

**From:** [BDC Lgoima](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Official Information Request for Contractor Information - D Marshall Ref: OIA 075/25  
**Date:** Friday, 1 August 2025 4:51:52 pm

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Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your official information request dated 23 July 2025 requesting information in regards to consultant Douglas Marshall.

The information you have requested is marked in red below:

*“We have been told that council engaged consultant Douglas Marshall to assist with council’s long-term plan and he is now working for council on Local Water Done Well.*

*I request the following information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act:*

- 1. What procurement process did council undertake before hiring Mr Marshall? – This was a direct appointment due to the specific skills and expertise of the contractor given.*
- 2. Was the contract advertised? – No, this was a roll over from his previous contract.*
- 3. Who decided to hire him and were councillors consulted first? If not, why not? – GM Corporate services. The councillors were not consulted due to this being an operational matter.*
- 4. When did the contract begin and how long is it for? – This contract is open ended and as needed to support the organisation.*
- 5. Were councillors advised Mr Marshall was working on these projects? If not, why not? – No - This was an operational matter that was under the delegation of staff.*
- 6. When councillors asked questions about the LTP at council meetings, they were often told by John Salmond that he would get back to them. Was that because Mr Salmond had to get the answers from Mr Marshall? - Mr Salmond would need to consult a variety of people from the finance team or across the organisation to get accurate answers to Councillors questions. Some of these would be provided by Mr Marshall as well as the other staff involved in the project. This is no different to any other projects that require input from all areas of the business.*
- 7. May I have copies of emails between Mr Marshall and council since he began the LTP work please? This is a substantial volume of correspondence, and compiling every email will require significant time and resource. To ensure we can provide what you need in a timely manner, could you please clarify any specific key words or points that you would like to understand further?*
- 8. Why could council’s corporate services team not undertake the LTP and LWDW work? – Our Corporate Services team has undergone a recent restructure and is still building its specialist capability in key areas. While the team is committed to leading major projects as we move forward, the Long-Term Plan and the Local Water*

*Delivery Work (LWDW) involve a high degree of statutory complexity, sector-specific expertise and tight deadlines. To ensure compliance with legislative requirements and to maintain continuity of service, we engaged external support as is very common around the country.*

9. *How much has Mr Marshall's LTP and LWDW work cost council to date? LWDW has \$0, due to the fact it is externally funded. LTP has cost \$ \$56,622.50 - given the employment lag in finance from filling vacancies the \$56K cost will be absorbed within budget.*

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 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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**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

# Community Grant Fund

## One round for FY 2025/26

Applications open  
**14 July - 11 August 2025**

Total funds available  
**\$80,000**

[Click here to learn more](#)

The graphic features an illustration of four people (two men and two women) standing on a large, colorful puzzle that is being assembled. The puzzle pieces are in shades of red, orange, and blue. The background is a light blue gradient.