

AGENDA

Extraordinary Meeting of the
Buller District Council

Commencing at 11:00am
Monday 30 June 2025

To be held at the
Clocktower Chambers
Palmerston Street
Westport



CORE COUNCILLOR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governance role entails:

- Strategic planning and decision-making;
- Policy and strategy review;
- Community leadership and engagement, and stewardship;
- Setting appropriate levels of service;
- Maintaining a financially sustainable organisation; and
- Oversight/scrutiny of Council's performance as one team.

The governance role focusses on the big picture of 'steering the boat' - management's role focusses on 'rowing the boat'

Our commitments to best support each other and meet the challenges and opportunities of 2025 include:

CLEAR AND RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION

We are committed to:

Actively listening and not interrupting;

Remaining conscious of 'tone', body language, and amount of time speaking (allowing time for others);

Responding/answering in a timely manner; and

Being honest, reasonable, and transparent.

TRUST AND RESPECT

We recognise that trust and respect must be earned and that a team without trust isn't really a team. Trust can be built by:

Valuing long-term relationships; being honest; honouring commitments; admitting when you're wrong; communicating effectively; being transparent; standing up for what's right; showing people that you care; being helpful; and being vulnerable.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

Continuous learning and improvement are critical for growing together as a team.

We are committed to constantly reviewing what is going well and what needs to improve in relation to the way we work together, the processes we follow, and the outcomes we deliver.

NONE OF US IS AS SMART AS ALL OF US

Council

Chairperson:	Mayor
Membership:	The Mayor and all Councillors
Meeting Frequency:	Monthly – or as required.
Quorum:	A majority of members (including vacancies)

Purpose

The Council is responsible for:

1. Providing leadership to, and advocacy on behalf of, the people of Buller district.
2. Ensuring that all functions and powers required of a local authority under legislation, and all decisions required by legislation to be made by local authority resolution, are carried out effectively and efficiently, either by the Council or through delegation.

Terms of Reference

1. To exercise those powers and responsibilities which cannot legally be delegated by Council:
 - a) The power to set district rates.
 - b) The power to create, adopt and implement a bylaw.
 - c) The power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the Long Term Plan.
 - d) The power to adopt a Long Term Plan or Annual Plan, or Annual Report.
 - e) The power to appoint a Chief Executive Officer.
 - f) The power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government Act 2002 in association with the Long Term Plan, or developed for the purpose of the Council's governance statement, including the Infrastructure Strategy.
 - g) The power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy for Chief Executive Officer.
 - h) The power to approve or change the District Plan, or any part of that Plan, in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991.
 - i) The power to approve or amend the Council's Standing Orders.
 - j) The power to approve or amend the Code of Conduct for Elected Members.
 - k) The power to appoint and discharge members of committees.
 - l) The power to establish a joint committee with another local authority or other public body.
 - m) The power to make the final decision on a recommendation from the Parliamentary Ombudsman, where it is proposed that Council not accept the recommendation.
 - n) Health & Safety obligations and legislative requirements are met.
-

2. To exercise the following powers and responsibilities of Council, which the Council chooses to retain:
- a) Resolutions required to be made by a local authority under the Local Electoral Act 2001, including the appointment of an electoral officer and reviewing representation arrangements.
 - b) Approval of any changes to Council's vision, and oversight of that vision by providing direction on strategic priorities and receiving regular reports on its overall achievement.
 - c) Adoption of governance level strategies, plans and policies which advance Council's vision and strategic goals.
 - d) Approval of the Triennial Agreement.
 - e) Approval of the local governance statement required under the Local Government Act 2002.
 - f) Approval of a proposal to the Remuneration Authority for the remuneration of Members.
 - g) Approval of any changes to the nature and delegations of the Committees.
 - h) Approval of funding to benefit the social, cultural, arts and environmental wellbeing of communities in Buller District
 - i) Ensuring Buller is performing to the highest standard in the area of civil defence and emergency management through:
 - i) Implementation of Government requirements
 - ii) Contractual service delivery arrangements with the West Coast Regional Group Emergency Management Office
 - j) All other powers and responsibilities not specifically delegated to the Risk and Audit Committee, subcommittees, independent hearing panels or Inangahua Community Board.

Buller District Council Extraordinary Meeting LWDW

Venue: Clock Tower Chambers, Westport.



30 June 2025 11:00 AM

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Monday 30th June 11:00am - 3:00pm

Tuesday 1st July 9:00am - 3:00pm

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

14 MAY 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 1

Prepared by Simon Pickford
Chief Executive Officer

APOLOGIES

1. **REPORT PURPOSE**

That Buller District Council receive any apologies or requests for leave of absence from elected members.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

2. **That there are no apologies to be received and no requests for leave of absence.**

OR

3. **That Buller District Council receives apologies from (insert councillor name) and accepts councillor (insert name) request for leave of absence.**

**BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING**

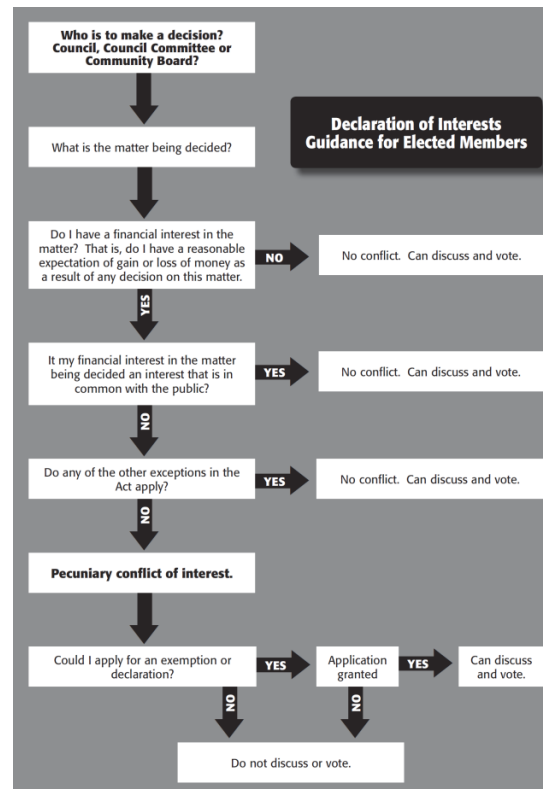
14 MAY 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 2

Prepared by Simon Pickford
Chief Executive Officer

MEMBERS INTEREST

1. Members are encouraged to consider the items on the agenda and disclose whether they believe they have a financial or non-financial interest in any of the items in terms of Council's Code of Conduct.
2. Councillors are encouraged to advise the Governance Secretary, of any changes required to their declared Members Interest Register.
3. The attached flowchart may assist members in making that determination (Appendix A from Code of Conduct).



4. **DRAFT RECOMMENDATION:**

That Members disclose any financial or non-financial interest in any of the agenda items.

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

30 JUNE 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 3

- Prepared by** John Salmond
Corporate and Strategic Planning Manager
- Anthony Blom
Group Manager Infrastructure Services
- Reviewed by** Simon Pickford
Chief Executive Officer
- Attachments** 1. Speaker Summary
2. Local Water Done Well Submissions- Redacted
3. Local Water Done Well Consultation Report

Public Excluded: No

**LOCAL WATER DONE WELL HEARINGS, DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS
REPORT**

1. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
The purpose of this report is to hear submissions on Local Water Done Well.
2. This issue arises from the requirements set out in the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024
3. This report recommends that Council hear, and consider the submissions on Local Water Done Well, to use these submissions to make decisions about the next step in the project and direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to undertake the outcomes of the deliberations.

4. **DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

- 1. Receives the report and the attachments.**
- 2. Hear and consider the written and verbal submissions.**

3. Deliberates on the submissions of Local Water Done Well

4. Following Council deliberations, the Council resolves to:

A. Create a multi-council-controlled water organisation, with one or both of the West Coast District Councils (Grey District Council and Westland District Council) depending on the decisions made by those Councils.

Or

B. Create an Internal Business Unit – Water services remain within Council, with ring-fenced revenue and expenditure to meet financial and regulatory requirements.

5. ISSUES & DISCUSSION

6. BACKGROUND

At the Extraordinary Council meeting on 14 May 2025, Council agreed to conduct public consultation under s 61 of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024. As part of this Act, when deciding whether to establish / join a water services council-controlled organisation (WSCCO) or a joint local government arrangement, the Council must consider at least:

- Remaining with the existing approach for delivering water services (Enhanced and adjusted Status quo); and
- Establishing or joining a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation.

7. The consultation document provided two options:

- i. A multi-council-controlled water organisation, with two or more Councils.**
- ii. Internal Business Unit – Water services remain within Council, with ring-fenced revenue and expenditure to meet financial and regulatory requirements.**

8. Under the requirements of the Act, Council were legislatively required to choose a preferred option. The preferred option chosen by Council prior to Consultation was to create a Multi-Council Controlled Water Organisation.

9. The reasons that option were chosen are as follows:

- Most affordable for our community
- Already a strong working foundation
- Working together will help to reduce costs over time
- Complies with all the requirements of the legislation

10. **NEXT STEPS**

- Council hears and considers all the submissions
- That Councils deliberate on the two options proposed and decide on which delivery model will be taken
- Further next steps will be considered once the decision is made as to which delivery model is taken

11. **CONSIDERATIONS**

12. **Strategic Impact**

Council must ensure the decision on how it delivers water services meet the strategic direction for the district. It is a decision that will have implications for the rest of the Council and the services it delivers in the future.

13. **Significance Assessment**

The significance and engagement policy sets out the criteria and the framework for a matter or transaction to be deemed significant. The Local Water Done Well project and the supporting Consultation Document are significant and due process around consultation must be undertaken. The decision as how Buller District delivers water in the future is a critical decision to be made.

14. The level of significance has been assessed as being high under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy

15. Public consultation was undertaken under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 from Friday, 16 May 2025 and closed on Monday, 13 June 2025 at 4.30pm. This was advertised through public notices in local newspapers, public drop-in sessions throughout the district, and through the Council's other communication channels.

16. All the other information surrounding the consultation is provided in the appendices.

17. **Risk Management Implications / Opportunities**

The following risks or opportunities are identified with the issues identified in this report:

- Compliance and regulatory risk – Delaying or not holding the hearing risks not meeting the legislative timeframe of submitting a Water Services Delivery Plan to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025.
- Reputational risk – If Council does not hold the hearing there is a risk of damage to Councils reputation as the public will perceive that Council does not take their views into account in making decisions. It could also pose a risk from Central Government and our involvement in the reform as whole.

- Financial – Whichever decision is taken will have a knock-on financial consideration and something that Council need to consider as the process evolves.

18. **Policy & Legislative Considerations**

There are no policies relevant to this issue at this stage, but there are certainly legal and policy considerations as we move ahead with the decisions taken.

19. We have started to seek legal advice in relation to this project and there will be significant decisions and implications as we move forward which will require legal advice i.e. relationship agreements etc.
20. This consultation is being undertaken under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024. Under the Act's alternative processes, councils must identify and consult on at least two options for water services delivery: the status quo (existing approach) and establishing, joining, or amending a water services CCO or a joint local government arrangement.
21. The Act provides alternative consultation processes that councils can choose to use instead of the standard processes under the Local Government Act 2002. These alternative processes are designed to streamline the decision-making and consultation processes however our proposal is to hold the consultation with submissions, hearings and deliberations

22. **Māori Impact Statement**

The decision will involve a significant decision in relation to ancestral land, or a body of water or other elements of intrinsic value and it will specifically impact Tangata Whenua, their culture and traditions.

23. We have engaged with Mana Whenua throughout the process and will continue
24. to do so as the project moves forward. It is expected that there will be high interest from Iwi in relation to this.

25. **Financial Considerations**

There are no extraordinary costs other than already budgeted for in production and consultation with respect to the process.

26. There will need to be further consideration of the financial impact when a decision is made.

27. It is expected that the costs of establish a water organisation will be at the cost of the new entity in whichever form that may be.
28. **Communication Internal / External**
There is expected to be public and media interest in this report and all communication will be managed using the Buller District Council communications strategy.

LWDW SPEAKERS SCHEDULE - MONDAY 30 JUNE 2025						
Time	Submission Number	Name	Organisation	In Person / Remote	Agenda Page Number	Notes
Group One						
11.00am	6	Zack		In Person		Unable to attend as conflicts with work - sent through email 19/6: unfortunately I am working the 30th so will not be able to voice my concerns. My view is that the ratepayers should not have to pay for any water separation or costs associated with the decisions
11.00am	9	Christine Carter	Carter Consulting	In Person		
11.00am	13	Ariel		Remote		No longer wishes to speak as per email received 19/6: Kia ora. Thank you for the invitation. I will not be attending this meeting. I trust great mystery will guide you all to a deeper embodiment of what's really important. People need drinking water; we live in one of the poorest communities and you want to take away our resources? The injustice, criminal activity that has infected the government which is clearly trickling down through ideology and the increasing intensity of legislation has to be questioned at some point. It seems absurd to take this away to me. The majority of the income and resources that are in our community get taken away while minimal money from the industries come back to serve the community and local small businesses. I think if you truly want to serve the people give them the power to manage their resources as small local community. I mean no harm with my sharing of truth simply to inspire new ways of thinking and true embodiment of grounded interpersonal relating to real humans that live in holistic ways that value resources of establishment that already exist. Thank you for reading. Aroha mai. Nga mihi
11.00am	24	John Bougen	Retail Solutions Ltd	In Person		
11.00am	26	Adriana James		In Person		
Group Two						
11.30am	27	Paul Reynolds		In Person		
11.30am	28	Bert Waghorn		In Person		
11.30am	31	Kevin Smith		In Person		
11.30am	32	Dave Hawes		In Person		
11.30am	35	Simon Cameron and Hemi Bedggood	Federated Farmers of NZ	One Remote, One In Person		

Survey Responses

10 October 2024 - 17 June 2025

Submission form

Let's talk Buller

Project: Local Water Done Well

 GRANICUS

VISITORS						
66						
CONTRIBUTORS			RESPONSES			
27			36			
4	0	23	11	0	25	
Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous	

**Respondent No:** 1**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 17, 2025 18:13:24 pm**Last Seen:** May 17, 2025 18:13:24 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Paul Roberts
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	██████████
Q4. Town	██████
Q5. Postcode	███
Q6. Phone	██████████
Q7. Email	████████████████████
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	3 councils rather than I would say a single group could end up becoming very costly
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 2**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 22, 2025 09:53:16 am**Last Seen:** May 22, 2025 09:53:16 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Dianne Linton
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	not answered
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 2: Stand-alone internal business unit
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	I believe that Little Wanganui Sub will end up paying more or losing out if we combine with other areas. With all the rates we have paid for our muddy water there should still be money left as nothing has been done for the 20 odd years we have lived here. Westreef come and flush the lines and fix broken lines and that's about it.
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered



Respondent No: 3
Login: Fualahi 71
Email: bemac483@gmail.com

Responded At: May 22, 2025 14:12:10 pm
Last Seen: May 22, 2025 02:16:19 am
IP Address: 222.153.27.186

Q1. Name	Brian & Nancy Mc Farlane
Q2. Organisation	[REDACTED]
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	<p>This option makes sense to me as the combination of three councils is likely to provide a sharing of ideas, expertise and possibly equipment. This is likely to provide well thought out decisions through discussion. I do have a slight reservation re the separate group to be set up to manage on behalf of the three councils. I would not like to see the formation of said group turn into an " Empire Building " exercise.</p>
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	<p>BDC needs to clarify their intentions regarding the stormwater/sewerage situation at Carters Beach as there are plenty of irate rate payers out here. e.g. Exactly how many properties are affected, if stormwater discharge is removed from a sewer where is it going to go to ?, Is BDC proposing a new stormwater disposal system ?.</p>

**Respondent No:** 4**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 23, 2025 06:37:06 am**Last Seen:** May 23, 2025 06:37:06 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Dave Millar
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	Scale of economy with shared resources (staffing, equipment, purchasing etc)
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 5**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 13:50:14 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 13:50:14 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Lucas Hateley
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 2: Stand-alone internal business unit
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	
<p>Option 1 does not have enough guaranteed information to support the joint CCO option, i.e. you say that Buller would not be funding Grey and Westland but what guarantees are there for this. the only real benefits i see in option 1 is the potential for lower overheads due to having shared management team between the 3 districts. potential for "shared machinery / vehicles" doesn't make a lot of sense unless its in larger gear like hydrovac and CCTV units. end of the day i don't care what Grey and Westland do with their reticulation i care about the Buller and we will have enough to worry about without having to potentially compete with another two councils. there is going to be an overall shortage of qualified staff and Buller should be working to lock in the specialists we have here for the long term as they will be pivotal in the success of this unit.</p>	
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	
<p>I feel that BDC staff presented very well at the local WDW discussions held at NBS theatre. i feel that the community has been pushed toward option 1 as the only feasible option due to cost, at this stage i am unsure that if the only difference between the two options is limited buying power and lower overheads (possibly) that the cost comparison could be correct. i.e i think that option 2 may not cost as much as BDC have reported and option 1 could be worse than expected. i maybe wrong and time will tell.</p>	

**Respondent No:** 6**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** May 30, 2025 17:28:18 pm**Last Seen:** May 30, 2025 17:28:18 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Zack
Q2. Organisation	Rate payer
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	Yes in person
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	not answered
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	Option 2
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 7**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 01, 2025 21:01:25 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 01, 2025 21:01:25 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	P Steadman
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	not answered
Q4. Town	not answered
Q5. Postcode	not answered
Q6. Phone	not answered
Q7. Email	not answered
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 2: Stand-alone internal business unit
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	<p>-West Coast is long and thin so a multi council entity will incur additional travel time and cost and we risk losing knowledge and focus on Buller. Coupled with the additional costs of a new multi council organization, will there actually be any real savings as claimed? -Increasing debt only adds to long term total cost and carries risk of increasing interest rates. It also extends our ability to live beyond our means and delays hard decisions about spending priorities. Three waters should be the #1 priority for council spending so any extra investment required should be funded from delaying/cutting less essential items.</p>
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	<p>Upgrades are nice, but priority should be given to maintaining what we already have. Ideally upgrades are funded from cash reserves rather than interest bearing debt.</p>

**Respondent No:** 8**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 05, 2025 19:03:37 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 05, 2025 19:03:37 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	James Cowie
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	not answered
Q4. Town	
Q5. Postcode	not answered
Q6. Phone	not answered
Q7. Email	not answered
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	<p>I support a multi-council controlled organisation, as the internal delivery model is neither realistic nor viable. This is a significant decision, and our councillors need to move beyond political point-scoring and focus on their governance responsibilities. It's time to make decisions based on what is best for the long-term future of our communities, not on short-term popularity or election outcomes. We are in this situation because of central government reforms, and unfortunately, the burden is now falling on ratepayers. Councillors must show leadership and make evidence-based decisions that ensure sustainable water services into the future.</p>
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 9**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 06, 2025 09:38:27 am**Last Seen:** Jun 06, 2025 09:38:27 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Christine Carter
Q2. Organisation	Carter Consulting
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	Yes in person
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 2: Stand-alone internal business unit
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	It is well proven that amalgamating never ends up saving just has another layer of costs.
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	Most of the West Coast is on simple tank system. For those like us in Little Wanganui Subdivision have had a rudimentary system and been okay. The extra rates we pay for this could up grade easily with 2 more holding settling tanks. That our extra rates pay for. Then if each household commits to a small tank for drinking water which is filtered by UV our system will be fine. Locals in the Little Wanganui area are not wealthy and can't afford to pay the predicted by 2033 \$10,000 a year in Waste and Water. I am really worried about the 10 year plan predictions on this demonstrates our councillors and Council employees don't even care about whether something is affordable or not.

**Respondent No:** 10**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 06, 2025 17:44:50 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 06, 2025 17:44:50 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Karl mcconachy
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	
Q4. Town	
Q5. Postcode	
Q6. Phone	not answered
Q7. Email	
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	It's the cheapest option for us rate payers
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 11**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 06, 2025 20:11:49 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 06, 2025 20:11:49 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Dave Millar
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	Better value and reduced risk
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 12**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 06, 2025 20:30:26 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 06, 2025 20:30:26 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Deb Langridge
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	not answered
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	not answered
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	Bdc recommends. Similar issues with other coast towns, contractors economy of scale.
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	Thank you to the hardworking staff at BDC. I know the water issues you work on are many!

**Respondent No:** 13**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 07, 2025 03:54:53 am**Last Seen:** Jun 07, 2025 03:54:53 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Ariel
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	Yes through a remote option
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	not answered
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	Kia Ora I have received concerning information regarding the Mokihinui water supply and the potential removal of the system. I was curious if there are other solutions being able to keep it in place using it only for specific reasons as tannin water is actually very healthy to bath in because there are microorganism in the tannin water that is good for skin health. Other than that could be keen on a chat or something if able
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 14**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 07, 2025 17:23:39 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 07, 2025 17:23:39 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Richard Byrne
Q2. Organisation	Housep hold
Q3. Postal address	
Q4. Town	not answered
Q5. Postcode	not answered
Q6. Phone	not answered
Q7. Email	not answered
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	not answered
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	not answered
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	not answered
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	not answered
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 15**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 07, 2025 17:29:24 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 07, 2025 17:29:24 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Richard Byrne
Q2. Organisation	House hould
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	Big voice
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	No comment

**Respondent No:** 16**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 09, 2025 10:16:35 am**Last Seen:** Jun 09, 2025 10:16:35 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Cole Ryan
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	
Larger group of users/payers are likely to keep costs down.	
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	
I request no increase in the cost of water services, that the respective councils work within the existing budget and do the basics.	

**Respondent No:** 17**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 11, 2025 10:53:48 am**Last Seen:** Jun 11, 2025 10:53:48 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Pauline hamill
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	not answered
Q4. Town	
Q5. Postcode	
Q6. Phone	not answered
Q7. Email	not answered
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	<p>We are a small population in an area we're the mority of the land in doc trust.so smaller populations to share the burden of cost. We still have significant drinking water wastewater and storm water work just to bring our extremely aged infrastructure up to today's standards.</p>
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 18**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 11, 2025 13:15:15 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 11, 2025 13:15:15 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	allwyn gourley
Q2. Organisation	rate payer
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	It is the lesser cost and hopefully providing economies of scale for new infrastructure.
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	PLEASE ensure water charges are correctly targeted to those that use the supply as Karamea should in no way be paying for other peoples water supply.

**Respondent No:** 19**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 12, 2025 06:38:52 am**Last Seen:** Jun 12, 2025 06:38:52 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Tara Papworth
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	not answered
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	Has the least disadvantages.
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 20**Login:** Gina.Barrell**Email:** Gina.Barrell@bdc.govt.nz**Responded At:** Jun 12, 2025 06:58:24 am**Last Seen:** Jun 17, 2025 19:56:40 pm**IP Address:** 10.174.0.196

Q1. Name	Helen and Tom Sawyers
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	Information given indicates this will be a less expensive option. The cost of this is excessive and will be out of reach for many ratepayers in the community considering the spend we need to make on sewerage, stormwater etc
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 21**Login:** Gina.Barrell**Email:** Gina.Barrell@bdc.govt.nz**Responded At:** Jun 12, 2025 08:33:02 am**Last Seen:** Jun 17, 2025 19:56:40 pm**IP Address:** 10.174.0.196

Q1. Name	Barry Walker
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	
Q4. Town	
Q5. Postcode	
Q6. Phone	
Q7. Email	not answered
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	not answered
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	not answered
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	not answered
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	not answered

Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.

Willing to meet and discuss further if requested. Experience in Earth Systems working currently in an extractive industry managing water. Introduction: From my experience at the address above, the wastewater and drinking water is more than adequate for the needs of Carters Beach. However, I have been experiencing an increased risk of stormwater inundation of my two properties at 18 and 20 Golf Links Rd. I have also witnessed this risk at neighbouring properties. In my opinion this risk has increased because of a greater frequency of intense short duration rain events experienced most likely as a result of climate change. The housing development at Carters Beach since the inception of the current stormwater system has also increased the hard surface runoff and contributed to a lesser extent the problems I am experiencing. I recommend that Carters Beach stormwater is improved by the installation of an increased network of stormwater pipes. I acknowledge the difficulty in engineering designs for low lying areas and the fact that older dwellings at Carters Beach were not designed with stormwater inundation mitigation. Specific Problem, Golf Links Rd. • Roadside sumps are inadequate to cope with medium to heavy rainfall events • No gutters exist for direction of water to controlled places • The road is higher than several of the properties. • No stormwater pipes exist for transport of water safely. • Inundation risk to my property is now frequent. Outcome: • Heavy rain events result in water flowing from Cook Street via a gutter network into Golf Links Rd, the roadside sumps fill quickly resulting in stormwater flow being diverted by the road into properties of Golf Links Rd. • Intense rain events have caused both my properties to become flooded and water to flow under my house. Images below from event in 2023 typify issue and were communicated with West Reef Services. • The inability of roadside sumps to cope with rain events is also evident at other Carters Beach locations, including but not limited to the intersections of Cook St and Kupe Street, Cook Street and Tasman Street. The short stormwater pipes that drain Marine parade gutters direct to the Carters Beach Domain protect those houses, which also have the benefit of slightly higher elevations. Options for improvement: • Preferred. Installation of a stormwater pipe network running under Golf Links Rd that captures both Cook Street and Golf Links Rd stormwater, like the network existing in the southern end of Ngahue Crescent and Munroe Place. • Alternative short term: Run short length storm water pipes from Golf Links Rd roadside sumps on corner of Cook St under the road discharging to the lower lying area between the stand of bush and Golf Course. Like those on Marine Parade. • I recognise that water engineers may have other options that I have not considered and as stated above I am available to provide feedback. Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission, thanks to Anthony Bloom for his informative article in the Westport News, May the 12th and the excellent infrastructure layers in WestMaps.

**Respondent No:** 22**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 12, 2025 10:11:23 am**Last Seen:** Jun 12, 2025 10:11:23 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Zane Darrell
Q2. Organisation	Private land owner
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	
<p>It makes more sense to me to put all the expertise in one organisation. It would be far better than, say, three small units repeating the same work. One organisation would be able to employ better expertise in a larger framework.</p>	
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	
<p>I would like to ask council to do no further work apart from normal repairs and maintenance on the Waimangaroa supply, it has been muted to fit household filters, this I don't believe would work and be nothing but trouble due to the amount of sediment at various times. Long term I believe who ever does the water needs to look for the Westport area to one linked system from Waimangaroa south. But the piping to Waimangaroa large enough to go North at some stage to the Granity area as it is only a matter of time before they need to be in the system. With a system like this, another supply would need to be found, treated, and fed into the system. I also believe the targeted charging needs to be abolished and one price for all systems in the Buller district, treated or not, then the authority decides where or when the works get done.</p>	

**Respondent No:** 23**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 12, 2025 11:16:10 am**Last Seen:** Jun 12, 2025 11:16:10 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Warwick & Pamela Blair
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	not answered
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	No
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	As recommended.
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	We would be supportive of an extension of the water line along Buller Road and would take supply from that line should it eventuate if it were affordable.

**Respondent No:** 24**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 13, 2025 09:17:47 am**Last Seen:** Jun 13, 2025 09:17:47 am**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	John Bougen
Q2. Organisation	Retail Solutions Ltd
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	Yes in person
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	
<p>More bang for the buck. Greater borrowing capability. Will enable an operation of a scale to attend to the decades of underinvestment in the tree waters. Will obviously improve buying power and scale of investment.</p>	
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	
<p>This is not giving away an asset, but ensuring that the monstrous liability that each and every ratepayer is liable for, gets a chance to once again become an asset. It is essential that this is resolved expeditiously, so that the pall of indecision and consequential costs to the future development of the Buller and the Coast as a whole, can be mitigated.</p>	

**Respondent No:** 25**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 13, 2025 12:05:41 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 13, 2025 12:05:41 pm**IP Address:** n/a


Q1. Name	Rae Reynolds
<hr/>	
Q2. Organisation	not answered
<hr/>	
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 2: Stand-alone internal business unit
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	<p>Having endured the TTPP process I believe Joint Council initiatives are an obstacle to the relationship and accountability our district elected representatives should maintain between them and their ratepayers. It introduces confusion, yet another name, another entity many ratepayers may not recognise. Budgets should be determined, apportioned, used and accounted for within their district. Lines should not be blurred. I am mistrustful of the intent of the merger. Coast Councils are struggling with debt. Each needs to independently operate within their means</p>
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 26**Login:** Adriana**Email:** adriana.james59@gmail.co

m

Responded At: Jun 13, 2025 12:48:00 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 13, 2025 02:28:33 am**IP Address:** 10.174.0.196

Q1. Name	Adriana James
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	Yes in person
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 2: Stand-alone internal business unit
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	
<p>'Multi-council controlled organisation' is a phrase that translates immediately to excessive costs and building of empires. More staff, more paper work, more rules, more consultants and so on. The system becomes top heavy, inefficient and the focus at ground level is lost in a plethora of bureaucratic spin. Communities become distrustful and very resentful of being constantly, financially drained. All we need, is our local Council to do the job our rates pay for and have always paid for. Stop the empire building and get back to grass roots.</p>	
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	
<p>The water hasn't suddenly dried up, the number of properties in this district have not grown greatly, the storm water and sewer infrastructure was at one point adequate, albeit absent in Carters Beach! It was the failure to maintain and upgrade these systems, or lack of systems, that has resulted in our current local problems. Lets get back to basics, as PM Luxon has indicated. Local people with local knowledge paid by the local community. This is the point where trust and transparency intercept and community well being improves.</p>	



Respondent No: 27

Login: Anonymous

Email: n/a

Responded At: Jun 13, 2025 13:10:08 pm

Last Seen: Jun 13, 2025 13:10:08 pm

IP Address: n/a

Q1. Name	Paul Reynolds
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	
Q4. Town	
Q5. Postcode	
Q6. Phone	not answered
Q7. Email	
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	Yes in person
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	not answered

Q11. Why is this your preferred option?

My preference is for status quo but under duress I select Option 2, a stand alone internal business unit.

Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.

Submission on the Proposed Regional Water Entity To Buller District Council I write to express my strong opposition to the proposal to transfer control of local water infrastructure to a regional Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO). This proposal is not a mere administrative adjustment—it is a fundamental erosion of local autonomy, democratic accountability, and effective service delivery. Once again, the public is being presented with two deeply flawed options and asked to select the lesser of two evils. Neither option is acceptable, and neither reflects the will or the best interests of our community.

1. Bureaucratic Expansion Increases Inefficiency and Dilutes Accountability The suggestion that consolidating water services under a regional CCO will lead to greater efficiency is unconvincing and unsupported by evidence. Our current systems are already weighed down by excessive bureaucracy, where a disproportionate amount of funding is absorbed by layers of administration, consultancy fees, and reporting requirements—rather than being invested directly into infrastructure and services. We have already seen local examples, such as the planned separation of stormwater and wastewater by BDC, where the majority of targeted rates are diverted to staffing costs rather than on-the-ground improvements. Regional entities often use “strategic overheads” and rebranding exercises as a smokescreen for inefficiency, making public spending harder to trace and accountability more elusive. Adding a new regional layer will only deepen these problems. There is little reason to believe that the same staff and structures which have already failed to deliver efficient outcomes locally will suddenly perform better under a broader and more remote arrangement. Distance from community oversight creates fertile ground for unaccountable spending and decision-making that ignores the needs of smaller districts like ours.

2. Water Is a Strategic Asset—Local Control Must Be Protected Water is not just a utility; it is a vital public resource critical to our health, economy, and resilience. Entrusting its control to a remote and potentially unresponsive regional entity poses significant risks. Local governance allows for decisions to be made with community insight, environmental understanding, and cultural sensitivity. Under a regional model, Buller’s needs will be sidelined in favour of larger population centres. Weighted representation, centralised priorities, and bureaucratic silos will inevitably sideline smaller or rural communities. This contradicts the principle of subsidiarity—that decisions should be made as close as possible to those affected by them. For essential services like water, local knowledge and responsiveness are indispensable.

3. There Is No Public Mandate for This Transformation This proposed overhaul represents a major change in how a core public service is governed. It is not a minor policy adjustment and should not be pushed through without broad, informed, and democratic engagement with the public. The current consultation process is insufficient. Many residents remain unaware of the proposal; others are confused by the lack of detail or transparency. The history of community consultation being ignored has eroded public faith in such processes. As a result, people have disengaged from submitting their views, believing them to be futile. A decision of this magnitude requires more than a tick-box exercise—it requires robust, binding community consent. At minimum, any transfer of control over local water assets should be subject to a binding local referendum.

4. Respect for Proven Local Governance and Legacy Systems The legacy infrastructure built by smaller borough and county councils continues to serve our communities to this day—often more effectively than newer systems. These councils managed to deliver high-quality services without top-heavy administrative frameworks or remote governance structures. Rather than learning from and investing in these successful models, this proposal threatens to replace them with additional bureaucracy and centralisation. The forced amalgamations of 1989 offer a clear warning: more layers of government do not guarantee better service. On the contrary, they often erode community voice and financial transparency. We should be focused on reducing overhead, rebuilding operational competence, and improving local service delivery—not outsourcing responsibility to unproven regional bodies.

5. The Right to Opt Out Must Be Preserved Ratepayers should not be forced into collective schemes that lack value, transparency, or efficiency. Councils routinely fail to achieve economies of scale in service delivery due to bloated management structures and inefficiencies that consume any theoretical savings. Where water services are poorly delivered and unresponsive to community needs, residents should retain the right to pursue self-supply or alternative solutions. This would create competitive pressure on council administrators to lift performance, reduce costs, and deliver real value. Water is a necessity of life, and councils effectively hold monopoly power over its supply. With that power must come direct accountability—not further insulation from public scrutiny.

Conclusion I strongly urge the Council to reject this proposal to regionalise water infrastructure via a CCO. Instead, we must: Invest in building and retaining internal local capability, Improve transparency and operational efficiency within existing council frameworks, and Preserve democratic control and direct community oversight of essential services. Water is too important—too foundational—to be handed over to a distant, bureaucratic structure that cannot be held directly accountable by the people it serves.

Yours sincerely, Paul Reynolds
jfyhoney56@gmail.com

**Respondent No:** 28**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 13, 2025 13:16:15 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 13, 2025 13:16:15 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Bert Waghorn
<hr/>	
Q2. Organisation	not answered
<hr/>	
Q3. Postal address	██████████
Q4. Town	██████
Q5. Postcode	██
Q6. Phone	██████████
Q7. Email	████████████████████
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	Yes in person
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	<p>This option should have a financial advantage. While all three Councils have slightly varying circumstances all three have similar water related conditions, therefor discussion covering all areas must open the door to a better workable solution.</p>
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	<p>M concern is regarding the separation of storm water from other discharge waters. This could end up as a costly operation, one that I feel can be reduced by a large portion by a simple cost-effective action. Reefton township is built on a river flat that was formed in past history by erosion in the upper reaches where flooding deposited large amounts of clean washed course gravels forming the foundation for the present town. These gravels are a natural soak pit and waiting to be utilised. I use this system at present by sending water from all roof areas directed to one soak pit, this area deals with run off of some 150 square meters of roof discharge and at no time has there been any problem. While this would not be feasible in some areas it would be a simple method to dramatically reduce this problem.</p>

**Respondent No:** 29**Login:** Anonymous**Email:** n/a**Responded At:** Jun 13, 2025 13:26:56 pm**Last Seen:** Jun 13, 2025 13:26:56 pm**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. Name	Jude Harrington
<hr/>	
Q2. Organisation	not answered
<hr/>	
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	<p>It is more cost effective and 3 heads being better than one when it comes to selecting people with experience in providing solutions to our challenges. All 3 smallish councils face similar challenges and this option minimises doubling up on admin costs.</p>
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	<p>Encourage property owners to manage and utilise water that falls on their property. Rain water tanks for irrigation, car and window washing etc. Recycling septic systems for disposal on their land. Financially and environmentally beneficial whilst reducing future demands on drinking water supplies and pressure on storm water and septic disposal. As we face ongoing climate change we need to be prepared for all scenarios. Look at Queensland for example, where they once outlawed these options, some are now mandatory in many regions. New home builds require grey water management and reuse. Toilets are flushed with grey water from handbasins etc. Using water more than once reduces the amount which needs to be supplied and reduces the amount of contaminated water which needs to be disposed of. win, win!</p>

**Respondent No:** 30**Login:** Gina.Barrell**Email:** Gina.Barrell@bdc.govt.nz**Responded At:** Jun 16, 2025 05:46:10 am**Last Seen:** Jun 17, 2025 19:56:40 pm**IP Address:** 10.174.0.196

Q1. Name	Vince Barry
Q2. Organisation	Regional Director - National Public Health Service
Q3. Postal address	not answered
Q4. Town	not answered
Q5. Postcode	not answered
Q6. Phone	not answered
Q7. Email	
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	not answered
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	not answered
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	not answered

Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.

Tēnā koutou Public health advice on Local Water Done Well 1. We are providing advice on the Buller District Council's proposal for Local Water Done Well. Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora has statutory obligations under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 and the Health Act 1956 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities. This advice has been prepared by the National Public Health Service (NPHS) Te Waipounamu of Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora. NPHS Te Waipounamu provides public health services to the Buller district. 2. NPHS Te Waipounamu does not have a view on the preferred option for the delivery of water services in the Buller district. We acknowledge that these plans are intended to encourage councils to examine how they can sustainably fund three waters infrastructure long into the future, including meeting regulatory requirements in terms of quantity and quality of water and supporting growth. 3. Buller District Council's proposal for Local Water Done Well may have significant implications for public health. 4. The following outlines our technical advice on Buller District Council's proposal for Local Water Done Well to protect communities from waterborne diseases, through the provision of drinking water supplies, sewerage and stormwater systems. Specific Advice 5. NPHS Te Waipounamu encourages Council to ensure that maintenance and strengthening of three waters service delivery allows for population growth. We support the continued operation of existing three waters infrastructure so that services are not reduced or withdrawn. The provision of safe and adequate supplies of drinking water and the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and wastewater protect public health. 6. Safe drinking water is crucial to public health. The well-known outbreak of gastroenteritis in Havelock North in August 2016, which was caused by contaminated drinking water, resulted in an estimated 5,500 of the town's 14,000 residents becoming ill with campylobacteriosis, and of these, 45 people required hospital treatment. It is possible that 2 the outbreak contributed to three deaths, and an unknown number of residents developed long-term health complications. 7. The safe collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and wastewater also protects public health. Human waste carries a wide range of pathogenic micro-organisms and many are still viable and virulent, even if sewage has been in the environment for some time. Sewage and wastewater may also contain toxic chemicals, particularly from industrial and trade waste sources. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports Council's proposal to invest in water services to meet regulatory requirements which protect public health. 8. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports Council's acknowledgement of the need to invest in water services to meet regulatory requirements. 9. NPHS Te Waipounamu encourages Council to ensure there is ongoing investment in the renewal and maintenance of infrastructure to maintain levels of service in the medium and long term. 10. NPHS Te Waipounamu notes that Council's preferred delivery model acknowledges the importance of a cost-effective approach that will help keep costs more manageable for users. NPHS supports keeping costs manageable, whilst at the same time protecting people's health by ensuring access to safe drinking water, stormwater and wastewater disposal is affordable. 11. NPHS Te Waipounamu encourages Council to ensure adequate resources are allocated to higher risk communities, including those that are currently under-served or not serviced. 12. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports Council's consideration of intergenerational equity, and the impacts of climate change to ensure that this essential public health infrastructure is protected from extreme weather events. 13. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports Council's consideration of the provision for equitable and adequate water to be provided to meet health and sanitation requirements. 14. NPHS Te Waipounamu encourages Council to acknowledge the importance of their relationship with the regional council. This relationship should include discussions on the interaction between the stormwater and flood protection systems so that stormwater ingress to sewers is managed, and will reduce the risk of sewage overflows, but also that flood risk from stormwater ponding is not increased. 15. NPHS Te Waipounamu supports Council's exploration of the potential efficiencies that could be achieved through a joint West Coast councils water services organisation. 16. While there is no specific requirement in the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 for iwi Māori to be consulted, NPHS Te Waipounamu encourages Council to work closely with mana whenua to ensure water services reflect cultural values, promote environmental sustainability and support their needs. 17. NPHS Te Waipounamu does not wish to be heard with respect to this technical advice.

**Respondent No:** 31**Login:** Gina.Barrell**Email:** Gina.Barrell@bdc.govt.nz**Responded At:** Jun 16, 2025 05:49:49 am**Last Seen:** Jun 17, 2025 19:56:40 pm**IP Address:** 10.174.0.196

Q1. Name	Kevin Smith
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	
Q4. Town	
Q5. Postcode	not answered
Q6. Phone	
Q7. Email	
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	Yes in person
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	not answered
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	not answered

Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.

I am against the proposal for a number of reasons. Once again I have concerns about the process, particularly with the public engagement and submission percentages. I am not satisfied that the true ratepayer base has been involved. I will add that running the two submission processes concurrently seemed devious. I felt distracted. This has the potential to add thousands to our rates bills and yet many are oblivious. I would have preferred one of the discounted options. Single council CCO The claim there being, the additional governance costs would outweigh the benefits of creating a combined CCO. Really ? I am against any option that introduces new entities or extra layers of bureaucracy. I oppose any combined council format, most certainly with the other Coast Councils. We have seen the shambles with both the WCRC and the TTPP organisations. It is the Buller ratepayer that owns the existing infrastructure. We need to look at options to retain our own assets. Any other approach has the potential to increase the debt burden of the ratepayers now and in the future. Setting up a new entity seems like a risky investment, when the government legislation is not finalised. The councillors are also up for re-election this year and I would think that it would be better to wait until both Legislation and new councillors are in. I have seen other examples where the government has forced separation and the only people who profit are big businesses, not the people who are the customers. It's also not a good idea to start a business that has the ability to add debt in such a high amount to the ratepayers when the country is struggling to get out of the recession. Westport stormwater separation is an example there. If anything, I prefer that the Buller District Council continues with a future in-house water delivery model. This uses the existing infrastructure to provide the best possible service to our community. I understand that this will also require some additional resources and potential debt. Again I don't think we should rush into anything until the legislation has been passed and the new council is sworn in. I see too much money spent on consultants and nothing to show for it and I can see that being a possibility under the preferred model. In my opinion this solution is being rushed into being. It has the potential to line the pockets of a few people at its inception but not provide value to the ratepayers and our community. Typical consultant and council mentality. The ratepayers should not be the cash cows, the victims.

**Respondent No:** 32**Login:** Gina.Barrell**Email:** Gina.Barrell@bdc.govt.nz**Responded At:** Jun 16, 2025 06:34:49 am**Last Seen:** Jun 17, 2025 19:56:40 pm**IP Address:** 10.174.0.196

Q1. Name Dave Hawes

Q2. Organisation not answered

Q3. Postal address

[REDACTED]

Q4. Town

[REDACTED]

Q5. Postcode

not answered

Q6. Phone

[REDACTED]

Q7. Email

[REDACTED]

Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?

Yes in person

Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?

not answered

Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.

not answered

Q11. Why is this your preferred option?

not answered

Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.

I wish to submit my following views on proposed changes to the way Buller Water, Wastewater and Stormwater are rated for. Following are my reasons for not subsidizing targeted water based rates with general rates. Water, sewage and stormwater are all necessary features of dwellings, whether urban or rural. In the rural environment, they are dealt with and paid for by the resident owner who installs and maintains these at their own cost. In an urban centre, the council provides these and charges accordingly. Why should rural people pay twice to subsidize urban dwellers. They have higher costs of living anyway, as transport affects everything that they do and use. I therefore submit that it is an unfair rating system to do this for a targeted rate. Many people in rural areas that already manage these amenities themselves are low-income families. To force them to subsidize others may result in their being unable to maintain their own amenities. The other obvious unfairness is in quality of service. You are assuming that rural people already have pure drinking water and perfectly functioning sewage and wastewater. This is definitely not the case. Some people are managing systems that are far past replacement, and these require a high level of annual maintenance or replacement, while others have drinking water supplies of very dubious quality far from a required standard for town public water supplies. Why then should they subsidize other people. It is well acknowledged that Buller population is aging. Rural people reach an age where self-maintaining these systems becomes an impossibility, they simply can't do it themselves any longer. At this point they are forced to engage expensive professionals and pay travel costs. Don't forget that the average town section is about 700sqm and your liability for maintenance finishes at your boundary. Most rural sewage and water supplies may involve hundreds of metres, not just 10 metres to the boundary. Further to this topic, if we go back to Council amalgamation, rural rating contributed approximately 60% of the annual rate take while urban was around 40%. This has now reversed. Perhaps the question you should ask yourselves is, why is the farming differential only 25% of the urban dwelling differential. Don't forget you have a third rating system option that is based on annual return or earning capacity of properties. Admittedly this is not used by any Council but it does signal that rates are just a form of taxation. These differentials are choice decisions, based on very little hard evidence. I wish to speak to my submission.

**Respondent No:** 33**Login:** Gina.Barrell**Email:** Gina.Barrell@bdc.govt.nz**Responded At:** Jun 16, 2025 06:39:45 am**Last Seen:** Jun 17, 2025 19:56:40 pm**IP Address:** 10.174.0.196

Q1. Name	Margaret Mackley
Q2. Organisation	not answered
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	Lower cost to ratepayers
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	not answered

**Respondent No:** 34**Login:** Gina.Barrell**Email:** Gina.Barrell@bdc.govt.nz**Responded At:** Jun 16, 2025 07:05:20 am**Last Seen:** Jun 17, 2025 19:56:40 pm**IP Address:** 10.174.0.196

Q1. Name	Karen Villarroel
<hr/>	
Q2. Organisation	not answered
<hr/>	
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	not answered
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	Cost saving plus most likely to be accepted by Taumata Arowai
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	It would be ideal for ratepayers to be able to opt out of water and sewage networks to develop their own and to avoid your hefty fees.



Respondent No: 35
Login: Gina.Barrell
Email: Gina.Barrell@bdc.govt.nz

Responded At: Jun 16, 2025 08:32:36 am
Last Seen: Jun 17, 2025 19:56:40 pm
IP Address: 10.174.0.196

Q1. Name	Simon Cameron
Q2. Organisation	Federated Farmers of NZ
Q3. Postal address	not answered
Q4. Town	not answered
Q5. Postcode	not answered
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	not answered
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	not answered
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	not answered
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	not answered
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	

SUBMISSION 1.1 Federated Farmers welcomes the opportunity to submit on Local Water Done Well (LWDW); a proposed partnership between three councils: Westland District Council, Grey District Council and Buller District Council. Federated Farmers appreciates the genuine commitment to community consultation by the council collective. 1.2 The council collective have identified three options: a) A jointly owned Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) owned by Westland, Grey and Buller District Councils: b) An internal business unit; or c) A water organisation jointly owned between two councils. 1.3 It is important to note, agriculture, forestry and fishing contributes: \$143.5m (15% of GDP) in Buller, \$167.5m in Westland (20% of GDP) and \$94.9m (8% of GDP) in Grey. These are significant contributions to the national economy and regional productivity. 1.4 Rural communities depend on quality human drinking water and generally organise their supply themselves. New Zealand's rural landscape is characterised by many and varied drinking water schemes, with ground, surface, and roof water configurations. These schemes may be specific to individual farms or be small networks of households and buildings in a locality, and are run by farmers, other volunteers, trusts, or committees. 1.5 For the farming community, water services are a deeply local issue. The governance structure is critical for Federated Farmers. For our purpose, bigger is not necessarily better. We wonder how rural communities will interact with an independent board, with expertise in business, but not the locality. For the farming community, we feel that the creation of an arm's length council water company could precipitously reduce our input into local decision making. 1.6 The importance of rural water infrastructure cannot be understated. And historically, rural water has been managed locally. Whether this has been as a collective, or individually, farmers have invested significant personal and financial efforts into district water infrastructure. Our submission is informed

by the view that more information should be provided to rural communities regarding the proposal, particularly the governance and management structures. 1.7 LWDW impacts smaller, remote rural communities. This is a key concern and reinforces the need for councils to implement careful and responsible financial planning. As part of the Three Waters Better Off proposal, central government made \$2B available to councils. This was a significant investment which was not well utilised. 1.8 Given this, coupled with the significant community benefit agriculture provides, Federated Farmers considers investment from central government can and should be examined. Greater investment would be best placed assisting thriving rural communities and developing talented professionals in the regions. Central government should be promoting rural industries as a key employer of the future, rather than creating social and economic uncertainty via tough regulation. 2. Westland District Council, Grey District Council and Buller District Council 2.1 Federated Farmers acknowledge the interest in local government reorganisation. There are proposals to consider where all four West Coast councils will merge. This would include all the functions of regional and district council. We wonder if councils had thought about discussing this matter before decisions on LWDW are made. 2.2 In general, Federated Farmers is concerned about existing levels of spending by local government. Where overspending is an issue, further increasing debt is not necessarily supported. Federated Farmers advocacy position is for careful and responsible budgeting to be implemented. Submission: Federated Farmers are not opposed to a multi council-controlled organisation; however, we would appreciate reassurance from the councils on the matters below. 2.3 Federated Farmers note that drinking water supplies for the following communities is chlorinated: Kumara, Arahura, Harihari, Whataroa and Haast. Federated Farmers believe more local consultation on this issue should have been had before it was run by the Parliamentary Health Select Committee in March 2021. Federated Farmers wonder if LWDW presents an opportunity to revisit and reconsider the matter with rural communities. 2.4 Without fully understanding the proposed governance structure of a CCO, Federated Farmers is concerned about how targeted rating zones will be applied. Rural properties on the outskirts of urban settlements could be subjected to rates increases for services they are not accessing, either because it is not economical, or their private connection is sufficient. Federated Farmers prefer to see targeted rates applied only to those who are connected to the mains service. Our strong preference is to ensure rural ratepayers are not unintentionally captured by proposed targeted rating zones. 2.5 Federated Farmers acknowledges council aspirations for cost effective drinking water projects. Were a CCO established, for smaller schemes, Federated Farmers anticipates that the potential to adopt a lower cost Acceptable Solution as a pathway to compliance would be investigated. Federated Farmers also encourage councils to take the most sustainable and cost-effective approaches to meeting regulator expectations possible. 3. General Comments 3.1 In general, water services are becoming increasingly expensive due to continuously increasing regulatory pressure. Aspirational community wastewater management practices such as disposal to land under future regional consent requirements are expensive. Federated Farmers support continued use of existing water infrastructure and the most cost-effective resource management possible. 3.2 Federated Farmers thank local government for being able to engage in West Coast Water Done Well. We look forward to future collaboration. ENDS



Respondent No: 36
Login: Jack.Hill
Email: Jack.Hill@bdc.govt.nz

Responded At: Jun 17, 2025 11:11:24 am
Last Seen: Jun 16, 2025 23:46:51 pm
IP Address: 10.174.0.60

Q1. Name	Anji Hamson
<hr/>	
Q2. Organisation	not answered
<hr/>	
Q3. Postal address	[REDACTED]
Q4. Town	[REDACTED]
Q5. Postcode	[REDACTED]
Q6. Phone	[REDACTED]
Q7. Email	[REDACTED]
Q8. Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearings?	No
Q9. Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it?	Yes
Q10. Please select your preferred option. For a detailed description of the options and the impact of these, read our Consultation Document.	Option 1: A multi council-controlled organisation
Q11. Why is this your preferred option?	It would be more efficient to have "one-body" with experts in water on the West Coast rather than 3. Where would you get 3 lots of experts in these times of world chaos.
Q12. Please share any other feedback you have about water services delivery in the future.	Don't mess around with new build map, fancy executives on big salaries. Get the job done well, not at the massive expense to Rate Payers!

Consultation Report



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

Local Water Done Well Consultation Report

Document status: **Final**
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Date: **23 June 2025**
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letstalk.bullerdc.govt.nz

Local Water Done Well Consultation Report

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The views expressed in this report are those of the respondents and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Buller District Council.

1. Introduction

As required under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, Council must consult with the community regarding the delivery method prior to submitting a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) to the government. This plan must be provided to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025.

The purpose of this consultation was to gather public feedback, which, alongside other factors will help inform Council's preferred way forward as outlined in the consultation document.

This report summarises the feedback received during the Local Water Done Well consultation, which ran from Friday, 16 May to Friday, 13 June 2025. Each question has been aligned with the corresponding section of the attached submission forms (appendix A).

Council invited feedback via the Council submission form, available online on Let's Talk Buller and in hard copy at five locations throughout the district. A total of 35 submissions were received, 28 of which were online via the Let's Talk Buller platform and 7 in hard copy.

This consultation and report were developed by Buller District Council. The findings reflect the views of those who chose to submit feedback. Elected members must determine how much importance to assign to each set of submissions. This should be weighed alongside other relevant factors such as the levels of service, legislative requirements, and long-term financial sustainability.

2. Background

In September 2024, the Coalition Government enacted the first significant legislation under its Local Water Done Well policy. This policy aims to tackle New Zealand's water infrastructure challenges, focusing on financial sustainability, improved regulation of water services, and providing communities and councils the flexibility to determine how water services will be delivered. This also repealed the previous Government's Affordable Waters reform, known as the 3 Waters reform.

The Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 (the Act) includes transitional provisions requiring Council, along with other district councils, to draft and submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) to the government. This must be forwarded to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025.

The WSDP must outline the current state of Council's water assets and services while detailing plans for these services. Additionally, the Local Government (Water Services) Bill, currently under consideration in Parliament, will provide a comprehensive framework for managing and delivering water services once enacted.

Buller District Council assessed delivery models for water services within the parameters set by Central Government and identified two viable options for public consultation. The Buller community was encouraged to provide feedback on the two options and share their views on how Buller's water services should be delivered.

3. Legal obligations

Under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024, Buller District Council is required to draft and submit a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) to the government. This must be forwarded to the Department of Internal Affairs by 3 September 2025.

The options available to councils as per the Local Water Done Well legislation are:

- an internal business unit or division
- a single council-owned water organisation
- a multi-council-owned water organisation
- a mixed council/consumer trust-owned water organisation
- a consumer trust-owned water organisation.

Councils are not required to consult on their draft or final Water Services Delivery Plan. However, they are required to consult on their anticipated or proposed options for delivering water services before writing the plan.

Any chosen option will be subject to new requirements for managing water services.

These are:

- **Minimum requirements:** New minimum requirements exist for local government water service providers in the legislation.
- **Economic regulation:** A new economic regulation regime for local government water service providers will be implemented by the Commerce Commission to ensure consumer protections and maintain an independent perspective with a focus on affordability.
- **Drinking water regulation:** Changes are being made to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the drinking water regulatory framework. This includes the approach taken by the Water Services Authority, Taumata Arowai, in regulating the regime.

4. Key findings

- A total of 35 submissions were received during the consultation period, with 30 participants responding to the question about their preferred delivery option and 22 offering additional comments or feedback.
- Of the 29 respondents who answered the preferred model question, 60% supported a multi-council-controlled organisation (CCO) over a standalone internal business unit (SBU).
- The most frequently cited reason for supporting a CCO was its perceived potential for cost savings (mentioned by 11 submitters), followed by operational efficiency (4) and reduced risk (1).
- Concerns about the CCO model included potential cost increases (3), loss of local control (2), and governance risks (2), indicating a need for greater clarity on oversight and accountability.
- While some respondents viewed the SBU as better for retaining local control, others considered it financially unviable or lacking scale.
- The qualitative feedback highlighted several key themes: support for localised solutions (6), affordability concerns (including rates and cost certainty), and governance.
- Infrastructure issues were also raised frequently, including the condition of aging assets, historical underinvestment, and the need to prioritise upgrades over structural change.
- Despite the broad range of views, three consistent themes emerged: governance and accountability, affordability and cost transparency, and the condition of local infrastructure.

In conclusion the consultation revealed a range of perspectives, with a clear lean towards regional collaboration through a multi-council-controlled organisation, primarily due to perceived cost savings and operational efficiencies. However, submitters also expressed valid concerns about governance, loss of local control, and the affordability of future water services. Strong support for localised solutions and the prioritisation of existing infrastructure further underscores the importance of community trust and long-term sustainability. These insights highlight that while there is no one-size-fits-all solution, any decision must balance financial prudence with local accountability and service reliability.

5. Consultation design

Council used a concise submission form to collect community feedback on two proposed models for the future delivery of water services in Buller. The form included four questions:

- One yes/no question confirming whether they had read the Consultation Document
- One closed ended¹ question asking respondents to select their preferred option
- One open-ended question² inviting an explanation of their preferred option
- One open-ended question to share any other feedback about water services delivery in the future.

Only the submitter's name was required; all other fields were optional. The form also offered the opportunity to provide contact details and indicate whether they wished to speak at a Council hearing.

Submissions could be completed online via Let's Talk Buller or in hard copy, available at five public locations throughout the district. Submitters were advised that all feedback would be made publicly available, with personal contact details kept confidential.

6. Consultation communication

Council's communication and engagement methods for Local Water Done Well (LWDW) used a mixed-method approach to inform the community, clarify the consultation process, and encourage participation.

Communicating the complexities of the Local Water Done Well proposal required clear, consistent messaging tailored to key elements of the draft consultation document. To ensure broad reach across the Buller community, information was delivered through a wide range of channels and supported by a visually appealing design aligned with Council's branding. This helped identify the information as coming from Buller District Council and supported community understanding of a highly technical and evolving subject.

¹

Closed ended questions provide respondents with predefined response options, such as multiple choice, ranking, dropdown, or single-choice formats. These questions are useful for collecting quantifiable data and identifying trends.

² *Open-ended questions, by contrast, allow respondents to answer in their own words. They do not restrict responses to fixed options, enabling richer insights that may reveal underlying motivations, opinions, or concerns not captured through closed-ended formats.*

The promotion of the consultation ran from 23 April to June 13 ,2025, with messaging adapted across different phases to align with the communication and engagement plan.

Council began sharing regular updates and key messages about the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) proposal ahead of the formal consultation period. This early-stage communication aimed to build awareness, support understanding of the proposal's purpose and significance, and prepare the community to engage meaningfully with the consultation.

Throughout the consultation period, all communication directed people to the submission form, the Consultation Document, and supporting materials related to Local Water Done Well (LWDW). These were available online via Let's Talk Buller and in hard copy at Council offices, libraries, the Northern Buller Community Resource Centre, the Karamea Information Centre, and at drop-in sessions held across the district. Residents were also given the opportunity to attend information sessions across five different locations. The Project Lead was also available for anyone who wanted to discuss any concerns or issues.

The following communication channels were used before and during the consultation:

Traditional and Community Media

- **Print media:** Full-page advertisements in community newsletters
- **Letterbox delivery:** Information in The Messenger, delivered free to West Coast households and placed in public venues
- **Media articles:** Media releases issued to local media outlets
- **Posters:** Displayed throughout the district
- **Radio:** Broadcast advertisements across local stations

Digital Communication

- **Social media:** Posts shared via Council pages and local community groups
- **Website:** Information featured on Council's website and Let's Talk Buller
- **Email:** Consultation banner added to all Council staff email signatures

Face-to-Face and On-Site Engagement

- **Information sessions:** Held in Reefton, Westport, Northern Buller, Little Wanganui and Karamea discuss LWDW and answer question
- **Internal briefings:** Information shared with Councillors and Customer Services staff to ensure consistent messaging
- **Project lead:** Available for anyone who wanted to understand LWDW further.

To help the community understand the complex nature of the LWDW proposal, Council presented information in a range of accessible formats:

- **Videos:** Explaining key features of the water service delivery options
- **Podcasts:** Providing deeper context around the reform and what it means for Buller
- **Documents:** Including the Consultation Document and summary sheets

All materials were hosted on Let's Talk Buller, Council's central platform for public consultation, which also provided access to detailed background information and links to submit feedback.

7. Consultation reach

During the pre-consultation and consultation period from 23 April to June 13 2025. A total of 830 visited the 'Let's Talk Buller' LWDW page, of these, 378 were informed, meaning they had clicked on information, with 26 submitting. We also received nine hard copy submission forms, which were entered into the platform, resulting in a total of 35 people engaging in a submission.

Social media posts on Council's Facebook and Instagram channels were actively used throughout the campaign. Posts were shared on both the Council's pages and relevant Facebook community groups:

- **Videos:** eight videos were shown across the period on both Facebook and Instagram, totalling 8,061 views.
- **Static posts:** twenty-two individual posts across the period with different messages around LWDW were posted with a total of 17,709 views.

Across the West Coast, low submission numbers were a shared pattern. Grey District Council received 17 submissions, and Westland District Council received 13, despite all three councils undertaking extensive engagement efforts on the same topic during the same period. This suggests that limited responses were not unique to Buller but was reflective of a broader trend across the region in response to the Local Water Done Well consultation.

8. Data analysis methodology

Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected to provide meaningful insights into community feedback. These two data types are complementary:

- Quantitative data tells us what is happening by providing measurable, numerical information.
- Qualitative data explores the why, offering deeper insight into behaviors beliefs, values, and constraints.

Together, they offer a more comprehensive perspective capturing both patterns and the underlying reason, facilitating informed conclusions and evidence-based recommendations.

8.1. Quantitative analysis

The quantitative analysis of closed-question responses focused on identifying patterns, trends, and relationships through statistical methods. This transformed raw numerical data into meaningful insights to support informed decision-making. The analysis was conducted using the built-in analytical tools within Buller District Council's engagement platform, Let's Talk Buller.

8.2. Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of responses from open-ended questions and written feedback was analysed using a thematic analysis approach.

This approach is rooted in the systematic framework introduced by Braun and Clarke in 2006, and it offers a structured method for identifying, analysing, and interpreting patterns of meaning within data.

The following outlines the specific phases of this methodology:

1. **Familiarisation with the data** – Analysts reviewed the responses repeatedly to gain a deep understanding.
2. **Generating initial codes** – Data was systematically coded and organised into meaningful segments.
3. **Searching for themes** – Codes were grouped into potential themes and subthemes, revealing broader patterns.
4. **Reviewing themes** – Themes were refined to ensure relevance, consistency, and representation of the data.
5. **Defining and naming themes** – Each theme was clearly articulated and structured, including sub-themes where relevant.
6. **Identifying frequency** – Frequency tables were developed to highlight the prevalence and significance of key themes.

Note: Not all percentages are shown to add up to 100 per cent. This is due to rounding or allowing multiple selections.

9. Data analysis

The data below refers to the questions identified for data analysis, as shown in Appendix A.

Question 9

Question 9, which asked whether participants had read the Consultation Document or parts of it, received responses from 31 of the 35 participants. Of these, 96.8% (30) indicated they had done so. This suggests that the majority of participants took the time to inform themselves before providing feedback on the Local Water Done Well document (Figure 1).

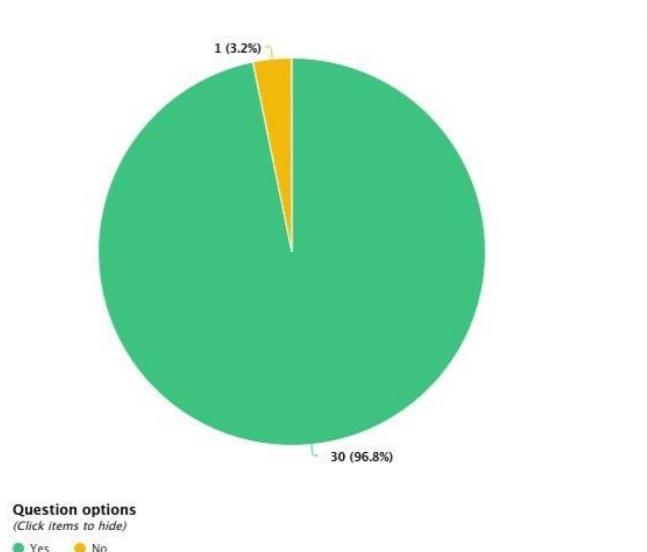


Figure 1: Question 9 Have you read the Consultation Document or parts of it for Local Water Done Well? N=31³

Question 10

Participants were asked which was their preferred option.

Option 1 – A multi-council-controlled organisation (CCO)

Option 2 – A standalone internal business unit (SBU)

This question received responses from 29 of the 35 participants, which suggests the vast majority of participants engaged in this question.

³ 'n,' If not specified otherwise represents the number of responses received to a question in this report.

The quantitative data suggests that 60% (21) of the participants were in favour of the multi-council-controlled organisation (Figure 2).

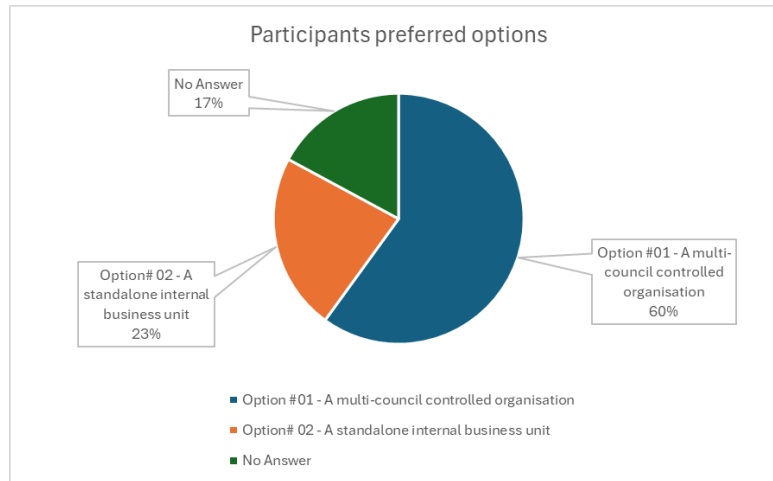


Figure 2: Question 10 What is your preferred option for Buller's water delivery system? N=29

Question 11

Of the 35 participants, 30 provided a response to Question 11, which asked why they selected their preferred option. The most common reason in support of a multi-council-controlled organisation (CCO) was the potential for cost savings (11), alongside perceived operational efficiencies (4) and reduced risk (1) (figure 3).

“More bang for the buck. Greater borrowing capability. Will enable an operation of a scale to attend to the decades of underinvestment in the tree waters. Will obviously improve buying power and scale of investment.” - Participant

However, concerns were also raised about a possible increase in costs under a CCO (3), loss of local control (2), and governance issues (2), with one respondent stating that the model may not be efficient.

“More staff, more paperwork, more rules, more consultants and so on. The system becomes top heavy, inefficient and the focus at ground level is lost in a plethora of bureaucratic spin.” - Participant

Several submitters commented on the age and condition of existing infrastructure (3), indicating that this should be a key consideration regardless of the delivery model. While one respondent

felt the standalone business unit (SBU) model could lead to higher costs, another viewed it as more likely to retain local control.

Overall, financial efficiency, governance, and local accountability emerged as the dominant factors influencing preferences.

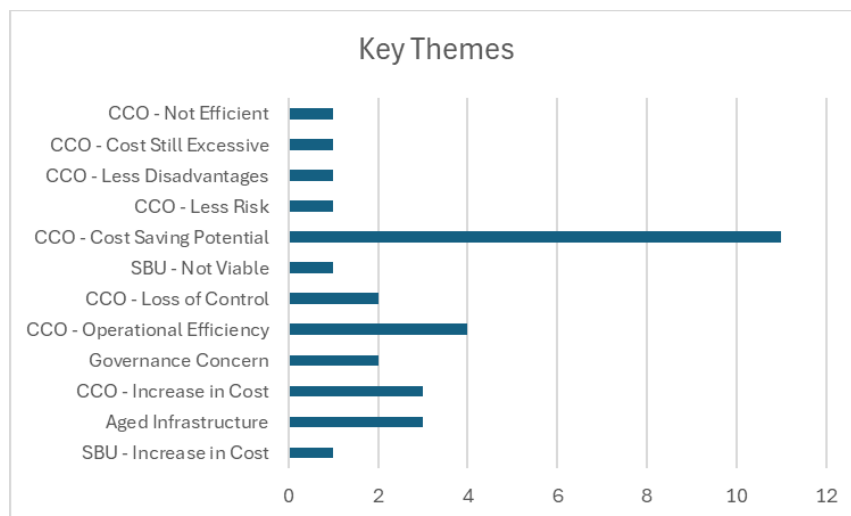


Figure 3: Question 11 Why is this your preferred option for Buller's water delivery system? N=30

Question 12

Question 12 invited participants to share any additional comments or feedback, with 22 of the 35 respondents providing input. While the responses varied widely in focus and tone, several clear themes emerged (figure 4). A strong preference for localised solutions was evident (6), with concerns raised about loss of local control (2), governance structures (4), and the efficiency of a CCO model (1).

“Local people with local knowledge paid by the local community. This is the point where trust and transparency intercept and community well-being improves.” - Participant

Affordability featured prominently, including worries about target rates (2), the cost of proposed options (1), and uncertainty around cost comparisons (1). Some respondents expressed concern about excessive administration (1), debt funding (1), and the use of uniform charges across differing systems (1).

“PLEASE ensure water charges are correctly targeted to those that use the supply as Karamea should in no way be paying for other people's water supply.” – Participant

“It would be ideal for ratepayers to be able to opt out of water and sewage networks to develop their own and to avoid your hefty fees.” - Participant

Infrastructure was another recurring theme, with several comments referring to ageing assets (2), the need to prioritise existing infrastructure (2), and local issues stemming from past neglect (1).

“Upgrades are nice, but priority should be given to maintaining what we already have. Ideally upgrades are funded from cash reserves rather than interest bearing debt.” - Participant

While some supported regional collaboration (1) and in-house solutions (1), others focused on public health protection (1), the need for clearer cost breakdowns, and stormwater separation concerns (2). Despite the range of viewpoints, it was clear that governance, affordability, and infrastructure were core considerations for many submitters.

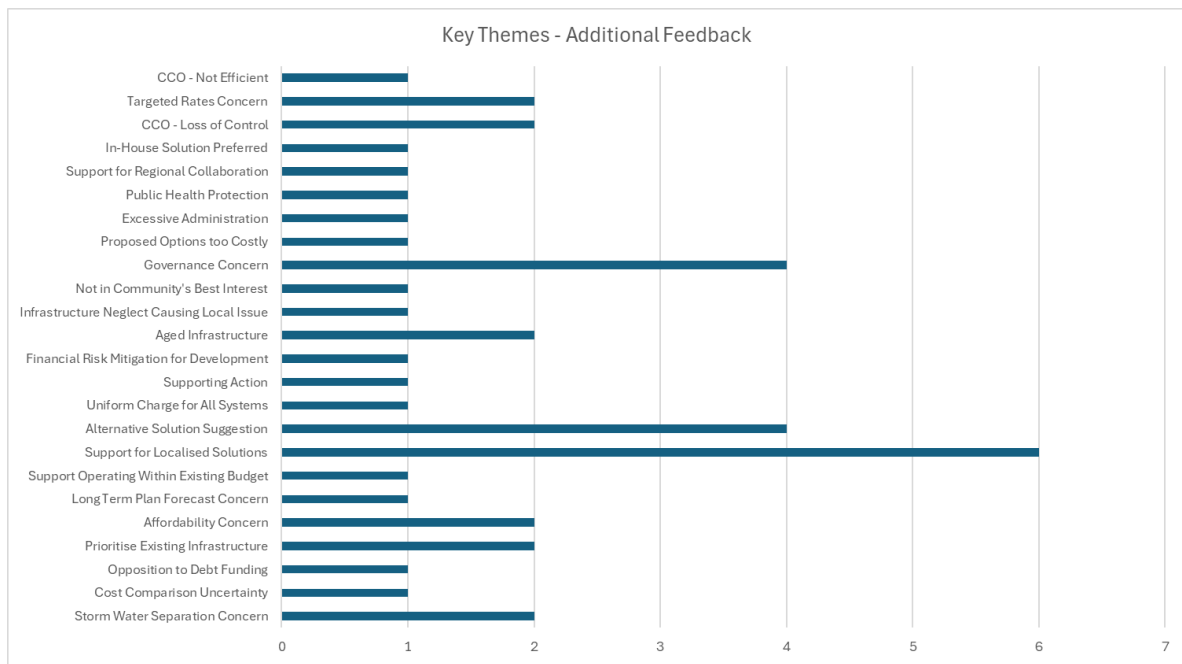


Figure 4: Question 12 Please share any other feedback you have about water delivery services in the future. N=30

Appendix A

Local Water Done Well Submissions