



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

August 2023  Issue 121

Connect

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



Councillors and staff at the Arahura Marae
Photo by Buller District Council

Mayor's Message

Welcome to the latest edition of Connect. Over the past couple of months Council has been busy getting things set up for success as we begin the new financial year.

The adoption of the 2023-2024 Annual Plan in June really gets the ball rolling for staff to deliver their work for the coming 12-months. We have also been busy finalising the appointment of an Interim CEO to lead the organisation. This required Council to be patient while we navigated the challenging recruitment environment. Councillors worked hard to find someone with the right mix of skills who is a "good fit" for our district. It is really pleasing to have Steve Gibling joining us in August and I look forward to working with Councillors and staff to welcome him to the district.

Infrastructure delivery continues to progress with our flood recovery infrastructure projects and we are working closely with the West Coast Regional Council on the Resilient Westport Package.

Council values residents' feedback and I encourage you to contact the elected members who represent your community. My office is open most Monday mornings

for a casual meeting or anytime by appointment. I also welcome any invitation to visit your part of the district to meet groups or attend community events, I will do my best to work it into my schedule.

Take care and enjoy the longer days.
Mayor Jamie Cleine

Meet Council's new interim CEO

Buller District Council has appointed Steve Gibling as interim chief executive officer in July.

Steve grew up in Christchurch where he went on to complete his first

tertiary qualification in Community Recreation. Through this study he entered local government in the late 90's as a lifeguard and swim instructor and eventually progressed through to becoming the CEO of the New Zealand Recreation Association based in Wellington in 2010.

After the earthquakes he moved back to Christchurch where he worked at Environment Canterbury to be a part of the recovery programme. He has since held roles at the Christchurch City Council and also at the University of Canterbury, completed further study in Human Resource Management and Organisational Psychology and was most recently GM of Leisure and Recreation at Invercargill City Council.

The interim CEO role represents an exciting opportunity for Steve and he can't wait to start working with the various teams at Council and with the range of community and business organisations in Buller. He also recognises the challenging issues the team at Council have been dealing with without a permanent CEO.

He is keen to get on board and support the great people who have been leading Council through this time. In particular, he is recognising Sean Judd and, before him, Rachel Townrow who have led the organisation over the past nine months and the many others that have stepped up.

Outside of work he enjoys hanging out with family, watching his two boys play rugby and mountain biking. He is a keen surfer, cyclist and musician and is really excited to explore what is on offer on the West Coast.

Around the Buller District

Local news

There is a lot happening in our district. Find out how Council supports the Buller community through initiatives, upgrades and providing information.

New Westport Harbour website gone live

Buller District Council's new Westport Harbour website (www.westportharbour.co.nz) went live in July. The new port website replaces the old, outdated website.

The new website is a great one-stop-shop for port users in Buller, who can now find all the safety information, live local weather data, updates, and important information about the port facilities on one modern, easy to navigate website.

The new website is a great improvement from the previous one and includes a lot of interactive live local weather data from the port's own weather stations.

The new website stays with council's branding but has its own modern look and feel, focuses on the port users and their needs. The result is a refreshed view, easy to locate information, online forms, live weather and tide data that allows skippers to easily find out about current and anticipated conditions at the port and the bar.

Council's communications team and IT staff have created the new port website in partnership with a software development company over three months.

The new port website will provide a better service to port users for a safe passage in and out of the harbour.



The new port website can be found at Westport Harbour website (www.westportharbour.co.nz).



MTFJ rocking on for another two years

It's been an immensely rewarding and busy time for MTFJ coordinator Julie and pastoral care support person Ruby as the 2022-23 round of Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) funding came to an end.

A final push saw a large number of job seekers and employers gain support from MTFJ, and those looking for work assisted through various training, tools, short courses, and licences.

In May, Council received the good news that MTFJ New Zealand and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) have secured budget to run the MTFJ community employment programme for the next two years. This enabled Julie and Ruby to continue working with all the hard-working MSD partners and the MTFJ whānau.

In July the 2023-24 new funding year kicked off and although certain funding criteria have changed, there are still plenty of assistance and services available for those looking for employment.

Mental Health support is also available and can be funded, giving job seekers access

to professional therapists.

The driving simulator featured at the local Pathways Career Expo held at Pulse Energy Recreation Centre in June, has been relocated to the Karamea Area School for potential drivers gaining driving experience. If you want to try the simulator, contact Buller REAP.

“Two years funding enables us to continue the amazing mahi until 2025.” says Julie Moore.

The team from MTFJ has also a Facebook page “Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs - Buller District” that keeps you up to date with the latest and greatest the team is doing.



For more information go to bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/mayors-taskforce-for-jobs-mtfj/

Reefton Visitor and Service Centre upgrade reaching the finish line

The upgrade project at the Reefton Visitor and Service Centre (RVSC) is well underway and we are on target to have the upgrade done and dusted in September 2023.

It has been a busy July for our tradies at the Reefton Visitor and Service Centre getting stuck into the construction work.

The crew built a new staff mail sorting room, installed the new NZ Post post boxes, fitted new internal doors and an automated external door at the rear of the building. They also refurbished the accessible toilet, created, plastered and painted a new open plan library space, and upgraded the emergency lighting and fire alarm manual call-points. With these major changes to the RVSC we are near the end of this long awaited upgrade.

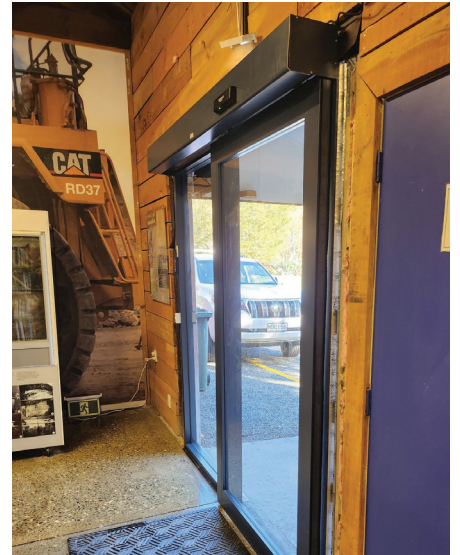
The library team has started moving the Inangahua County library collection back into their new home at the start of August. This is a pretty big job and will take until the end of August.

The improvements will make the building fully compliant and more user-friendly with all services available on site, within one location.

We look forward to continuing to work with the community to provide these key services and thank the Reefton community, and staff, for their patience and feedback on the project.



For more information go to bullerdc.govt.nz/facilities/reefton-visitor-and-service-centre/



New automated external door
Photo by Buller District Council



The new library space
Photo by Buller District Council

Do your bit to keep Buller's roads and footpaths safe

Trees and shrubs overhanging boundaries must be trimmed to a minimum height of 2.5 metres above footpaths and berms and 6 metres above roads.

Property owners are required to trim trees or shrubs obstructing a footpath, road, street sign or waterway. Council is responsible for trimming vegetation on road reserves overhanging on any public access e.g. footpath, berm, park, reserve, waterway or road median strip. Residents are asked to prune trees and shrubs to their boundary line, to have a minimum 1.5m of footpath available for pedestrians and other users.

Are you ready?

In an emergency, it's up to you to make sure your household knows what to do and that you all have what you need to get through.

Make a household plan with your whānau to get through. Think about the things you need every day and work out what you would do if you didn't have them.

In most emergencies, it's best to stay in your own home if it is safe to do so. But that may mean being without power and water or any way to get supplies for seven days or more. Ask yourself and your whānau if you have enough food and water? What about family members who need medication? What about your pets?

Take some time, talk to your family, and write out a family plan. Everyone in your family needs to know the plan.



It's important to make an emergency plan. When a large, sudden event happens it is likely that you and your family may not be together. Spending an hour or two talking about where you might be, and where you will meet if you are separated is a good idea. It's also good to think about other places you or your children might be able to go if you are away from home (eg at school/work/in another town).



You can use the online tool at www.getready.govt.nz/en/prepared/household/make-a-plan/household-plan to develop a plan for you and your family.

Recycling and waste

Have
your
say!

Proposed changes Household waste collection services zone one

Council is proposing changes to the household collection services for rubbish and recycling zone one.

This includes changing the level of service for kerbside rubbish collection and how zone one households pay for their rubbish collection.

Zone one covers urban Westport and Reefton, the areas from Westport to the Mōkihinui Bridge, Westport to Punakaiki, Westport to Reefton including Blacks Point, and Reefton to Ikamatua.



Unsure of which recycling and refuse zone you are in?

Go to: <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/waste-and-recycling/refuse-and-recycling-zones/>

For the large majority of properties in zone one, this would mean:

- A shift from using 60 litre rubbish bags to having a 120 litre wheelie bin provided by Council.
- Mandatory rubbish and recycling collection.
- Changing from weekly to fortnightly collection of rubbish.
- Paying for rubbish and recycling collection through rates (rather than buying rubbish bags).

Under the proposed changes, households serviced by the kerbside rubbish and recycling service would face an estimated combined total cost of between \$375 and \$450* per annum via rates. Those households currently pay \$178 annually for recycling plus the cost of rubbish bags at \$9.10 each.

* The final cost would be determined via a tender agreement to provide the service.

Other changes as part of the proposed new waste management system

Other changes being proposed would see a joint waste management contract including Buller District Council, Grey District Council, and Westland District Council of all waste services (kerbside collection, transfer stations, recycling centres and landfills), starting in 2025.

The service provider of the new Regional Waste Management contract would be determined by a tender process and the tender would be managed by a new joint committee made up of representatives of the three West Coast district councils and local iwi.

Find out more at www.bullerdc.govt.nz



For more information or for sending us your submission



Email

info@bdc.govt.nz with the subject *Waste Management System 2025* if you have any questions.



Online

<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/have-your-say/new-waste-management-system-2025/>

Submissions can be completed online by visiting:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WasteManagementSystem2025>



Post

Return this completed form to the mail slot at Council Offices in Brougham Street, Westport or the Reefton Visitor and Service Centre.



Want a hard copy?

Consultation Documents and submission forms can be collected from Council's offices and libraries in Westport and Reefton, i-Sites, and resource centres across the district.

Submissions are accepted during the consultation period from Monday 7 August to 4:30pm Monday 4 September 2023.

Late submissions will not be considered.

Privacy Statement: In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, all submissions (including your name and contact details) will be made available online as part of the LTP decision-making process. Please refer to www.bullerdc.govt.nz/privacy or contact Council for a copy of Council's Privacy Statement.

Infrastructure Project Delivery

Update

In our Annual Plan, we talked about this being a ‘year of delivery’ and it certainly is busy at Council’s Project Management Office (PMO).



Repairs on the historic Reefton landfill
Photo by Buller District Council

A year of delivery for Council

The PMO is currently managing more than \$57 million worth of infrastructure repair and improvement projects.

Some still relate to flood recovery and others help us be better prepared for the future. This includes \$21 million to provide core infrastructure to the Alma Road temporary village and to facilitate private development in that area. Funding comes from a range of government agencies as well as directly from Council.

Work on the reinstatement of the roads in the Buller District that were damaged in the July 2021 and February 2022 weather events is getting underway, thanks to funding from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. This is a large and far-reaching body of work with a \$16 million budget. Some works on the Karamea Highway are expected to start mid August.

The \$2.5 million upgrade of Waimangaroa’s water infrastructure has made steady

progress and the remainder of the works are due to be wrapped up in August.

The remaining works of Council’s Westport Water Trunk Main Replacement Stage 1B project started recently and includes the pipe connections at McKenna Road and the west side of Scott’s Bridge. This is a \$1.65 million project funded by Council and is part of a critical investment strategy to replace Westport’s 100-year-old, 14” steel trunk main with a new PE100 drinking water pipeline.

Completed stages include the \$4 million Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) funded 700m terrace section and the 2km Stage 1A section through to Scott’s Bridge, which also incorporates the Pressure Reduction Valve assembly for improved network management.

These projects all represent a critical effort to improve and update Buller’s roads, waste, storm and fresh water systems as well as other key infrastructure that keep our district moving and functioning.

Another significant package of work Council is working on is the essential infrastructure programme of flood recovery repairs funded by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Some of the 17m package of essential infrastructure projects are complete, whilst others are ongoing or still in design. Here’s a snapshot of where things are at as at July 2023.

Shipping channel dredging

Dredging of the shipping channel is an ongoing project. The goal is to remove 240,000 cubic metres of debris, silt and gravel in total for this programme.

This project is about one third complete with around \$1.7 million of its \$4.6 million budget used. More than 73,000 cubic metres of debris and silt have so far been removed by the dredge for the purposes of keeping the shipping channel clear.

Reefton stopbank

River training work has been carried out to reinstate the flood stopbank that protects the Reefton campsite and reserve from flooding from the Inangahua River.

Council has been monitoring the river and carried out additional river training in June 2023.

The Reefton Campground is a community asset. The stop bank protects the reserve and Reefton town. A budget of \$150,000 was allocated for this work.

Reefton landfill

Repair work on the river rock wall protecting the historic Reefton landfill started in late May 2023 and at the time of publishing was due to be complete.

Part of the closed Reefton Landfill was scoured away by the Inangahua River during the severe February 2022 weather event, causing waste to be swept away.

The repair has seen more than 10,000 tonnes of locally-sourced rock placed into the protection works. The work that looks to shore up the wall to withstand a 1 in a 50-year flood.

NEMA is contributing just over \$1 million towards the project to reinstate the flood-damaged sections of the wall, with Council contributing an extra \$250,000 to strengthen the remaining sections.

Betterment

'Betterment' projects largely relate to Westport stormwater and wastewater improvements. They are works that were identified as benefiting from being carried out during the overall repair programme.

Projects include:

- Lifting flood damaged Wastewater Pump Station electrical cabinets above 1 in 100 year flood height. Council has recently selected a contractor to carry this out.
- Providing backflow prevention to 5 stormwater outfall locations. Four Wastop valves have been installed and one more are planned to be installed in September.
- Design for the Coates Steet stormwater

upgrade is underway.

- A new sump was installed at the Westport Domain in March 23.
- The Roebuck Street SW manhole was completed in March 23.
- The Mill Street SW manhole was completed in June 23.

Overall, the betterment project is 30% complete.

Wharf repairs

Repairs to the Holcim and Kawatiri wharves in Westport is one of the largest projects under this programme. Design work is complete and is currently being peer-reviewed.

The project has a \$5.9 million budget and once design is finalised, it will go out for procurement. The repair work is expected to take about a year.

Meanwhile, the demolition of the old KiwiRail buildings adjacent to the port is complete.

Tiphead

Flood repairs to the eastern Tiphead wall are complete.

The tiphead at the mouth of the Buller River sustained damage during both the July 2021 and February 2022 weather events.

From mid January to late March this year, more than 6,000 cubic metres of rock was placed. The budget for this project was \$1 million. Trees and shrubs that were removed to allow access to the site were replanted in May, along with over 2,000 new native plants.



You can find out more at bullerrecovery.org.nz.



The Tiphead
Photo by Buller District Council

Repairs to three waters

The \$2.5 million Flood Recovery 3 Waters work programme is nearing completion. The efficiency of the storm and wastewater networks was severely compromised following the July 2021 and February 2022 floods.

What's been done?

Much of the programme of repairs funded by NEMA is complete including CCTV and pipe cleaning of the underground pipe network, grit clean out at the Westport wastewater treatment plant and the replacement of aeration diffusers, open drain clearing works, repairs to Reefton's drinking water reservoir access track and the repair of a large tomo to the Domett Street stormwater main. Repair to a flood-damaged section of the Waimangaroa water main from the February event was funded by NEMA as part of the upgrade project. Replacement of and commissioning of the final electrical components of Westport's Wastewater pump stations damaged by the flood events is now fully complete. This work included replacing damaged pump variable speed drives, various flowmeter devices as well as general electrical componentry.

What is ongoing?

The repair of the historic Brick Arch section of the stormwater network running under Brougham/ Palmerston Streets. Thus far this work has centred on gaining permissions from stakeholders. The civil and structural design has now also been completed for this final repair. This programme of work is separate to the government's reforms, despite being similarly named.

Community and Council notices

Water notices

Water supplies

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, Mokihinui, Ngakawau/ Hector, South Granity and Waimangaroa. Reefton 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 into 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. Storm water 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 off as wastewater.



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

Meetings

August to December 2023

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

The 2023 meeting calendar can be found at bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/.

Please check the calendar for any updates and additional meetings.

Ordinary Council Meeting

- 20 August, 3:30pm
- 27 September, 3:30pm
- 25 October, 3:30pm
- 29 November, 3:30pm
- 13 December, 3:30pm

Community, Environment and Services Committee

- 16 August, 2:30pm
- 15 November, 2:30pm

Inangahua Community Board

- 8 August, 5pm
- 3 October, 5pm
- 5 December, 5pm

Risk and Audit Committee

- 16 August, 3:30pm
- 13 September, 3:30pm
- 11 October, 3:30pm
- 15 November, 3:30pm
- 13 December, 1:30pm

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 Assistant

Email governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz or
Phone 0800 807 239

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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