone One from 1 July 2025 onwards at its June meeting.

Councillors signed off on a fortnightly rubbish wheelie bin collection in Zone One, funded through a Pay as You Throw model. This decision marks the end of extensive community engagement. During the most recent consultation, 57% of the 150 submitters indicated their preference to continue with a Pay as You Throw approach to funding the rubbish collection service.

From 1 July 2025, all ratepayers living in Zone One – except those on roads where the service is not provided – will be supplied with a 120-litre wheelie bin. The collection service will be fortnightly and there will be a charge made if a bin is picked up. The exact method of payment (tags, tokens or RFID) will be decided with the contractor through the tender and will be well publicised before the service goes live next year.

Council staff will now prepare a procurement and open tender process to obtain cost proposals from waste management companies New Zealand-wide. From the pool of tendering companies, a preferred provider will be chosen to collect the rubbish in Zone One from 1 July 2025 onwards.

Staff expect to go out with the open tender in August 2024. Once market tested prices have been obtained, these will be reported back to council for final approval before the contract can be awarded towards the end of the year.



Have
your
say

Food and Green Waste

on the West Coast

Buller, Grey and Westland District Councils, Development West Coast and the Ministry for the Environment have joined forces to explore how food and green waste collection could look in urban centres on the coast from 2030 onwards.

Central government announced in May 2023 that by 2030, all district and city councils must provide food and green waste collection for households in urban areas with a population of over 1,000 people. This will apply to Westport, Reefton, Greymouth, and Hokitika, but Runanga and Carters Beach may also be included.

To plan for this change, your Council wants to hear from West Coasters about how they currently deal with food and green waste and their preferences for urban food and green waste collection.

This will help your Council to understand more about people's attitudes and behaviours and evaluate the potential demand for collection and processing services across the West Coast.

Filling out this survey gives you the chance to have your say right from the start.

The survey will be live between 8 July and 29 July 2024 and it only takes five minutes. You will be asked questions about your current approach to food and green waste and your preferences for a collection service.

Please note that feedback must be given using the paper or online form. Feedback received outside these dates will not be accepted.



For more information or to send us your feedback



Online

The survey can be completed online by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/foodandgreenwastewc>



Hard copy

The survey can be obtained in paper form from Council's offices in Westport or at the Reefton Visitor and Service Centre.



Email

Email Buller District Council with the subject "**Food and green waste collection**" if you have any questions. You can also email your filled-out survey form to info@bdc.govt.nz



Post

Return your filled out survey to the mail slot at Buller District Councils offices in Westport and Reefton.



Find out more

Visit Council's website or grab some information from Council's offices and libraries in Buller.



Latest Council news

Dog registration is due 31 July 2024



If you own and have registered your dog, you should have received your dog registration form at the end of June.

Once you have received your form, you can call into Council offices in Westport or Reefton to pay and pick up your blue tag. Prices this year are:
Desexed \$69.50 | Entire \$89.50

If you use your dog principally for herding or droving stock your dog is eligible for our working dog rate.
Desexed \$52.50 | Entire \$67.50

If your dog is not registered with us you will not receive a form. Dogs can be registered at Council Offices in Westport and Reefton during normal office hours, 8.30 am - 4.30 pm Monday to Friday. If your details, or your dog's details have changed, don't forget to update them when you pay your dog registration fee.

Key Dates for Dog Registration

End of June
Dog owners who have their dog registered with Council will receive their dog registration form in their letterbox.

1 July 2024
Dog owners can pick up their blue tag at Council's offices in Westport or Reefton.

31 July 2024
Dog registration is due.

2 August 2024
A penalty of 50% of the appropriate dog registration fee applies (from 2 August each year).

SCAN ME

TO FIND OUT MORE

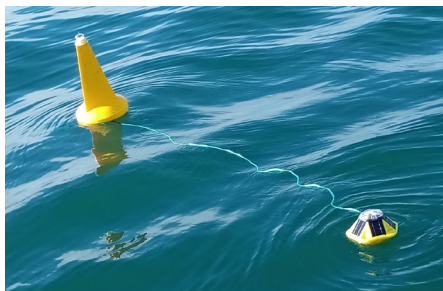
Busy?

You can also pay through online banking and we will send your tag once we receive your payment.



Online

To pay online scan the QR code or go to bullerdc.govt.nz/do-it-online/pay-online/



Westport's wave buoy deployed

The Sofar Spotter Ocean wave buoy purchased by the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) was deployed off the coast of Westport on 7 June.

A team from Buller District Council and the WCRC used Westport Harbour's vessel Protector to transport the buoy and moorings to the site, 1.5 nautical miles NNW out from the harbour entrance. The bright yellow buoy is 800 mm in diameter and tethered to a secondary yellow buoy

which acts as an aid to navigation, fitted with an amber flashing light. It is powered by an array of solar panels and located off the tip heads, on the main lead line at 41 42.137'S and 171 34.766'E.

The buoy will be used to collect data in real time, including maximums, means and minimums for wave period, height and direction; wind speed and direction; sea temperature, and barometric pressure.

This information, collected over time, will form a valuable dataset able to be used to update the flood model that the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) has developed for Westport, in partnership with the WCRC.

These datasets will also help those developing the flood models to set more appropriate downstream boundary conditions for the flood inundation maps that are created from the flood model forecasts. Utilising this locally-generated data will greatly increase their accuracy.

The West Coast Regional Council's long-term investment in the wave buoy will

improve the Westport Flood Forecast's performance and refine the inundation maps, which are used by Civil Defence Emergency Management. It's great that we can also provide all harbour users with access to this real time data, detailing the sea conditions just off the coast.

The wave buoy data is currently being telemetered to the Westport Harbour website for the public to access and will also be available the West Coast Regional Council website in the coming months alongside the current rainfall and river level data.

The wave buoy falls under the 'accommodate' function of the Protect, Avoid, Retreat, Accommodate (PARA) framework for the Resilient Westport package of work. It is being funded by central government, through the Department of Internal Affairs.

This funding (\$22.9M) aims to deliver an integrated package focused on longer term flood resilience, which includes flood mitigation structures for Westport.

Resilient Westport

Resilient Westport is a programme of work aimed at improving Westport's flood resilience over time.

Buller District Council and the West Coast Regional Council are working collaboratively with iwi, other organisations and Government departments to protect Westport where possible and to plan low risk growth areas. Among a range of initiatives, our key projects are building flood mitigation structures for Westport (floodwalls and stopbanks) and Master Planning for Westport's future growth and development.

Our goal is to create a safer, stronger Westport for all our residents through a range of solutions and community collaboration.



How to reach the Resilient Westport team

There are a range of ways for people in the community to contact the Resilient Westport team and find out more about what is happening in the programme.

You can find us on Facebook (search under **Resilient Westport**) and we have a website www.resilientwestport.co.nz that we're working on. We will put project updates there for Master Planning and Flood Mitigation as well as other components of our work. People can also sign up on the website for newsletters and updates on Resilient Westport. You can do that now if you are interested, by emailing info@resilientwestport.co.nz

The Resilient Westport office at 147 Palmerston Street, Westport is coming along, and though it is mostly for the team to work on the project we will be advising people as we go along if we have any new information boards or signs up that people might find useful. We will also be using the space to meet with affected homeowners as we move through the flood mitigation process, as well as consultation and engagement as required.

Roading repairs making headway

Works continue to improve the road user experience on the Karamea Highway, with multiple programmes of work under way between the Mōkihinui River and the Karamea township.

There are currently construction activities being undertaken on Roding Return to Service (post 2021/2022 weather events) sites. There are 29 sites in total, 14 of which have been completed to date. There are four to six sites active at any one time, varying in scope from minor earthworks to significant retaining walls – all works are due for completion before Christmas 2024.

Pavement rehabilitation between Tidal Creek Bridge and the Karamea Bluff

Pavement rehabilitation has been carried out at three sites – a 2 km stretch south of Māori Point Rd, a 750 m section at Kongahu on the Karamea Highway and a 600 m section north of the Tidal Creek No 1 Bridge. At these sites the road thickness was increased, and the road level raised and sealed.

It has been determined following an investigation that two of the three sites will be subject to reworking as the seal is not waterproof and potholes have formed. The contractor is working on a solution to fix the seal and re-waterproof the road.

In the interim, a temporary speed reduction of 50 km/h will be in place, with the line marking to be completed in mid-July. Council is keen to see all work completed and a resilient long-term seal solution in place.

Corner improvement - sites between the Mōkihinui River and into the Karamea Bluff

The planned and scheduled works at six corners were completed in June. As part of additional works afforded under the program, a section of new guard rail will be installed at the 'power pole bend' site in July.



A mechanically stabilised earth (MSE) retaining wall on the Karamea Highway
Photo by Buller District Council

Community and Council notices

Water notices

Water supplies

Council would like to remind consumers to flush their taps with a mugful of water in the morning prior to use.

This applies to all supplies including rainwater. Visit Council's website 'water - plumbosolvency' for details. There are different levels of water treatment in Buller. The Cape Foulwind water supply (Wilson's Lead Road and Bulls Rd) is for stock use only, not intended for human consumption.

A permanent boil water notice applies for Little Wanganui Subdivision, Mōkihinui, Ngakawau/Hector, South Granity and Waimangaroa. Reefton's chlorination has been completed, and the permanent precautionary boil water notice has now been lifted.

For more information contact Council or your local water supplier for Ngakawau/Hector and South Granity.



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/

Wastewater

Council operates sewerage treatment in Little Wanganui, Reefton and Westport.

Please don't flush any wipes, including those labelled as flushable, or paper towels down the toilet. People who have a connection to the Orowaiti sewerage scheme are reminded that they should no longer be using septic tanks and should be connected to the reticulation.



For more details contact Council or visit bullerdc.govt.nz/infrastructure/wastewater

Stormwater

Please consider stormwater and wastewater separation. Stormwater that enters the sewer must be treated as sewerage. This can cause sewer capacity problems during prolonged and heavy rain.

The majority of the stormwater is discharged untreated into the district's rivers. Please consider this when discharging fluids into the stormwater system. If you wouldn't want to swim in it, it shouldn't be going into the stormwater and needs to be disposed of as wastewater.



For more details contact Council or visit bullerdc.govt.nz/infrastructure/stormwater

Meetings

July to November 2024

All Council and committee meetings and workshops will be livestreamed to Council's Youtube channel Buller District Council.

The 2024 meeting calendar can be found at bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/

Please check the calendar for any updates and additional meetings.

Ordinary Council Meetings

- 31 July, 3:30 pm
- 28 August, 3:30 pm
- 25 September, 3:30 pm
- 30 October, 3:30 pm

Risk and Audit Committee

- 14 August, 3:30pm
- 16 October, 3:30pm

Inangahua Community Board

- 3 September, 5pm
- 5 November, 5pm

Council Workshops

Proposed dates - content/times will be advised.

- 13 August
- 25 September
- 28 August
- 16 October
- 11 September
- 30 October

If you would like to join the meeting, have any questions regarding these meetings, or would like to address Council during the public forum part of the ordinary council meeting please contact:

Governance Secretary

Email governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz or

Phone 0800 807 239



Please visit Buller District Council's website bullerdc.govt.nz for to check for any updates to the Council meeting calendar

Westport office

6-8 Brougham Street, PO Box 21,
Westport 7866, New Zealand

Freephone 0800 807 239

Phone 03 788 9111

Reefton Visitor and Service Centre

67-69 Broadway, PO Box 75,
Reefton 7851, New Zealand

Phone 03 732 8821

Phone 03 732 8391

24 hr Noise and 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