

**From:** [BDC Lqoima](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Official Information Request for Westland Mineral Sands - Pilotage Operations Ref: 105/23  
**Date:** Friday, 3 November 2023 2:31:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image010.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hi [REDACTED]

Please find additional responses as below in below as requested:

*Q- Could you please advise more detail about the individuals you mention in point 2 below for conducting the PEC assessments -*

- A. The Pilot training plan is to only allow suitably qualified Pilots, not PEC Masters to operate any new vessels in Westport Pilotage waters. Masters can of course choose to attempt to qualify as a PEC Master after completing the approved PEC training programme and then approved by Maritime New Zealand. We have no names of any individuals at this time due to the operation not having started yet.

As we understand it, Maritime Rule Part 90 does allow the Harbourmaster alone to approve PECs, which for the experienced masters on Kawatiri seems entirely reasonable, but we believe a larger vessel such as the barge would require the input of an experienced pilot, licensed for the port.

*Q-Is that BDC's thinking also?*

A- As above. Yes, for vessels requiring pilotage in the Westport compulsory pilotage area, would require a qualified Pilot as approved by Maritime New Zealand after having completed the approved Westport Pilot Training plan. Currently there are PEC masters operating the Kawatiri only, as required by maritime rules.

BDC is currently actively engaging with Pilotage providers to undergo local training to become licensed Pilots for vessels in Westport.

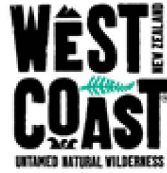
Kind regards

Douglas Marshall | Chief Financial Officer (Contractor)  
Mobile 027 458 4157 | Email [Douglas.Marshall@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:Douglas.Marshall@bdc.govt.nz)

Buller District Council | Phone 0800 807 239 | [bullerdc.govt.nz](http://bullerdc.govt.nz)  
PO Box 21 | Westport 7866

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, November 3, 2023 10:30 AM

**To:** BDC\_Lgoima <lgoima@bdc.govt.nz>

**Subject:** Re: Official Information Request for Westland Mineral Sands - Pilotage Operations Ref: 105/23

Hello Douglas

Thanks very much for this summary of information held by BDC on this matter. Could you please advise more detail about the individuals you mention in point 2 below for conducting the PEC assessments. As we understand it, Maritime Rule Part 90 does allow the Harbourmaster alone to approve PECs, which for the experienced masters on Kawatiri seems entirely reasonable, but we believe a larger vessel such as the barge would require the input of an experienced pilot, licensed for the port. Is that BDC's thinking also?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

General Secretary

**Mob:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** BDC\_Lgoima <lgoima@bdc.govt.nz>

**Date:** Friday, 3 November 2023 at 9:33 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Official Information Request for Westland Mineral Sands - Pilotage Operations Ref: 105/23

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your official information request dated 9 October 2023 requesting the following information:

*We request the following information in relation to Westland Minerals Sands proposed barge operation out of Westport Harbour:*

*The request is for all information relating to pilotage operations, and/or proposed pilotage operations into and out of Westport Harbour and pilotage area, including any applications for exemption to relevant maritime rules or harbour bylaws, for any WMS vessel or vessels*

*Please advise if you need any further clarification. Otherwise we look forward to receiving the information.*

The information you have requested is as follows:

Buller District Council via it's activities at the Buller Port located at Westport are responding to pilotage requirements for the proposed barge operations of Westland Mineral Sands as follows:

1. The Buller District Council operates the dredge Kawatiri which ensures that berths for the barge when it docks to load material, the channels to the bar and the river bar crossing itself are kept at adequate depths to allow the barge to be safely manoeuvred. Three of the crew of the Kawatiri have completed the pilot exemption certificate (PEC) training programme giving them approval to oversee the dredge within the Westport Harbour pilotage limits.
2. Work was started earlier this year around developing a Pilot Training and Proficiency Plan. This will allow other individuals to be assessed against the plan as to whether they can be provided with pilot exemptions while moving vessels within the port and over the bar.
3. BDC are also having discussions with other pilots who might be trained and approved to be competent to offer pilotage services at Westport.

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](http://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](mailto: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 will be published shortly at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/request-for-official-information/responses-to-lgoima-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Kind regards

Douglas Marshall | Chief Financial Officer (Contractor)  
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