



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

Connect

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

Kāmahī - *Pterophylla racemosa*
Credit: Jeremy R. Rolfe via: nzpcn.org.nz

Connect 130 March 2025



LOCAL WATER DONE WELL



LTP LONG-TERM PLAN 2025-2034

How you can stay informed:

- Register on Let's talk Buller and choose drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and Long-Term Plan as your topics of interest.
- Follow Buller District Council on Facebook.
- Sign up to Council's monthly Connect newsletter email list.
- Read our monthly Connect newsletter in the West Coast Messenger.
- Listen to Coast FM.
- Pick up information from our libraries and service centres in Westport and Reefton, the Karamea Information Centre, and the Northern Buller Community Resource Centre.

Council has begun to explore options how to manage the district's drinking water, stormwater and wastewater in the future as required under the Local Water Done Well legislation.

Local Water Done Well is the government's approach to reforming the way water services are delivered in New Zealand in the future. The aim is to address New Zealand's long-standing water infrastructure challenges.

It focuses on the importance of local decision-making and the flexibility for communities and Councils to determine how their water services will be delivered in the future. It also strongly emphasises that any future delivery model must meet economic, environmental and water quality regulatory requirements.

Council has shortlisted three options for delivering water services in the future. These are:

- an internal business unit or division
- a single-council owned water organisation
- a multi-council owned water organisation.

We encourage you to keep up to date with progress on these topics, so you can make an informed decision.

Do you qualify for a rates rebate?

Buller District Council reminds residents they may be able to save up to \$790 on their rates bill this year through the rates rebate scheme.

The rates rebate scheme is overseen by the Department of Internal Affairs and provides assistance towards rates for low-income earners.

If you were living at your property on

1 July 2024 and meet the eligibility requirements, you can apply for a rates rebate.

You can find information, including the eligibility requirements and how to apply, on Council's website: bullerdc.govt.nz/property-rates-and-building/rates-rebate/

The amount received depends on a combination of your income, the amount of rates you pay, and

the number of dependents you look after. You must ensure your application is received by Council on or before 30 June 2025 to qualify.

The BDC rates team encourages residents on a low income or struggling to pay rates on the property they live in to get in touch, as they could be eligible for a rebate. Customer Services staff at Council's Westport and Reefton offices are happy to help ratepayers with the process.

Consultation opens 18 April 2025.



Photo credit: NOMAD AV

Want to connect with your Council face-to-face?

Looking for advice and guidance on Council processes?

[Click here to learn more](#)

Community outreach days

Come along to our Community Outreach days held throughout the Buller District. These bimonthly drop-in sessions will provide an opportunity to meet council staff from different departments and seek advice on using our services.

Thursday 20 March

Karamea - Karamea RSA
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Ngakawau - Ngakawau Hall
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Monday 14 April

Punakaiki - Pancake Rocks Cafe
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Charleston - Charleston Hall
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm



Punakaiki water supply chlorination complete

Chlorination was introduced to the Punakaiki Water Supply in December 2024 to enhance water safety, as directed by the water services regulator, Taumata Arowai, under the Water Services Act 2021 and the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.

Fine-tuning the dosing has been challenging, due to Punakaiki's large seasonal variations in water use, but thanks to the hard work of experts from WestReef Services and water treatment specialists FILTEC, the project has been successfully completed.

If your Punakaiki property's water supply hasn't been used for a while, or you notice a strong chlorine smell, please flush an outdoor tap for about 20 minutes. The smell indicates that the chlorine is actively disinfecting the pipeline.

Council sincerely thanks the community for their patience and cooperation throughout this project.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Roading Return to Service programme nears completion

In December 2022, Council received a \$13.2 M funding approval from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency for reinstatement of roads in the Buller District that were damaged by the two significant rain events in July 2021 and February 2022.

After these two storm events, approximately 150 damaged sites were recorded throughout Buller's local road network. Of these, 68 sites involved minor clearance of debris and trees, which were addressed immediately.

The remaining sites required much more comprehensive repairs, ranging from minor road repair and reconstruction through to more significant stabilisation and remedial work. Work on these sites has been underway since June 2023, with most of the work now completed. Works are still in progress at the final site on the Seven Sisters, at the northern end of the Karamea Bluff. This work is due for completion in the coming months.

Meetings March - April

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

Please check the calendar for any updates and additional meetings.

Reserve Management Plan Workshop
• 26 March starting 1:00 pm
Clocktower Chambers

Ordinary Council Meeting
• 26 March starting 3:30 pm
Clocktower Chambers

Extraordinary Council Meeting
• 9 April starting 1:30 pm
Clocktower Chambers

Risk and Audit Committee Meeting
• 16 April starting 3:30 pm
Clocktower Chambers

Ordinary Council Meeting
• 30 April starting 3:30 pm
Clocktower Chambers

All Council meetings will be livestreamed to Council's YouTube channel:

 **Buller District Council**

There may be elements of the meeting that are public excluded. The meeting agenda will explain why the public is excluded under LGOIMA 1987.

A public forum session is available at the beginning of Ordinary Council meetings. If you want to address Council during the public forum session or have any questions about these meetings please contact:

Governance Assistant, phone **0800 807 239** or email governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz



Hall re-opening draws community support

Photo credit: Chris Wilson

The Waimangaroa Reserve and Hall Subcommittee hosted a Family Fun Day on Sunday 16 February to celebrate the grand reopening of the refurbished Waimangaroa Hall.

The celebration included an afternoon of music, displays and games for the kids, along with a sausage sizzle and chance to tour the new facilities. Buller District Council helped the subcommittee

achieve the renovation project through a \$147,000 grant from central government, ably supported by Councillors Toni O'Keefe and Rosalie Sampson. The redeveloped facilities are a credit to the team's perseverance and have been well worth the wait.

Waimangaroa Reserve and Hall subcommittee Chair Bev Morrow says "The refurbished facility has been received warmly by our local community.

Residents couldn't believe their eyes when they saw the results of everyone's hard work and are over the moon with the wonderful new facilities.

We have had phone calls for bookings most days since the reopening, with several confirmed bookings for birthday parties. A yoga retreat has been held, and we are having a community jam night with fish and chips at the hall on Friday 4 April."

Water supplies

Council would like to remind **all consumers** to flush their taps by letting about a mugful of water run through in the morning, prior to use.

This applies to all supplies including rainwater. Visit Council's web page 'water - plumbosolvency' for details. There are different levels of water treatment in Buller.

A permanent boil water notice applies for Little Wanganui Subdivision, Mōkihinui, Ngakawau/Hector, South Granity and Waimangaroa.

Westport office
6-8 Brougham Street, PO Box 21,
Westport 7866, New Zealand
Freephone 0800 807 239
Phone 03 788 9111

Reefton Visitor & Service Centre
67-69 Broadway, PO Box 75,
Reefton 7851, New Zealand
Phone 03 732 8821
Phone 03 732 8391

24 hr Noise & Animal Control Services
Phone 03 788 9115
After hours Operations emergencies
Phone 03 788 9119 Westport,
or 03 732 8821 Reefton



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