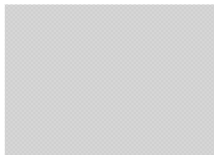


12 October 2022

The Chief Executive  
Buller District Council

Under the official Information Act would you please advise me

1. How much Council received from Government for gravel removal from the Buller River?
2. When was the contract advertised?
3. Who removed the gravel?
4. Where was the gravel specifically removed from and where was it dumped, and what quantity?
5. What was the contract price?
6. If not spent for the intended purpose, what account is the money in?
7. How much has been paid to consultants for flood protection reports?



Westport



11 November 2022

[REDACTED]  
Westport

Dear [REDACTED]

**Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)  
Request Gravel Extraction Queries - Ref: OIA 072/22**

We refer to your official information request dated 12 October 2022 for queries re gravel extraction.

The information you have requested is noted below.

- 1) The council received \$1,662,500 plus GST from Central Government as part of the Buller Port Project that they agreed to fund. An additional \$560,000 plus GST of dredging income was received (funded by a separate government project) for an area in and around the Floating Basin to make that usable and navigable and to enable construction of the new floating jetties.
- 2) Central Government agreed to the funding noted above in full knowledge that the council would be using the council owned dredge, Kawatiri, to undertake the work. There was no requirement for a contract to be advertised which was obviously beneficial to the council particularly when the most logical option was to use the Kawatiri.
- 3) The gravel/material was removed using the Kawatiri dredge.
- 4) 155,000m<sup>3</sup> of gravel/material was removed from the main river channel and principally along the entire alignment of the riverside wharves to enable vessel movement and port function. The material was dumped out at sea, as per all historical dredge operations in the Buller River.
- 5) The price for both contracts is noted in point 1 above.
- 6) Funding was provided by the government for eligible costs only (i.e., the purpose for which it was intended) and is paid as the costs are incurred. The funding is not provided upfront as a full lump sum to be spent as Council sees fit. Council can only claim for eligible work done and holds no unspent funds.
- 7) There was no funding allocated by Buller District Council to consultants for flood protection works as part of these gravel/material contracts.

Please note that you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the Buller District Council by return email to [lgoima@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:lgoima@bdc.govt.nz).

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/request-for-official-information/responses-to-lgoima-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Kind regards



**Douglas Marshall**

Chief Financial Officer (Contractor)

Mobile 027 458 4157 | Email [Douglas.Marshall@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:Douglas.Marshall@bdc.govt.nz)