



Your vote matters!

## Pre-election Report 2022

States and the

## Our governance structure

The elected Buller District Council consists of the Mayor and 10 councillors (including the Deputy Mayor). Council also has an lwi representative who has voting rights at Council committee meetings. The Mayor represents the district at large, while the councillors cover the three areas of the district (referred to as wards).

Although the councillors have been elected from their respective wards, they have an obligation and a duty to represent the interests of the entire district. This means serving on the four main committees.

We also have a community board comprising four members covering the Inangahua community. The Council and the community board are elected every three years. The council is responsible for setting the overall direction of the district and the budget.

The council currently has four committees and 13 reserve and hall committees. Some include all councillors and others include only a certain number of councillors.

#### Partnership with Mana Whenua

Under the Crown's obligations arising from Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae as mana whenua are engaged in the future direction setting for the West Coast and specifically the Buller District. Buller District Council resolved in May 2021, that one Iwi representative will have voting rights at Council committee meetings from 1 July 2021. The addition of voting rights was a logical step to further enhance Council and Iwi partnership and enhances decision-making across Council's wider cultural, social, economic, environmental and legal interests regarding its district obligations.



**Toki Poutangata bridge opening** Photo Nomad Audio & Video

| Our governance structure                                       | 1  |
|--|----|
| About the pre-election report                                  | 3  |
| Message from the<br>Chief Executive Officer                    | 4  |
| Buller's unique challenges                                     | 7  |
| <i>This is what we are up to</i><br>Major projects in progress | 8  |
| What's on Council's horizon                                    | 13 |
| <b>A path we hold to</b><br>Our financial strategy             | 15 |
| <i>This is where we are</i><br>Summary of our financials       | 17 |
| Now it's your turn   | 20 |
| Further reading  | 21 |

#### **Basis of preparation**

Legislation does not require the pre-election report to be audited. However, the reader can take assurance that the information which has been taken from the Annual Reports and Long Term Plan can be directly vertified to these documents should the reader wish to do so. All Annual Reports and Long Term Plan have already been audited.

Information has also been used from the 2020/2021 Annual Plan.



Cover photo Punakaiki, Pancake Rocks and Blowholes

## About the pre-election report

The aim of the 2022 pre-election report is to give our community sufficient information to debate and discuss the key issues facing our district for the upcoming Council elections in October 2022.

In this report you will find Council's current financial position and the key issues and major projects that Council is working on and plans to deliver over the next three-years.

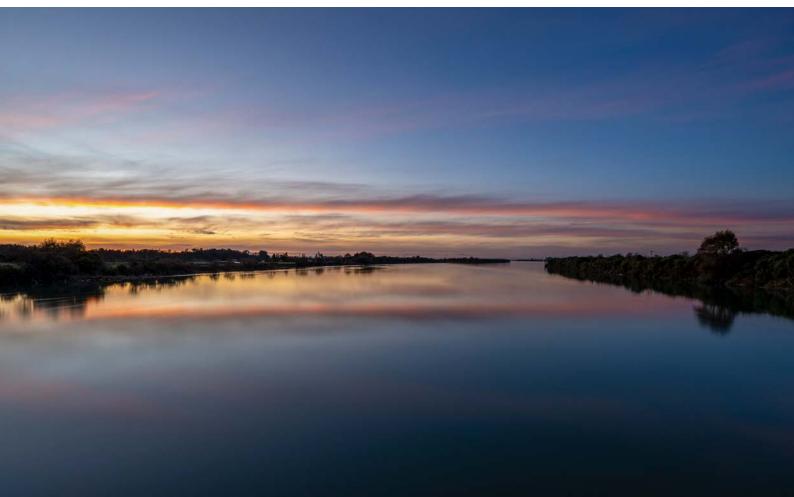
This report will help voters to choose the candidates you believe have the skills and expertise to shape the district you want to live, work, and play in.

This document will enable you, the voter, to assess Council's past performance and understand what is on Council's horizon over the coming three-years.

#### What's in this report?

Every chief executive officer of a local territorial authority must produce a report that helps voters to consider how well Council has performed and give an overview of the issues facing Council in the future.

Section 99A of the Local Government Act 2002 requires that a pre-election report must not contain any statement by, or photograph of any elected member, or any narrative produced by the mayor or chairperson. This document complies fully with the Act in this respect.



## Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Whether you are standing for the Buller District Council, or preparing to vote, there are some important things to consider ahead of this year's local government elections.

The Buller District is a fantastic place to live, play and work. However, the past 24-months has seen the district feeling the impacts of climate change through two extreme weather events. Two significant floods have rattled our district, resulting in significant damage to Council's infrastructure, assets like the port and airport, and displaced community members from their homes.

Buller District Council has worked in partnership with central government agencies to address the enormous financial impact created through the floods, recognising the unaffordability for the small rate payer base in our district.

This partnership resulted in Council receiving \$8 million financial support from Cabinet through National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). This funding has supported the initial flood recovery efforts following the July 2021 event.

Combined, the July 2021 and February 2022 floods resulted in an extensive programme of work to repair essential Council infrastructure to pre-flood levels. The price tag is significant and cannot be funded by Council alone.

A business case requesting assistance with these costs was submitted to NEMA in April 2022 and considered by Cabinet in June 2022. The funding request sat outside normal government policy and reflects the uniqueness of Buller's socio economic position.

Cabinet endorsed the business case and funding request and committed an additional \$10 million (outside of normal government policy) to fund infrastructure repairs to support Buller's ongoing flood recovery.

In addition, Council is working with the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) and central government agencies to develop a multi tool approach to improve Westport's resilience to future flooding.

These are significant and complex projects over a multiyear period that will require considerable input from all parties involved to achieve the outcome we all desire.

The flood events have sharpened our focus on ageing Council infrastructure, roading networks, climate change



The flood events have sharpened our focus on aging Council infrastructure, roading network, climate change challenges, environmental degradation, and limitations in housing.

challenges, environmental degradation, and limitations in housing.

Council has been focusing on shaping the future, which is the theme of our current 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. We focus particularly on climate change adaption, understanding Council carbon emissions, and put a strong focus on economic development through a clear strategy.

In November 2020, Council approved an Environmental Improvement and Prosperity Strategy (EIPS) for the Buller District.

Since May 2021, over \$2.3 million of external funding has been secured to deliver environmental improvement projects within the district, including landscape scale weed control, nature connection and science programmes for our tamariki and rangatahi, wasp biocontrol, and waste minimisation from construction and demolition. As well as the significant environmental benefits related to these projects, the funding has also created six full time equivalent Buller-based jobs with further employment opportunities likely to be created in the future.

Council's EIPS, which recognised the importance of developing strategic partnerships and alliances across various local, regional, and national organisations, has led to a strategic partnership between the Buller District Council and Tai Poutini Polytechnic to develop a Westport-based Conservation Learning and Employment Hub.

In conjunction with this, a flagship restoration project will be established to engage learners, as well as potential sponsors and funders, and demonstrate conservation and restoration mahi in tangible ways.

Future steps to realise the full potential of the EIPS include undertaking a scoping study or situation analysis specifically for the Buller District.

Although the EIPS was designed with conservation outcomes in mind, it is inherently flexible and will

contribute towards achieving the four community wellbeing goals: social, cultural, economic, and environmental.

We are working in partnership with Iwi and public private commercial opportunities to enhance and increase population growth in Buller.

Buller GDP is traditionally reliant on extractive industries but throughout the pandemic our district experienced a domestic tourism boost, welcomed back immigrants, and grew through city-dwellers settling down in our beautiful district. These developments have contributed to Buller's positive GDP growth, bucking the national trend.

The Buller District's GDP grew 15% in the year to March 2022. In the year ending December 2021, the Buller's GDP increased by 12.3%. This ranked the district as the second fastest growing district in the country twice in a row.

Consumer spending has been up by 10.2% for the year ending March 2022 compared with the same period in 2021. This is above the national average of 6.1%, and 7.6% on the West Coast.

Total tourism expenditure in the Buller District increased by 9.8% in the year to March 2022. The growth has more than counterweighted the loss of international visitors



Buller Council is a key participant in the Te Tai o Poutini Plan. This means that each of the district councils on the West Coast participates in preparing a combined district plan covering the whole of the West Coast.

highlighting how well Buller attracted New Zealanders throughout the pandemic years.

The number of residential building consents rose over the past 12-months by 94% compared with the previous 12-month period.

In the year to September 2021, house values in Buller sky-rocketed by 34%, causing ordinary houses to be sold for extraordinary prices.

COVID-19 has hit the economic and social wellbeing of parts of our communities very hard, including some that were already vulnerable. Combined with the significant flood events, our community has had to dig deep into the famous West Coast resilience.

Buller District Council is a key participant in the Te Tai o Poutini Plan (combined District Plan for the West Coast). This means that each of the councils on the West Coast participates in preparing a combined district plan covering the whole of the West Coast. The combined plan determines how natural resources are managed and used. This includes:

- Reserves and outdoor amenities
- Town and rural environments
- Minerals and mining
- Hazardous substances
- Landscapes and habitats.

The Te Tai o Poutini Plan governance group will release the Proposed Plan for consultation in July 2022.

#### BULLER DISTRICT ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

**Buller District's GDP** 

**15%** 

In the year to March 2022

Consumer Spending

For the year ending March 2022

**Tourism Expenditure** 

**• 9.8%** 

For the year ending March 2022

**Residential Consents** 

**•94%** 

Compared with the previous 12 months

House values

**34%** 

In the year to September 2021

Source: Quarterly economic Monitor Buller District, March 2022

Buller is impacted by the raft of central government reforms ranging from the Three Waters Reform, the reviewing of the Resource Management Act, Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and the Future for Local Government Review. The impacts of each of these reforms on our district is not yet fully understood. What we do know, is that the new Council will engage in significant strategic discussions and decisions in the coming years.

Prior to the flood events our district was well placed with our infrastructure work programme successfully delivered. Council successfully sought funding through the Provincial Growth Fund to invest into key strategic assets such as the port and airport and encourage new business to the Buller District. This approach has created more jobs locally and contributed towards Buller's economic indicators growing positively for the first time in 10-years.

Council has worked hard to control costs and keep up our level of service. Rates have increased to reflect the cost of providing water infrastructure, setting funds aside for preparing to adapt to climate change and ensuring Council has appropriate technology and information technology in place.

Our costs are rising rapidly with inflation at a threedecade high, fuel prices at record levels, interest rates rising rapidly and ongoing disruption to global supply chains. Whilst some of these pressures might ease over time, many of the inflationary impacts such as higher wage costs will permanently increase our cost base.

These pressures mean that just balancing the budget in each year of the council term will be challenging.

Steering a path through these uncertain times is demanding and challenging for each of our elected members. It is a journey not for the faint hearted. However, Buller has the foundations in place and strong relationships with lwi, regional and central government partners which will make a meaningful difference and allow the district to keep on the positive trajectory.

1 Mason

Sharon Mason Chief Executive Officer Buller District Council

## Buller's unique challenges

The Buller District has its own unique challenges which influence Council's direction and the services that are delivered to the community.

- The district covers a huge area, has a low number of ratepayers, and is prone to high rainfall, floods, slips, and earthquakes, resulting in impacts on roads, drainage, and civil defence. These challenges make it expensive to deliver services.
- The district needs to develop a multi tool approach to respond to extreme weather events.
- Rates review Buller has a rating model which needs to be refreshed.
- > We have an ageing population.
- > Buller has a low decile rating base with many on low fixed incomes.
- We need to attract more people to live and work here to share the cost of services through rates.
- > Buller must diversify its economy.

Many other costs are rising like insurance costs and the Consumer Price Index.



## This is what we are up to **Major projects in progress**

There are several projects planned for the three years following Council elections in October. These include projects from the 2022-2023 Annual Plan and projects highlighted in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, as well as additional flood recovery work.



## A town on the sea The Westport port and Kawatiri dredge

The Westport port is a strategically important asset that can generate economic growth through a sound strategy. Based on community feedback, Council ring-fenced the port and manages the port as a stand-alone business.

Council received \$4 million funding to renew the Westport Fishing Asset and \$3.3 million from the Buller District Port Package through the Provincial Growth Fund. This project will be completed late in 2022. Central government have announced further funding to dredge the harbour and repair the flood damaged wharf. This funding ensures that the port can provide the infrastructure required to attract and maintain future business. The investment has resulted in exciting business opportunities for our district, specifically shipping mineral sands out of Westport Port and the inclusion of BDC as a strategic operational partner to a Shipping Alliance.



#### Waimangaroa Water supply

Councillors agreed to upgrade the Waimangaroa water supply, spending up to \$2.3 million in the 2021-2022 financial year. After this decision the weather event in February 2022 caused significant damage to the access road and trunk main. The project has been revised and Council chose to reinstate the supply and replace the trunk main, committing up to \$2.3 million including costs to date.





## Getting back on our feet Flood recovery

After the initial response to the state of emergencies in July 2021 and February 2022, we have worked closely with external agencies to secure funding for our district's recovery.

This funding has enabled Council to establish a wide network of community support with the Community Hub as the centre piece. Large funding packages for reinstatement of damaged infrastructure formed the other part of Council's funding requests. The infrastructure repairs are significant encompassing our road network, waste management facilities, the Westport port and three waters assets.

#### Te Tai o Poutini Plan Combined District Plan

The Local Government Commission made a decision to transfer responsibility to draft a district plan for the three West Coast districts to the West Coast Regional Council. Work on the Te Tai o Poutini Plan continues and the Exposure Draft for the Te Tai o Poutini Plan has been out for public feedback. It is anticipated the Proposed Plan will be notified in July 2022. Council will actively engage in the consultation process to enable a district plan that supports and achieves our district's vision and community outcomes.





#### Be better with our assets **Property rationalisation**

The property rationalisation project aims to identify under-utilised land and property owned by Council and divest it if there is no strategic value. The first group of properties is targeted to be marketed for sale by the end of July 2022, with a second group being sold by December 2022. The final group of properties is planned to change ownership over the next four years.



#### The power of data Information management

Information management remains a priority for us to provide more accessible information to ratepayers, and to better aid decision-making. A budget of \$542,000 was allocated to this project over three years, with expected implementation and completion in 2022/2023. Better information management will make data such as property details more readily available, improve customer service and increase efficiency. The information management project is well underway and expected to be delivered by March 2023.



### **Externally funded projects**

In addition to the port funding provided from the Provincial Growth Fund, Council has received external funding for the following projects in 2020-2021. These projects are still underway and will be completed in the 2022-2023 financial year with the exception of the Temporary Village Alma Road:

- Westport Trunk main to town
- Westport Trunk main
   Terrace Section
- Punakaiki Trunk main renewal
- Temporary Village Alma Road





#### Adapting to the future Climate change adaption

Council's focus will remain to prepare the district to adapt to climate change over the coming years. The flood events have highlighted the need for some difficult conversations with the community around climate change and adaptation as the effects are being felt here and now. A climate change adaptation strategy will be developed in consultation with our community. We adopted a staged approach to spread the cost of \$315,000. Council will take a balanced and science based approach as we develop a plan. The first stage is formulating a project plan followed by identifying key stakeholders in the third quarter of 2022.





## Unfinished business The Rates Policy review

The Rates Policy Review started in 2014 with three community consultations carried out to date. Council has determined that more work needs to be done. Work on the rates policy will continue, with additional funding included in the 2022/23 annual plan to engage external support to assist council with next steps in a review process. Community consultation will occur before a new policy is adopted.



#### **Infrastructure Acceleration Fund**

Housing stock is a key challenge for the district, particularly rental accommodation, pensioner housing and opportunities for local first time homebuyers.

Early in 2021, central government announced the Infrastructure Acceleration fund (IAF) - a condensable fund of \$1 billion to accelerate local authorities to deliver housing outcomes.

Buller District Council (BDC) submitted an application to the fund in June 2021 and was successful in moving through the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage and subsequently the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage and has now entered the Negotiation phase of the IAF process.

At a high level BDC's application is to provide trunk infrastructure (three waters and roading) from SH67 through to the top end of Alma Road, the total budget applied for (and capped at) is \$13,502,372. By accessing the fund, Council will be able to enable the build of up to 400 new houses over a twenty year period.

#### PLANNED MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

| (\$000)   | ANNUAL PLAN | LONG TERM PLAN 2021-20 |           |           |
|---|-------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|   | 2022/2023   | 2023/2024              | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
| Support Services  |             |                        |           |           |
| Information management project  | 219         |                        |           |           |
| Community Services  |             |                        |           |           |
| Reefton pool: resurface existing main pool, construct/install a new lap hydrotheropy pool and upgrade filtration plant and pipework |             | 407                    |           |           |
| NBS Theatre: new HVAC system for theatre  |             | 364                    |           |           |
| Carnegie library seismic strengthening  | 1,020       |                        |           |           |
| Community Facilities  |             |                        |           |           |
| Reefton service centre improvements   | 232         |                        |           |           |
| Sue Thompson Casey Memorial library painting  | 230         |                        |           |           |
| Roading and Transportation  |             |                        |           |           |
| Local roads programme (72% Waka Kotahi funded)  | 2,227       | 2,513                  | 2,605     | 2,615     |
| Special purpose roads programme (100% Waka Kotahi funded)   | 1,504       | 1,072                  | 736       | 758       |
| District led urban revitalisation (2022/23 \$300k central government funded)  | 609         | 319                    |           |           |
| Solid Waste   |             |                        |           |           |
| Contracted refuse local reprocessor plant implementation  |             |                        | 1,060     |           |
| Sewerage  |             |                        |           |           |
| Westport sewer renewals and upgrades  | 755         | 655                    | 913       | 755       |
| Westport wastewater and sewerage pump station infrastructure upgrade and resource consent renewal                                   | 2,241       |                        |           |           |
| Reefton sewer renewals and upgrades   | 226         | 161                    | 143       | 167       |
| Water Supplies  |             |                        |           |           |
| Westport water renewals, upgrades, condition assessment and backflow prevention   | 856         | 878                    | 1,538     | 1,470     |
| Westport water supply: trunkmain connection into town   | 1,650       |                        |           |           |
| Westport water supply: bridge for the Keoghans alternative supply access track  |             |                        |           | 168       |
| Reefton water supply chlorination   | 455         |                        |           |           |
| Reefton water renewals, upgrades, condition assessment and backflow prevention  | 163         | 167                    | 344       | 289       |
| Little Wanganui new treatment plant   |             |                        | 545       |           |
| Mokihinui new treatment plant   |             |                        | 436       |           |
| Punakaiki new treatment plant and intake (assumed full central government funding)  |             |                        | 2,214     | 4,523     |
| Stormwater  |             |                        |           |           |
| Stormwater upgrades and replacements, condition assessment, flood mitigation and waster/stormwater separation                       | 380         | 490                    | 634       | 543       |

### What's on Council's horizon

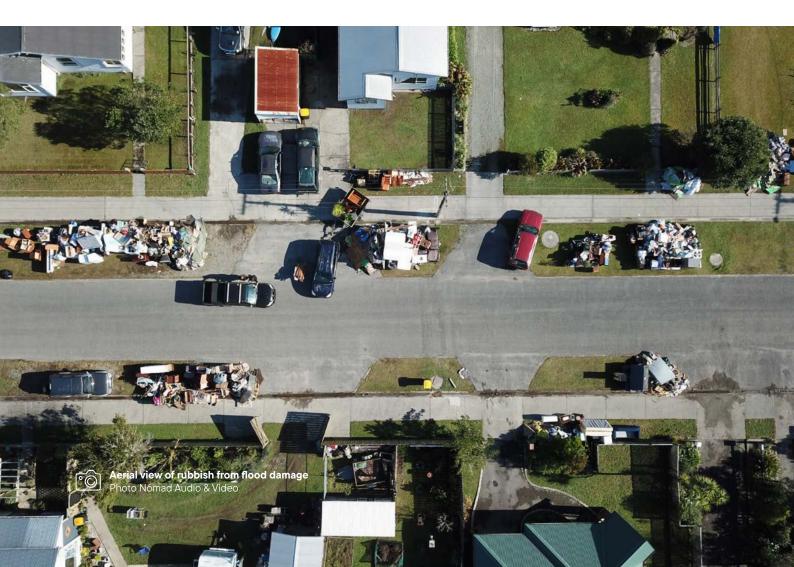
Over the ten years of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, Council signalled a spend \$96.5 million on projects to maintain the quality of the essential services, to be compliant with new legislation, and to upgrade important facilities in our district.

At the time of writing, Council is working in partnership with central government to address the challenge to fix significant parts of our infrastructure which was damaged in the July 2021 and February 2022 floods. A key consideration will be the Westport Water resilience project. During the February 2022 severe weather event the Westport Water Supply was significantly affected in terms of site accessibility, primary intake damage and surface catchment area deterioration. The impact has been an ongoing challenge to maintain sufficient raw water supply to the reservoir ponds to meet demand. The total funding for the repair work is not yet quantified and fully understood. What we know is that to bring our infrastructure back to pre-flood levels, requires a substantial piece of work and will cost many millions of dollars. Once underway the work is anticipated to take up to 24-months to complete.

West Coast Regional Council, Buller District Council and Ngāti Waewae are working collaboratively building resilience of the Buller district from future flooding.

The Hon Nania Mahuta, Minister of Local Government asked BDC and the WCRC in February 2022 for a proposal for co-investment from central government to address the challenges and urgency we are faced with in protecting the Westport community from future flooding.

The co-investment proposal will be a multi tool approach including structural flood protection infrastructure and broader adaptation, mitigation opportunities, as well



### Our 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan is the guiding document for the Buller District and our vision is to shape our district.

as funding mechanisms and support with statutory frameworks.

The value asked from central government is \$45,462,500.

The additional costs and associated impacts related to the severe weather events have not been factored into Council budgets due to ongoing work between Council and external agencies to confirm the scope and funding. Future-dated budgets shown in this report are excluding additional flood related costs and income.

Our 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan is the guiding document for the Buller District and our vision is to shape our district.

Despite the struggle of the last 12-months we have not lost sight of our Community Outcomes. Through projects such as the upgrade to the Reefton Pool we continue to improve the daily lives of our residents. Continuing from the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, Council is recommitting to the district revitalisation programme as one of our significant strategic initiatives. District revitalisation aims to provide reliable, affordable services and infrastructure to create attractive, liveable towns and places in which people want to live, explore, and invest. We will persist to promote community wellbeing aligned with our social, cultural, economic and environmental indicators.

We are committed to keep focus on key strategic areas. One of these is working in partnership with other agencies to utilise growth opportunities and to support long term sustainable business in Buller.

Taking the last few months into account, we had to refine our focus to accommodate the unforeseen financial and impacts of the severe flooding events.

Council has approved \$7 million extra short-term loan funding to be available to bridge the gap between extra



flood costs being incurred and the receipt of funding, as Council is paid on a reimbursement basis for these expenses. This extra loan, external funding for flood recovery and the capital reinstatement costs are not included in future budgets. The reason for excluding the additional income and costs is because the value is not yet quantified.

We have been challenged but we are committed to delivering the projects in our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, along with the large-scale flood recovery projects.

Overlaid with the impacts of COVID-19, central government reforms, climate change and limitations in housing, the district is facing a unique set of challenges going forward. It is a demanding task but it also provides an extraordinary opportunity to build a better Buller for the future.

## A path we hold to **Our financial strategy**

The overarching aim of Council's financial strategy, set out in our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan is to ensure that rates remain affordable to the average ratepayer and that net borrowings are financially sustainable, while continuing to provide the community with reliable infrastructure and community facilities.

Another aspect of the financial strategy is to seek new economic activity along with external investment opportunities and external funding options to reduce reliance on rates.

### Challenges along the way

The past 12 months have seen added challenges to Buller's economy with the impact of COVID-19 and two significant weather events, which required us to adjust our course.

We approached these unforeseen events by keeping track of our financial strategy. Controlling costs while maintaining our level of service remains a priority. Engaging in significant strategic discussions and decisions particularly at central government level to promote new economic or funding opportunities for the district has been a key focus.

Ongoing development of strategic partnerships and alliances across various regional and national organisations is another key stone we hold on to. Key points of our financial strategy are:

#### Maintain quality services

Expenditure to be adequate to maintain existing services and to maintain the quality and avoid deterioration of assets and capacity. Additional expenditure will be considered if it improves resilience and reliability of Council's services and meets the current and future needs of the community.

#### Manage debt and costs

Manage debt and finance costs in a financially prudent manner. Council has set a net debt ceiling benchmark at \$25 million.

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#### Allowance for rates increases

Allowing for rates increases for improvements in service delivery, core infrastructure and initiatives that may attract new economic activity in the district and support community wellbeing. Rates affordability is a strong consideration for our communities. Council has set a benchmark to keep rates increases within the long-range local government cost index of 2.2% per annum.

### 4.

#### Look for other opportunities

Minimise Council's reliance on rates income by considering external investment opportunities and external funding options. Borrowing to facilitate these initiatives will be considered if this is consistent with Council's overall strategy.

#### **RATES AND DEBTS**

|   | ANNUAL REPORT |           | BUDGET    |  |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|--|
|   | 2019/2020     | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 |  |
| Rates levels and limits                             |               |           |           |  |
| Rates revenue Actual                                | 54%           | 33%       | 50%       |  |
| Limit   | 65%           | 65%       | 65%       |  |
| Rates increases Actual                              | 4.7%          | 0.4%      | 6.7%      |  |
| - Limit Limit                                       | 2.4%          | 2.4%      | 2.2%      |  |
| Borrowing levels and limits                         |               |           |           |  |
| Net Debt (\$000) Actual                             | 13,761        | 12,968    | 21,707    |  |
| Limit   | 20,000        | 20,000    | 25,000    |  |
| Debt servicing costs/total operating revenue Actual | 4%            | 2%        | 3%        |  |
| Limit   | 10%           | 10%       | 15%       |  |

#### **RETURN ON INVESTMENTS**

|                       |  | ANNUAL REPORT |           | FORECAST* |  |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|-----------|-----------|--|
|                       |  | 2019/2020     | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 |  |
| Investment            | Target Return  |               |           |           |  |
| WestReef Services Ltd | To achieve a pre-tax operating profit of at least 12% (2018-<br>2028 LTP), 10% (2021-2031 LTP) on gross revenues, before any subvention payments.  | 9%            | 11%       | On track  |  |
| Buller Recreation Ltd | Achieve budget and expenditure targets.  | Met           | Met       | On track  |  |
| Buller Holdings Ltd   | Financial performance of the Group will be measured against the forecasts and KPI's in the approved Statements of Intent.  | Met           | Met       | On track  |  |
| NZ Whitebait Ltd      | No target return required (this measure came in the 2021-2031<br>LTP, subsequent to the adoption of the LTP this venture did not<br>proceed due to failure by NZWL to achieve the private funding<br>threshold required by Central Government) | na            | na        | na        |  |

\*based on March 2022 quarterly results

## This is where we are **Summary of our financials**

The financial information contained in this report includes actual results for the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 financial years from Council's Annual Reports. Planned results for 2021/2022-2025/2026 are sourced from Council's 2021-2031 Long Term. The exception is the 2022/2023 figures which are taken from Council's 2022-2023 Annual Plan.

Since the adoption of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan the environment has changed drastically due to both localised factors such as the adverse weather events, and the wider economic drivers such as inflation and interest rates. Inflation and interest rates have risen sharply in the last year and are much higher than forecast at the time of preparing the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

The increased borrowing costs and inflation pressures on Council's infrastructure and salary costs are reflected in the 2022-2023 Annual Plan. It is expected these increases will be carried on in future years.

At the time of preparing the 2022-2023 Annual Plan

Council was still working in partnership with central government to address fixing significant parts of our flood damaged infrastructure. The additional costs and revenue associated with the reinstatement work were not factored into our 2022/2023 budgets. These events took place after the adoption of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

In 2019/2020 central government offered funding to assist with economic stimulus as part of the 2020 Covid recovery. Council successfully applied to several funds. This external funding was used for a variety of projects such as the Old Hector landfill seawall, Tidal Creek No 2 bridge replacement, NZ Libraries secondment funding, and the Westport Waterfront Redevelopment project amongst others.

A number of these projects were completed in 2020/2021 which shows in the financials. Some projects have rolled over into the 2021/2022 financial year, however, the revenue and costs associated with these projects are not included from 2021/2022 onwards as only business as usual is indicated in Council's Long Term and Annual Plans.



#### FUNDING IMPACT STATEMENT

| (\$000)  | ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL PLA |           | UAL PLAN  | LONG TERM PLAN 2021-2031 |           |           |           |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|  | 2019/2020                | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022 | 2022/2023                | 2023/2024 | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
| Sources of operating funding   |                          |           |           |                          |           |           |           |
| General rates, uniform annual general charge, rates penalties            | 8,833                    | 8,711     | 9,615     | 10,309                   | 11,107    | 11,405    | 11,390    |
| Targeted rates   | 6,036                    | 6,330     | 6,593     | 7,409                    | 7,023     | 7,582     | 7,812     |
| Subsidies and grants for operating purposes                              | 3,308                    | 10,118    | 3,241     | 2,953                    | 2,935     | 3,191     | 3,291     |
| Fees and charges   | 205                      | 1,289     | 429       | 387                      | 475       | 482       | 490       |
| Interest and dividends from investments                                  | 1,937                    | 1,736     | 1,449     | 1,735                    | 1,443     | 1,435     | 1,522     |
| Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringements fees and other receipts | 4,307                    | 3,174     | 5,005     | 5,928                    | 5,746     | 5,512     | 5,651     |
| Total operating funding  | 24,626                   | 31,358    | 26,332    | 28,721                   | 28,729    | 29,607    | 30,156    |
|  |                          |           |           |                          |           |           |           |
| Applications of operating funding  |                          |           |           |                          |           |           |           |
| Payments to staff and suppliers  | 19,199                   | 26,238    | 23,511    | 22,506                   | 22,112    | 22,979    | 22,614    |
| Finance costs  | 1,202                    | 1,015     | 818       | 1,408                    | 845       | 815       | 890       |
| Other operating funding applications                                     | 545                      | 1,094     | 508       | 450                      | 501       | 370       | 372       |
| Total applications of operating funding                                  | 20,946                   | 28,347    | 24,837    | 24,364                   | 23,458    | 24,164    | 23,876    |
| Surplus/(deficit) of operating funding                                   | 3,680                    | 3,011     | 1,495     | 4,357                    | 5,271     | 5,443     | 6,280     |
| Sources of capital funding   |                          |           |           |                          |           |           |           |
| Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure                             | 2,009                    | 9,481     | 5,474     | 3,918                    | 4,581     | 4,825     | 7,163     |
| Development and financial contributions                                  | 76                       | 31        | 52        | 53                       | 54        | 55        | 56        |
| Increase/(decrease) in debt  | 5,000                    | 0         | (230)     | 3,746                    | (320)     | 1,033     | 295       |
| Gross proceeds from sale of assets                                       | 199                      | 162       | 560       | 561                      | 562       | 264       | 265       |
| Lump sum contributions   | 437                      | 435       | 35        | 35                       | 37        | 0         | 0         |
| Other dedicated capital funding  | 0                        | 0         | 0         | 0                        | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| Total sources of capital funding   | 7,721                    | 10,109    | 5,891     | 8,313                    | 4,914     | 6,177     | 7,779     |
| Applications of capital funding  |                          |           |           |                          |           |           |           |
| - to meet additional demand  | 0                        | 0         | 0         | 0                        | 0         | 0         | 0         |
| - to improve the level of service  | 1,036                    | 4,257     | 3,700     | 5,924                    | 3,329     | 5,402     | 5,583     |
| - to replace existing assets   | 8,554                    | 10,548    | 7,095     | 8,531                    | 6,645     | 6,976     | 6,445     |
| Increase/(decrease) in reserves  | (2,838)                  | (2,523)   | (4,011)   | (1,968)                  | 1,055     | (881)     | 1,346     |
| Increase/(decrease) in investments                                       | 4,649                    | 838       | 602       | 183                      | (844)     | 123       | 685       |
| Total applications of capital funding                                    | 11,401                   | 13,120    | 7,386     | 12,670                   | 10,185    | 11,620    | 14,059    |
| Surplus/(deficit) of capital funding                                     | (3,680)                  | (3,011)   | (1,495)   | (4,357)                  | (5,271)   | (5,443)   | (6,280)   |
| Funding balance  | 0                        | 0         | 0         | 0                        | 0         | 0         | 0         |
|  | -                        |           |           | -                        |           | -         |           |

#### SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| (\$000)   | ANNUAL REPORT ANN |           | UAL PLAN LONG |           | ERM PLAN 2 | 2021-2031 |           |
|---|-------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
|   | 2019/2020         | 2020/2021 | 2021/2022     | 2022/2023 | 2023/2024  | 2024/2025 | 2025/2026 |
| Current assets                                  |                   |           |               |           |            |           |           |
| Financial assets (cash and term deposits)       | 20,879            | 20,648    | 16,410        | 13,931    | 15,711     | 14,805    | 15,488    |
| Other current assets                            | 4,812             | 10,436    | 6,038         | 6,223     | 6,316      | 6,517     | 7,048     |
| Total current assets                            | 25,691            | 31,084    | 22,448        | 20,154    | 22,027     | 21,322    | 22,536    |
| Non current assets                              |                   |           |               |           |            |           |           |
| Financial assets (shares, loans, bond deposits) | 19,639            | 19,931    | 20,404        | 20,216    | 21,243     | 21,366    | 22,051    |
| Other non current assets                        | 378,598           | 388,248   | 419,404       | 419,936   | 424,259    | 459,852   | 463,133   |
| Total non current assets                        | 398,237           | 408,179   | 439,808       | 440,152   | 445,502    | 481,218   | 485,184   |
| Total assets                                    | 423,928           | 439,263   | 462,256       | 460,306   | 467,529    | 502,540   | 507,720   |
| Current liabilities                             |                   |           |               |           |            |           |           |
| Public debt (overdrafts and borrowings)         | 10,000            | 16,774    | 313           | 142       | 328        | 390       | 399       |
| Other current liabilities                       | 6,803             | 13,073    | 7,918         | 7,728     | 7,486      | 7,699     | 7,598     |
| Total current liabilities                       | 16,803            | 29,847    | 8,231         | 7,870     | 7,814      | 8,089     | 7,997     |
| Non current liabilities                         |                   |           |               |           |            |           |           |
| Public debt (borrowings)                        | 21,774            | 15,000    | 36,807        | 38,888    | 36,160     | 37,130    | 37,415    |
| Other non current liabilities                   | 4,228             | 3,136     | 4,138         | 3,433     | 4,054      | 4,019     | 3,985     |
| Total non current liabilities                   | 26,002            | 18,136    | 40,945        | 42,321    | 40,214     | 41,149    | 41,400    |
| Equity  | 381,123           | 391,280   | 413,080       | 410,115   | 419,505    | 453,305   | 458,325   |
| Total liabilities and equity                    | 423,928           | 439,263   | 462,256       | 460,306   | 467,533    | 502,543   | 507,722   |

## YOUR VOIE YOUR VOIE YOUR VOIE

## Now it's your turn

### Taking up a role as a Councillor is your chance to shape our district.

The next triennial local government elections will be held on Saturday 8 October 2022, with voting for not only the Buller Mayor and Council (including the Inangahua Community Board), but also the Buller representatives on the West Coast Regional Council and Development West Coast.

By being an elected member, you can make a real difference in the crucial decisions about the Buller District's future resilience. You can help shape your community.

Councils and subcommittees play a critical role in supporting the resilience and prosperity of all our people, whānau and communities in Buller.

For more information please visit: www.votelocal.co.nz www.bullerdc.govt.nz

#### KEY DATES FOR THE 2022 LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

#### 15 July 2022

Candidate nominations open and roll opens for public inspection

**12 August 2022 at 12 noon** Candidate nominations close and roll closes

**17 August 2022** Public notice of candidates' names

**16 – 21 September 2022** Voting documents delivered

#### 4 October 2022

Last day for posting vote by mail. After this date votes must be returned to Council's secure ballot boxes

8 October 2022 at 12 noon Election day – voting closes midday

8 October 2022 from 12 noon Preliminary results

13-19 October 2022 Declaration of results

October 2022 Elected members' swearing in ceremonies

### **Further reading**

If you are interested in more, the information in this report has been drawn from Council's reports and publications.



2019/2020 & 2020/2021 Annual Reports

#### **>** Annual Report

Each Annual Report explains in greater detail what Council delivered compared to what it planned to do. It also compares what activities and services costed compared to what was budgeted for.



#### **)** Long Term Plan

The Long Term Plan explains how Council intends to contribute to the community's wellbeing over the 10-years covered by the Plan.



2022/2023 Annual Plan

#### **>** Annual Plan

The Annual Plan lets you know how Council's work is going to be paid for and any variance from the Long Term Plan.



#### > Indicative Business Case

The Indicative Business Case was drafted on behalf of the West Coast Regional Council and Buller District Council to seek central government assistance to improve Westport's flood resilience (see agenda page 109). Visit Council's website www.bullerdc.govt.nz

or contact our customer services team info@bdc.govt.nz

to obtain access to these reports.



TTPP Proposed Plan

#### > Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP)

For more information for the Te Tai o Poutini Plan - Combined District Plan go to www.ttpp.nz. WWW.BULLERDC.GOVT.NZ "ELECTION 2022' //

# MAKE YOUR VOICE MAKE DIFFERENCE

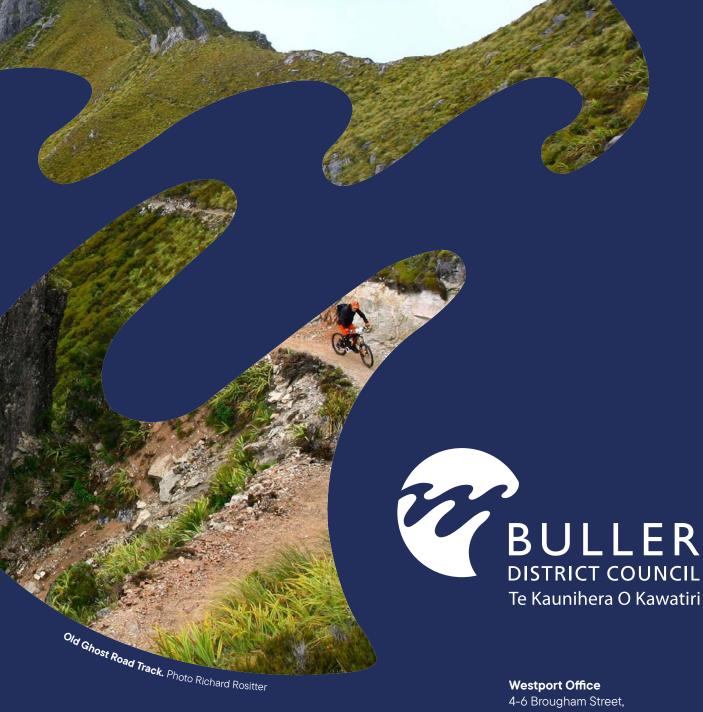
## SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY STAND FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NOMINATIONS OPEN FRIDAY 15 JULY 2022 CLOSING 12 NOON ON FRIDAY 12 AUGUST 2022

**NO LATE NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED** 







## Your vote matters!

You have one vote. How you exercise that vote will ultimately determine the kind of leadership you as a resident or ratepayer get for the next three years. This document has been produced to help you vote for the people you think best offer the flexibility and experience to deal with the issues you care about and those facing our district. 4-6 Brougham Street, PO Box 21, Westport 7866 New Zealand

 Freephone
 0800 807 239

 Phone
 64 3 788 9111

 Email
 info@bdc.govt.nz

#### **Reefton Office & Library**

66 Broadway, PO Box 75, Reefton 7851, New Zealand **Freephone** 0800 808 821

Phone0800 808 821Phone64 3 732 8821

Sue Thomson-Casey Memorial Library 87-89 Palmerston Street, Westport 7825, New Zealand Phone 64 3 788 8030

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