



**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

October 2024  Issue 125

# Connect

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



West Coast Mayors and West Coast Regional Council Chair with Minister of Local Government Hon Simeon Brown

## Mayor's Message

Welcome to the spring edition of **Connect**.

There is a significant amount of work in progress across the district and within Council, so it's difficult to choose what to feature here. It's extremely pleasing to see the collaboration with Federation Mining coming together, investing in new accommodation units at the Reefton Motor Camp. Procurement for this development is now underway via a tender process.

The large crane operating on the wharf at Westport signifies progress on the re-building and enhancement of port structures damaged in the floods of 2021-22. This is the final project to be completed as part of the flood recovery package.

I continue to work collaboratively with the Mayors, Chairs and Iwi of the West Coast on regional applications for government funding. This includes consideration of efficiencies we could gain by working more closely together across districts.

Councillors have begun strategic workshops to develop the foundations of the draft Long-Term Plan. The LTP project

will evolve through various decision-making processes and engagements during the year, developing a plan for consultation and final adoption by June 2025. Council and the community will have tough decisions to make as we balance affordability with desired service levels and prudent work programmes.

Council is closely monitoring changes in government policy that affect Buller and continues to work proactively with various agencies to comply with our obligations and explore opportunities. This is of particularly relevance to the Local Water Done Well policy, which has a huge impact on rates.

We are also proactively engaging with other active Government policy reform workstreams including Resource Management, Natural Hazards and Climate Adaptation.

Despite the challenges uncertainty brings, there are many fantastic opportunities being explored across the district by stakeholders and Council is working hard to collaborate and support these where we can.

**Mayor Jamie Cleine**



## Shaping our reserves' future

**Council will launch a survey asking the community for feedback about the future management of Council's reserves. This is the first step in developing an Omnibus Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for the recreational reserves across Buller.**

Council administers and manages various recreational reserves throughout the district. Each reserve requires a Reserve Management Plan (RMP) that guides Council staff, Reserve and Hall Subcommittees and other stakeholders in making day-to-day and long-term decisions about how the reserve is managed, developed and used now and in the future.

You can give us your feedback between the 21 October and 18 November 2024. This will inform the draft RMP, which will go out for public consultation in 2025.

You can find more information and a link to the survey on Council's new engagement platform [Letstalk.bullerdc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.bullerdc.govt.nz). Paper survey forms will be available to pick up at Council facilities in Westport and Reefton and service centres in Northern Buller, Karamea, and Punakaiki from mid-October.

 **Do it online**

Scan this QR code and complete the survey online



This link will take you to: [letstalk.bullerdc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.bullerdc.govt.nz)

# Out and about in Buller

## Buller District Council launches Community Outreach days



 **Kaipakati Point, north of Punakaiki**  
Photo by Dan Benny

**Buller District Council is holding regular Community Outreach days to give residents from outlying areas of Buller the chance to connect with council staff and elected members in an informal setting.**

The events started in mid-September 2024 and will be based at venues in Northern Buller and Karamea one month and then in Charleston and Punakaiki the following month. This ensures each area has contact with BDC representatives at least bi-monthly.

The 'drop-in'-style sessions will provide an opportunity for members of the public to meet with council staff from different departments across the organisation to discuss concerns, issues and to seek advice directly on 'how to' using council processes.

Councillors from the various wards across Buller will also be invited to each event, providing insight into the district's governance, and considering the perspectives of individual communities.

This outreach initiative aims to encourage the development of positive relationships between Council and communities.

By heading out into the communities and



providing the option to meet face-to-face, locals from rural areas without a regular physical council presence will be able to connect with staff and councillors.

We encourage community members to take advantage of this opportunity to find out about council work programmes and current campaigns, and access advice and guidance to help them seek resolution to any concerns they might have.

Each outreach session will aim to provide information relevant to current or upcoming activities and engagements on the council calendar but will not replace any specific or required consultation processes.



Dates and times will be advertised on the Buller District Council Facebook page and website. Visit [bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/community-outreach-days/](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/community-outreach-days/) for further information.



## Resilient Westport

### Programme update

**There's been some real progress in recent times seeing some of Resilient Westport's smaller floodwall projects get underway and others get closer to commencing, as we continue to work towards delivering a varied programme of works to help improve Westport's flood resilience.**

#### Flood protection

Flood protection work, led by West Coast Regional Council centres on building floodwalls and stopbanks with the aim of protecting Westport in the event of significant future flooding events.

Floodwall designs are being finalised and once constructed, there will be

around 16 kilometres of flood mitigation structures around Westport, including earth stopbanks, 'planter-box' stopbanks, concrete floodwalls, wooden floodwalls, and portable flood barriers. The estimated cost is \$24m, made up of a \$15.6m contribution from Government and \$8.37m from the West Coast Regional Council.

#### Master Planning

Led by Buller District Council, Master Planning seeks to provide a holistic road map for the community, and the public and private sectors on Westport's future growth.


The Master Planning team has now held four rounds of comprehensive stakeholder workshops involving local people in the planning for Westport's future direction, with more planned.

The Master Planning Concept Plan is due for completion in the first quarter of 2025.



 **Earthworks on Cats Creek stopbank**  
Photo credit: Resilient Westport



 **Vegetation clearance at Floating Lagoon**  
Photo credit: Resilient Westport



Visit: [www.resilientwestport.co.nz](https://www.resilientwestport.co.nz) to read our latest newsletters and sign up to receive them via email.

# Interconnected smoke detectors:

## Changes to the Building Code

**From November 2024, NZ's Building Code Acceptable Solutions for Protection from Fire (C/AS1 and C/AS2) will be updated to require interconnected smoke alarms as the minimum fire safety system for newly built homes and substantial renovations.**

This change will be based on NZS 4514:2021, which specifies standards for interconnected smoke alarms in residential buildings. The updated standards allow for either wireless or hard-wired connections and include options for 10-year battery-powered or 240V mains-powered alarms.

### What does this mean for you?

For homeowners in the Buller District, this means that from November 2024, when applying for building consent for a new dwelling, or to alter an existing dwelling, (including installation of a solid fuel burner) you will need to make provisions to include these interconnected smoke detectors.

The new regulations require that smoke alarms must be installed in all bedrooms, living spaces, hallways and landings to ensure comprehensive coverage

throughout the home. This includes in a kitchen where it can be separated from the living spaces, and in hallways by doors that can be closed. These alarms may be heat alarms, to avoid nuisance activations.

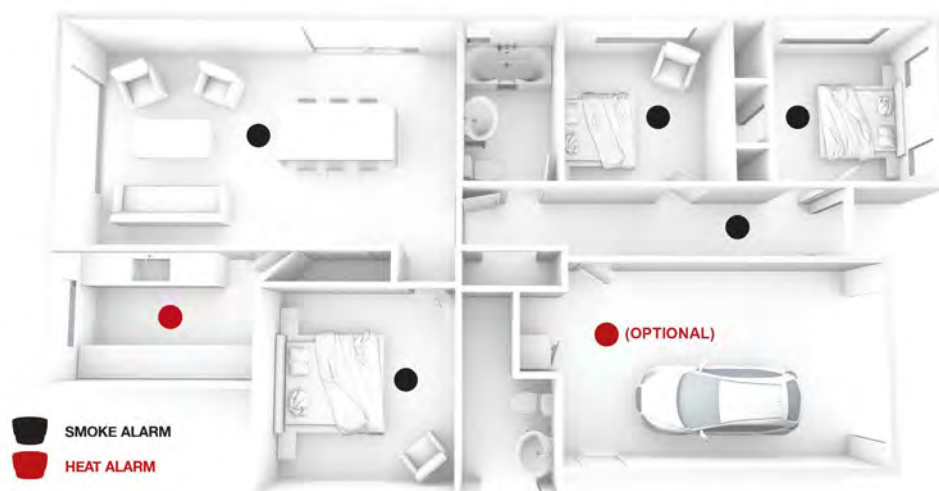
These changes aim to enhance fire safety by ensuring that all smoke alarms within a home are interconnected, meaning that when one activates, all smoke alarm devices in the household unit will sound, providing more effective and timely warnings in the event of a fire.



For further details on compliance, refer to the NZBC C/AS1 and C/AS2 and the [NZS 4514:2021 standard](#) for interconnected smoke alarms for houses.

### Location of interconnected smoke alarms to meet NZS 4514:2021.

Image credit: Cavius Nano Limited



## Weed spraying season starts soon

**WestReef Services Ltd will start its annual weed spraying programme in mid-October, subject to weather conditions.**

Staff will spray weedkiller (herbicide) in and around Westport, Reefton and smaller townships, with the work expected to take six to eight weeks to complete. Regular weed spraying is a cost-effective method for preservation and maintenance of assets, including road verges, channels and footpaths.

The weedkiller is glyphosate-based – glyphosate is an efficient product, widely used in New Zealand and considered safe when used according to the manufacturer's specifications.

For environmental and health and safety purposes, New Zealand's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) regulates the manufacture, importation, use, storage, and transportation of hazardous substances, and has approved glyphosate for use in New Zealand.

Council offers a 'No weed spray' option to residents and property owners within the Buller District on the condition that the residents or property owners confirm their agreement to maintain their street or road frontage/roadside channel/footpath adjacent their residence or property in a tidy condition, keeping it free of weeds and noxious plants.

This policy only applies to local roads maintained by Council and not roads on the State Highway network, which are maintained by NZ Transport Agency/ Waka Kotahi.



If you would like to be included in the 'No Spray Register', you can raise a Service Request [bullerdc.govt.nz/do-it-online/request-a-service/](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/do-it-online/request-a-service/) with our Customer Service team.

You will be sent an application form and once signed and returned, your property will be added to the register.



## Enviroschools doing good work

**Read about all the good mahi the kura and early childhood centres involved in the Buller Enviroschools network have done in 2023-24.**

Nau mai haere mai to **Maruia School** – a small school which has a big impact on its students' understanding and care of our environment.

Ākonga (students) are:

- Actively involved with the school's veggie garden and orchard
- Have special responsibility looking after Kōhanga Atawhai – Manson Nicholls Hut at Lake Daniell
- Working in collaboration with NZ Panels to grow kōwhai seedlings and hope to soon grow two threatened/at-risk plant species that live along the Maruia River at Marble Hill.

Reefton is an Enviroschools hotspot, supporting ākonga on a long-term journey of sustainability from early childhood to secondary education. Teachers from **Reefton Early Learning Centre, Sacred Heart School and Reefton Area School** have held collaborative hui with coordinator and facilitator Lauren Kelly each term to explore the Enviroschools kaupapa and resources, gaining inspiration for the classroom.

**Karamea Area School** students are living the ethos 'Planting seeds of knowledge and action' by:

- Working hard in their school veggie garden, learning science and financial literacy skills as part of growing healthy kai, with their efforts featured in NZ Gardener and The Press.



**Karamea Area School secondary students empty a fyke eel net at Ōparara**  
Photo credit: Enviroschools

- Reducing the school's waste footprint – designing and building a composting system and worm farm, selling fundraising 'worm juice' in reused milk jugs and reducing waste and packaging from school lunches.
- Tasman Bay Guardians led an environmental learning day at the Ōparara Source to Sea project, with support from Enviroschools, Buller District Council, DOC and Clean Streams Karamea.
- Secondary students, teachers and parents learned river health monitoring techniques and surveyed tuna (eels) and freshwater invertebrates upstream.
- Younger students learned how to engage their senses to better understand nature at the Ōparara Reserve.

Enviroschools teamed up with **Garden to Table** to bring composting workshops to teachers and school whānau in Reefton and Hokitika. Participants learned about the importance of healthy soil and how to create it through composting, worm farming and bokashi systems.



**Karamea Area School primary students engaging their senses to explore nature**  
Photo credit: Enviroschools



Image credit: Tyrewise

## Tyre stewardship program rolls out in Buller

**Since 1 September 2024, Buller residents and businesses have been able to drop off their used car, truck, motorcycle, and trailer tyres free of charge in Westport, Reefton and Karamea.**

All pneumatic (air filled) tyres used for motorised vehicles like cars, trucks, and motorcycles are accepted. Drop-off is limited to five tyres per person or company per day.

Tyres can be dropped off at the registered tyre collection sites at the Westport and Reefton Transfer Stations and the Karamea Landfill during opening hours. Tyres need to be de-rimmed and clean before you drop them off.

Businesses selling tyres, such as tyre wholesalers, tyre retailers, or tyre fitters, will have their tyres collected from their premises.

Tyrewise, the company approved by central government to run the tyre stewardship program in New Zealand, will collect all worn out tyres from the approved collection sites. It will also work on finding solutions to turn discarded tyres into new products, such as those used for playgrounds, sports grounds, arena dressing, or cement production. This is funded by the tyre stewardship fee included in the purchase price.

The Ministry for the Environment announced in October 2023 that a circular tyre stewardship program would be established as part of the Waste Minimisation (Tyres) Regulations 2023 to combat this trend.

From 1 March 2024, all tyre and car importers and retailers have sold tyres and vehicles to vehicle owners with the tyre stewardship fee included. The Ministry for the Environment and New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi collect this fee. Part of the fee is also used to incentivise the development, processing and manufacturing of new products from old tyres.

# Buller's waste footprint

Learn how much waste and recycling is produced in Buller each year and what it is made up of.

Find out how much refuse and recycling was collected in the Buller District in the year 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024.

The total amount of refuse collected in Buller was 2,903 tonnes.

## Refuse and recycling

### Zone One\*

REFUSE  **2,625t**

REFUSE  **567t**

\* Zone One covers Westport, Reefton and surrounds.

### Karamea

REFUSE  **260t**

REFUSE  **31t**

### Maruia

REFUSE  **18t**

REFUSE  **0t\***

\* Recycling from the Maruia facility is transferred to the Westport Transfer Station and included in the Zone One total.

Buller's kerbside refuse collected for the 2023/24 year

**213 tonnes**

Buller's kerbside recycling collection for 2023/24 totalled

**410 tonnes**

Visit our website to find out more about waste and recycling in the Buller District



## Recycling contamination

This refers to the quantity of materials deposited into recycling bins that cannot be recycled, such as plastics different to #1, #2 and #5, soft plastics and materials with multiple components.

Average for the year 2023/24

**28%** ▼

Average for the year 2022/23

**30%**

National average

**16-20%**

Remember rinse, clean, check!



## Buller District general recycling quantities

Household kerbside collection, transfer centre and landfill material in tonnes.



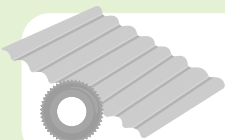
Glass

**306t**



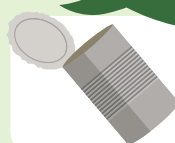
Paper and cardboard

**152t**



Iron/steel scrap metal

**98t**



Tins and cans

**7t**



Plastics #1, #2 and #5

**35t**

Note, the data is by weight not volume.

While volumetrically there is a significant quantity of plastics in the recycling stream, glass is the most dominant material by weight.

# Latest Council news

## Preparation for chlorination of Punakaiki's water supply underway

**Buller District Council will soon start to prepare the Punakaiki water supply for the introduction of chlorine to ensure that users will have a secure, safe and compliant source of drinking water.**

The Punakaiki water supply was designed in 1986 and is fed by Smiths Creek. Surface water sources such as Smiths Creek are prone to contamination from animal activity and runoff.

Pipework and other water supply components have aged over time, leaving them at risk, especially during natural hazard events such as earthquakes.

Due to these vulnerabilities and the water supply's large storage tanks,

dosing with chlorine is necessary for compliance with the regulations, ensuring safe drinking water.

Chlorination is a legal requirement under the Water Services Act 2021, and no further consultation will be undertaken.

Council realises this will be a topic of interest for Punakaiki residents affected by the change, and for some it might be an unwelcome development. Our priority is to provide safe drinking water for the community.

Timeframes will be communicated to the Punakaiki community as the project progresses. The main works will be scheduled to avoid the peak summer tourist season.

This chlorination is funded through Buller District Council's Long Term and Annual Plans. It was initially planned for financial

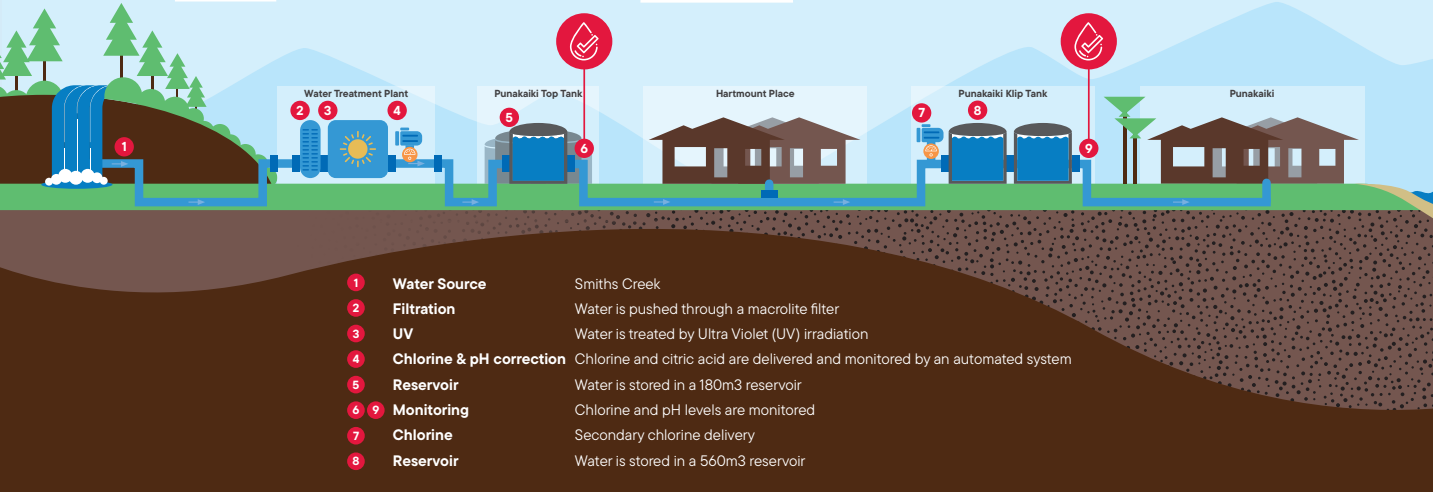
year 2022/23 but was carried over to 2024/25 to complete due to insufficient funds.

We encourage residents to access the information that will be available on council's website and at our service centres in the coming weeks and keep themselves informed as the project progresses.



Those interested can also subscribe to project updates by signing up to Buller District Council's email list online [bullerdc.govt.nz/do-it-online/water-supply-update-sign-up/](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/do-it-online/water-supply-update-sign-up/) selecting the Punakaiki option.

Queries can be sent to: [info@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:info@bdc.govt.nz) with the subject line 'Punakaiki chlorination'.



## Local Water Done Well

### What is happening?

**The Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 establishes the Local Water Done Well framework and the preliminary arrangements for the coalition Government's new water services system.**

The legislation was enacted on 2 September 2024. It lays the foundation for a new approach to water services management and financially sustainable delivery models that meet regulatory standards.

#### Key areas included in the Act are:

- Requirements for councils to develop Water Services Delivery Plans by 3 September 2025

- Requirements that Council Plans outline future water services delivery arrangements, and for Councils to commit to an implementation plan
- Requirements for Councils to include in their Plans baseline information about their water services operations, assets, revenue, expenditure, pricing, and projected capital expenditure, as well as necessary financing arrangements, as a first step towards future economic regulation
- Streamlined consultation and decision-making processes for setting up future water services delivery arrangements
- Interim changes to the Water Services Act, which mean the Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy of obligations in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) will not apply when Taumata Arowai sets wastewater standards.

**We will keep the community updated as we move forward with the process.**



# Facilities user survey



**We want your feedback on the services provided at the Buller District Libraries, the NBS Theatre and Reefton Cinema, the Reefton Visitor and Service Centre and the Westport Airport.**

**You can choose which facilities to provide feedback on based on the services you have used in the last 12 months.**

This is your opportunity to let us know how you find the interactions at our facilities and tell us how we could do better. We are also keen to see what you like about our services so we can continue the good work. Your feedback will help us to initiate changes and make improvements.

If you live in Buller and regularly use our facilities or stopped by our beautiful district as a visitor, we want your feedback. Filling out the survey will take 5 – 10 minutes.

**The survey will be live from Monday 14 October to Monday 4 November 2024 4:30pm.**



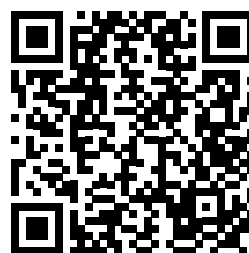
**Everyone who completes the survey can choose to go in the draw for their chance to win either a family movie pass or a book voucher.**



**Do it online**

Scan this QR code and complete this survey online

This link will take you to: [letstalk.bullerdc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.bullerdc.govt.nz)



# Community and Council notices

## Water notices

### Water supplies

Council would like to remind 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 website 'water - plumbosolvency' for details. There are different levels of water treatment in Buller.

The Cape Foulwind water supply (Wilson's Lead Road and Bulls Rd) is for stock use only and is not intended for human consumption.

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

For more information contact Council or your local water supplier for Ngakawau/Hector and South Granity.



**You can sign up to Council's email list and receive key information about your local water supply under [bullerdc.govt.nz/do-it-online/water-supply-update-sign-up/](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/do-it-online/water-supply-update-sign-up/)**

### Wastewater

Council operates sewerage treatment plants in Little Wanganui, Reefton and Westport.

Please don't flush any wipes, including those labelled as flushable, or paper towels, into the toilet.

People who have a connection to the Orowaiti sewerage scheme are reminded that they should no longer be using septic tanks and should be connected to the reticulation.



**For more details contact Council or visit [bullerdc.govt.nz/infrastructure/wastewater](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/infrastructure/wastewater)**

### Stormwater

Please consider stormwater and wastewater separation. Stormwater that enters the sewer must be treated as sewerage. This can cause sewer capacity problems during prolonged and heavy rain.

The majority of the stormwater is discharged untreated into the district's rivers. Please consider this when discharging fluids into the stormwater system. If you wouldn't want to swim in it, it shouldn't be going into the stormwater and needs to be disposed of as wastewater.



**For more details contact Council or visit [bullerdc.govt.nz/infrastructure/stormwater](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/infrastructure/stormwater)**

## Meetings

October to December 2024

All Council and committee meetings and workshops will be livestreamed to Council's Youtube channel Buller District Council.

The 2024 meeting calendar can be found at [bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/your-council/meetings/)

Please check the calendar for any updates and additional meetings.

### Ordinary Council Meetings

- 30 October, 5:00 pm
- 13 November, 3:30pm (Extraordinary Council Meeting)
- 27 November, 3:30 pm
- 18 December, 3:30 pm

### Risk and Audit Committee

- 30 October 1:00pm
- 11 December, 3:30pm

### Inangahua Community Board

- 5 November, 5pm

### Council Workshops

**Proposed dates - content/times will be advised.**

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| • 13 November | • 11 December |
| • 27 November | • 18 December |

If you would like to join the meeting, have any questions regarding these meetings, or would like to address Council during the public forum part of the ordinary council meeting please contact:

#### Governance Secretary

**Email** [governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz) or

**Phone** 0800 807 239



**Please visit Buller District Council's website [bullerdc.govt.nz](https://bullerdc.govt.nz) for to check for any updates to the Council meeting calendar**

#### Westport office

6-8 Brougham Street, PO Box 21,  
Westport 7866, New Zealand

**Freephone** 0800 807 239

**Phone** 03 788 9111

#### Reefton Visitor and Service Centre

67-69 Broadway, PO Box 75,  
Reefton 7851, New Zealand

**Phone** 03 732 8821

**Phone** 03 732 8391

24 hr Noise and 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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