

**27 September 2024**

## **Tenders open for major Westport flood protection works**

Tenders are now open for the construction of the McKenna Stopbank, a crucial project within the Resilient Westport structural protection programme.

It marks the beginning of a multi-million-dollar effort to protect Westport in the event of significant future flooding.

West Coast Regional Council Chair Peter Haddock says the tender is a major step in building Westport's long-term flood resilience.

"The stopbank, on private farmland, plays a vital role in the overall scheme by cutting off a key overflow route into the township. Historically, these waterways have exacerbated flooding during high rainfall endangering homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

"A lot of planning, consultation and detailed design has gone into getting to this stage and we thank the community for all their collaboration and support.

"Protecting Westport from future flooding is an absolute priority for the Council. Starting construction is a major milestone in our efforts to better protect Westport from future floods."

The tender is listed on the Government Electronic Tender Service (GETS). Interested contractors should submit proposals before 11 October 2024. WCRC is encouraging contractors to take part in the competitive process.

The project is a key component of the wider Resilient Westport programme, a collaborative effort between WCRC, Buller District Council, iwi, and various government departments.

The total budget for the flood protection scheme is estimated at \$23.97 million, with central government contributing \$15.6 million and WCRC providing \$8.37 million.

The McKenna Stopbank, along with other flood protection measures such as ring-banks, drainage upgrades, and community resilience initiatives, will form a comprehensive defensive network for the Westport area.

Works are already underway at Cats Creek, where Westreef Services Ltd has started constructing a 80-metre-long earthen stopbank.

The McKenna project is expected to commence shortly after tender submissions are received and evaluated.

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**Image**

Work underway at Cats Creek.

**Background information (**

[GETS | West Coast Regional Council - WFPS Stages S1.2 McKenna 24-25.10](#)

**Contact**

Peter Haddock, West Coast Regional Council Chair

Mobile: 027 247 9148