

From: BDC Looima
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Official Information Request for Council Information - Various Ref: 080/25
Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 4:13:49 pm
Attachments: [Grants Info 2022-2025 OIA 080_25.xlsx](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your official information request dated 30 July . Your questions and our responses, marked in red, are below:

Rate payer base:

Is it possible to get the following numbers of rate payers for

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1. | The whole of the Buller district: | 6830 |
| 2. | Just the Westport township: | 3318 |
| 3. | Reefton | 914 |
| 4. | Karamea | 691 |
| 5. | And Hector (including Ngakawau, Granity and Waimangaroa) | 644 |
| 6. | Granity | (incl above) |
| 7. | Punakaiki etc | 141 |

What current target rates are set up for?"

8. Water drinking supply and treatment plant upgrades:

Covers the cost of providing a service to the rating area.

9. Sewage:

Covers the cost of providing a service to the rating area.

10. Rubbish:

Covers the cost of providing a service to the rating area.

Targeted rates further comments: Targeted rates are billed to each household for certain services or facilities that are available to the household. These include sewerage, waste collection and water supply (and water meter charges). Targeted rates are the primary source of income for funding the water, wastewater, and solid waste activities.

11. Any other target rates –

No other target rates

12. When do the target rates to pay for the sewage treatment plant and drinking water upgrades finish(debt paid back)

Most capital items are loan funded over an expected minimum life of 50 years. The original Westport Waste Water Treatment plant construction commenced 2004 and was completed 2006. So, assume there's 32 years of loan repayments left.

Similarly, the major Westport Water Treatment Plant upgrades were completed in 2014, so approximately 40 years of loan repayments.

The targeted rates, in the most part, are adjusted as loan funding is repaid and new debt added for other improvements. 3 Waters capital spend is around \$12m

annually and, aside from specific items (like trunkmain extensions or new treatment options) is mostly spent on renewing pipes, pumps and valves that have reached their end of life, or have failed.

13. Which streets eg lower Brougham Orowaiti and any others that needed sewage reticulation added to them to connect to the treatment plant.

There are no streets or roads currently identified that need wastewater reticulation added to connect to the Wastewater treatment plant.

There are some properties where the service is available and required but hasn't yet been completed. These connections would be at the property owner's expense. Unconnected properties, within 50m of an available service, are 100% rated - regardless of them being physically connected.

Kew Rd may need new reticulation if there is further intensification or problems develop as most properties there are on private septic tanks

There is intended reticulation in the Alma Rd and Mc Padden Rd area to support further development.

14. They pay a second targeted rate for that work.

Those properties that are required to connect that have not connected are required to pay standard rates, there is no rate differential for this.

15. When will that be paid off by

The premise around the rating is that the properties will pay for the assets over the life of the asset, the calculation of the projected payback period isn't currently up to date.

This could be calculated – a process taking approximately 4 hours if required, it involves original costings annual rates repairs depreciation paid rates, cost of borrowing repayment times etc. I am unaware of any value in this calculation as the area is still subject to the same rates.

The calculation is work that may be charged for.

Water treatment plant

16. What significant upgrades were carried out eg 2013 treatment plant

Westport Water Supply Upgrade Overview:

The Westport water supply has been a primary focus of several key infrastructure upgrades, including the replacement of old pipelines, trunk main upgrades, and the installation of Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV). The details of the upgrades are outlined below:

Trunkmain Upgrade Journey (Reference: https://youtu.be/j_V1Ail0N6o)

2010: Trunkmain source upgrades (710mm PE pipes)

2014: Trunkmain source upgrades and significant water treatment upgrades (300mm uPVC pipes)

2017: Trunkmain source upgrades (110mm PE pipes)

2018: Trunkmain source upgrades (525mm PE pipes)

2020: Tunnel pipeline upgrades

2022: Trunkmain upgrades (from water treatment plant to the beginning of Stephen Road) and PRV installation

2023: Trunkmain upgrades from the PRV to Scott Bridge)

2024: Trunkmain upgrades (from Scott Bridge to McKenna Road)

2025: (on going): Trunkmain upgrades (from McKenna Road to Queen Street)

17. 2017-18 tunnel collapses

Major Reticulation Pipeline Replacement

2012-2018: Derby Street upgrade (200mm uPVC pipeline)

2023 (ongoing): Replacement of old pipelines, focusing on areas with AC, GS, and CI pipes.

These pipeline replacements have resulted in a significant reduction in water loss and an improvement in water quality throughout the town.

This was demonstrated during the last summer, where no water restrictions were required, and only a conservation notice was issued as a precautionary measure.

Council insurance of assets

18. When did BDC have to remove assets from BDC insurance cover due to ever increasing cost of insurance (*refined question received from requester on 7/08/25*).

We have not removed assets from our insurance policies to cover the increasing costs of insurance. Due to the Buller floods, we revised the cost of our above ground assets significantly.

19. The number of assets we have had to remove.
This question was withdrawn by requester on 7 August.

Insurance

20. In the last 10 years how much has the \$\$\$\$ cost to council has insurance increased.

Insurance Costs have increased by \$ 891 048.91 over the past 10 years. In 2016 our Insurance expense was \$ 215,883.33 (ex GST) and in 2025 we spent \$ 1,106,932.24 (ex GST). This is an increase over the 10 years of \$ 891,932.24.

With the unitary rate

21. How much goes to services –

The unitary unit we believe you are talking about the water supply rates, the sewerage disposal rates and solid waste management rates ie the service rates. Each of the total amount collected for these is used solely for that purpose ie the Westport water rate will go to the Westport water account.

22. How much goes to our community grants.

The amount in the 25/26 financial year assigned to Community Grants is \$80,000 (0.6%)

Can I get the list of the successful grant recipients for the last 4 years.
Please see attached spreadsheet.

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 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.

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

Paul Numan | Group Manager Corporate Services

Email Paul.Numan@bdc.govt.nz

Buller District Council | Phone 0800 807 239 | bullerdc.govt.nz
PO Box 21 | Westport 7866

Community Driven | One Team | Future Focused | Integrity | We Care

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BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunhera O Kawatiri

VOTE
2025
LOCAL ELECTIONS

**EVERY VOTE HELPS
SHAPE OUR FUTURE.**
MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR SAY.

votelocal.co.nz

**NEXT LOCAL ELECTIONS
OCTOBER 2025**

2021-2022 Year

Applicant/Organisation	Date Granted	Amount	Accountability Received
Charleston Hall Board	Aug-21	\$11,276.98	✓
Citizens Advice Bureau	Aug-21	\$13,071.00	✓
Friends of Waiuta Inc.	Aug-21	\$5,000.00	✓
Inangahua Arts Council	Aug-21	\$1,750.00	
Kaitiaki Mokihinui Charitable Trust	Aug-21	\$700.00	✓
Karamea War Memorial	Aug-21	\$1,227.88	✓
Kawatiri Group Riding for the Disabled	Aug-21	\$2,000.00	✓
MENZ Shed Westport	Aug-21	\$2,200.00	✓
Potikohua Charitable Trust	Aug-21	\$3,300.00	
Victim Support Buller	Aug-21	\$4,000.00	✓
Westport Munciple Band	Aug-21	\$3,160.82	✓
Totals Round One		\$47,686.68	
Unspend funds (Te Ha o Kawatiri)		831.04	
Funds available round two		\$48,517.72	
Buller Budget Advisory Service	Mar-22	\$ 3,000.00	✓
Buller Wheel Chair Bus	Mar-22	\$ 3,500.00	✓
Clean Streams Karamea	Mar-22	\$ 1,000.00	✓
Friends of Karamea Area School	Mar-22	\$ 21,497.12	✓
Friends of North School	Mar-22	\$ 1,000.00	
Homebuilders Trust	Mar-22	\$ 3,000.00	✓
Inangahua Junction Hall and Reserve Subcommittee	Mar-22	\$ 2,500.00	✓
Karamea Craft Group	Mar-22	\$ 500.00	
Market Cross Community Group	Mar-22	\$ 2,700.00	✓
Northern Buller Community Inc.	Mar-22	\$ 1,400.00	✓
Presbyterian Support	Mar-22	\$ 2,304.00	✓
Reefton Bowling Club	Mar-22	\$ 5,000.00	
Torea Gallery and Studios Inc	Mar-22	\$ 1,116.60	✓
Totals Round two		\$ 48,517.72	

Late due to Covid will supply by the end of 2023

2022-2023 Year

Applicant/Organisation	Date Granted	Amount	Accountability Received	Comments
Charleston / Westport Coastal Trail Trust	Aug-22	\$1,000.00	✓	
Citizens Advice Bureau	Aug-22	\$9,803.00	✓	
Kawatiri Youth Voice Council	Aug-22	\$1,000.00		
Reefton Powerhouse Charitable Trust	Aug-22	\$7,500.00	✓	
Charleston Hall Board	Aug-22	\$4,804.40		
Island Creek Lodge	Aug-22	\$4,200.00		
Kaitiaki Mokihinui Charitable Trust	Aug-22	\$700.00	✓	
Karamea Early Learning Centre	Aug-22	\$2,000.00	NA	Returned grant since the group dissolved
Kawatiri Group Riding for the Disabled	Aug-22	\$2,000.00	✓	
New Zealand Food Network Foodbank Distribution Bulle	Aug-22	\$2,000.00	✓	
Sacred Heart School Reefton Parent Teacher Associatic	Aug-22	\$3,094.00	✓	
Victim Support in Buller	Aug-22	\$4,000.00	✓	
Westport Menz Shed	Aug-22	\$2,500.00	✓	
Westport Municipal Band	Aug-22	\$3,335.00	✓	
Westport Early Learning Centre	Aug-22	\$1,000.00		
Total round one		\$48,936.40		
Funds returned Karamea Early Learning Centre		\$ 2,000.00		
Funds returned Westport LSAR		\$ 1,498.02		
Funds available round two		\$22,565.58		
Buller Basketball Association	Mar-23	\$ 1,594.20		
Buller Budget Advisory Service	Mar-23	\$ 3,985.50		
Inangahua Junction Hall and Reserve Subcommittee	Mar-23	\$ 1,913.04	✓	
Kawatiri Nature Environment & Communities Trust	Mar-23	\$ 3,387.68		
Market Cross Community Group Inc	Mar-23	\$ 3,137.39	✓	
Mokihinui Reserve and Hall Subcommittee	Mar-23	\$ 914.27		
Pickle Ball Karamea	Mar-23	\$ 597.83		
Westport Playcentre	Mar-23	\$ 3,985.50	✓	
Westport Toy Library	Mar-23	\$ 3,049.00	✓	
Total round two		\$ 22,564.40		

2023-2024 Year

Applicant/Organisation	Date Granted	Amount	Accountability Received	Comments
Buller Citizens Advice Bureau	Nov-23	\$13,071.00	✓	
Buller Gorge Marathon Trust	Nov-23	\$5,000.00		
Buller Gymnastics Club	Nov-23	\$4,180.00	✓	
Friends of North School	Nov-23	\$2,000.00		
Inangahua A&P Show	Nov-23	\$1,950.00	✓	
KMCT - Kaitiaki Mokinui	Nov-23	\$800.00	✓	
Potikohua Trust	Nov-23	\$5,000.00	✓	
Torea Gallery	Nov-23	\$946.47	✓	
Westport Menz Shed	Nov-23	\$2,500.00	✓	
Funds allocated round one		\$35,447.47		
Funds available round two		\$39,552.53		
Buller Budget Advisory Service	Apr-24	\$ 8,616.00		
Charleston-Westport Coastal Trail Trust	Apr-24	\$ 1,403.82		
Hato Hone St John Youth	Apr-24	\$ 1,200.00		
Inangahua Junction Reserve & Hall Subcommittee	Apr-24	\$ 5,000.00	✓	
Market Cross Community Group	Apr-24	\$ 4,111.37	✓	
Northern Buller Museum, Granity	Apr-24	\$ 5,000.00	✓	
Reefton Boxing	Apr-24	\$ 2,000.00	✓	
Westport Municipal Band	Apr-24	\$ 3,721.34	✓	
Whenua Iti Outdoors	Apr-24	\$ 2,500.00	✓	
Homebuilders West Coast Trust	Apr-24	\$ 4,000.00		
NZ Council of Victim Support Groups Inc.	Apr-24	\$ 2,000.00	✓	
Total round two		\$ 39,552.53		
Total 2023/24 FY		\$75,000.00		

2024/2025 Year

Applicant/Organisation	Date granted	Amount	Accountability Received	Comments
Charleston to Westport Coastal Trail Trust	Sept-24	\$7,900.00	✓	
Citizens Advice Bureau Buller	Sept-24	\$13,071.00	✓	
Clean Streams Karamea Inc	Sept-24	\$2,000.00		
Heritage West Coast Incorporated	Sept-24	\$10,000.00		
Inangahua A & P & Sports Association	Sept-24	\$1,950.00	✓	
Kaitiaki Mokihinui Charitable Trust	Sept-24	\$800.00	✓	
Karamea Historical Society	Sept-24	\$3,909.00	✓	
Karamea War Memorial Library Inc	Sept-24	\$1,300.00		
NZ Food Network Foodbank	Sept-24	\$2,000.00		
Reefton Histroic Trust Board	Sept-24	\$2,070.00		
Reefton Sports Park	Sept-24	\$7,000.00		
Westport Menz Shed	Sept-24	\$3,000.00	✓	
Funds allocated round one		\$55,000.00		
Funds available round two		\$50,000.00		
Buller Budget Advisory Service	Mar-25	\$8,616.00		
Buller Gymnastics Club	Mar-25	\$3,860.00		
Buller Mining Districts Community Centres Society Incorporated	Mar-25	\$3,840.00		
Buller Netball Centre	Mar-25	\$2,000.00		
Homebuilders West Coast Trust	Mar-25	\$4,000.00		
Kawatiri Kapa Haka Group	Mar-25	\$1,950.00	✓	
Reefton Bowling Club	Mar-25	\$786.00		
Reefton Motor Camp	Mar-25	\$9,577.60		
Sunset Speedway	Mar-25	\$8,725.69		
Westport Municipal Band	Mar-25	\$3,844.71		
Westport Rotary Club	Mar-25	\$800.00		
Whenua Iti Outdoors	Mar-25	\$2,000.00		Notified in May 2025 that they have to fund additional funding to enable the project for which they received partial funding. Once they can confirm this the funding will be paid out. Until then the funds will be held.
Funds allocated round two		\$ 50,000.00		
Total distributed 2024/25		\$105,000.00		