



**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

# Connect

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

Kahikatea | White pine - *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*  
Credit: Jesse Bythell - NZ Plant Conservation Network - [www.nzpcn.org.nz](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz)

## Westport's drinking water trunk main Stage 2 replacement complete



**Work on a significant capital project for the township of Westport – the Stage 2 upgrade of the drinking water trunk main – has now been completed. The new infrastructure has been operating for nearly six months, delivering improved reliability, resilience and performance for the community.**

The final section of this project was constructed throughout 2025, extending from the Kew and Stephen Road intersections, through to the intersection of Queen and Roebuck Streets. This project formed part of a staged and strategic programme to replace the original cast iron and steel pipelines, some of which dated back to as early as 1905 and had reached the end of their functional life.

A new high-specification polyethylene (PE) pipeline now runs continuously from the Sergeants

Hill Treatment Plant to the Queen and Roebuck Street intersection, significantly strengthening the resilience of Westport's drinking water network. The project has also included strategic renewals that improve levels of service for consumers in Abattoir Road, a new supply connection to Domett Street and Kew Road, and full renewals along two blocks of Queen Street between Roebuck and Bentham Streets.

BDC has a third stage of the trunk main upgrade in planning – which will upgrade the supply to Carters Beach.

Importantly, the project was delivered significantly under budget. The total budget was just over \$3M, and the project cost came in at just under \$2M, with savings achieved through smart design and effective project management by BDC staff.

**View a visualisation of the water upgrades on our YouTube channel: A remarkable journey: Westport's drinking water infrastructure.**

## Heads-up for drivers: Speed kills

**Driving above posted speed limits brings with it an increased risk of death or serious injury.**

Even when speed doesn't cause a crash, it will most likely determine whether anyone is killed, injured, or walks away unharmed.

Buller District Council, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and ACC are collaborating throughout April and May as part of the Better Together campaign.

The Better Together campaign urges drivers to drive within the speed limit – it's a limit, not a target.

Over the next two months people will be reminded of the consequences of speeding through advertising and education, and this will be supported by Police enforcement activities.

**Drive like cops are around.**  
Because they are.



## Proposed changes to dog registration fees

**Dog registration is coming up soon and the fees are proposed to increase from 1 July 2026.**

This change is subject to Council approval of the Draft Annual Plan.

### Proposed fees for 2026/27:

Approved dog owners – desexed dogs	Non-working dogs	\$80
	Working dogs	\$52.50
Approved dog owners – entire dogs	Non-working dogs	\$100
	Working dogs	\$80

Dog owners who are not able to show competence in dog ownership will be charged the standard registration fee plus 50%

SuperGold card holders are entitled to a 20% discount on dog registration fees – simply present your card at the time of payment.

**We're also going digital – if you provide your email address and consent at registration, we'll send your registration form electronically next year and post your tag once payment is received. Easy!**

**Did you know that our dog registration fees have changed very little over the past 20 years? This adjustment will increase fees by around \$10 and will bring Buller District Council's dog registration fees in line with those of other West Coast councils.**



## New Opening Hours:

Sue Thomson Casey Memorial Library is adjusting its weekday and Saturday opening hours:

Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri	10 am – 5 pm
Tues	10 am – 7 pm*
Sat	10 am – 1 pm

\*Late Night Tuesday hours extend till 8 pm during daylight saving

## Do you qualify for a rates rebate?

**Buller District Council reminds residents they may be able to save up to \$805 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 2025 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 our website: [bullerdc.govt.nz/ratesrebate](http://bullerdc.govt.nz/ratesrebate)

The amount received depends on a combination of your income, the amount of rates you pay, the number of dependents you look after, and if

you are a Super Gold Card holder. You must ensure your application is received by Council on or before 30 June 2026 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.

DRAFT

Let's talk

# Annual Plan 2026/27

Year 2 of Buller District Council's 2025-2034 Long-Term Plan



## Consultation closing soon



### It's not too late to have your say on our Draft Annual Plan:



**Online:**

Visit: [letstalk.bullerdc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.bullerdc.govt.nz) where you will find all the info on our Draft Annual Plan.



**Printed copies:**

Printed copies of all documents and submission forms are available from Council's offices in Westport or Reefton, Buller District Libraries, Ngakawau Community Centre, or Karamea Information Centre.



**Got a burning question?**

Email your questions to: [annualplan@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:annualplan@bdc.govt.nz), or send them our way via Let's talk where they will be answered subject to our guidelines.



## Meetings April - May 2026

The full meeting calendar can be found at: [bullerdc.govt.nz/meetings](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/meetings)

### Regulatory Hearings Committee Meeting

• 22 April, starting 2:30 pm  
Clocktower Chambers

### Creative Communities Meeting

• 29 April, starting 10:30 am  
Clocktower Chambers

### Ordinary Council Meeting

• 29 April, starting 3:30 pm  
Clocktower Chambers

### ICB Meeting

• 12 May, starting 5:00 pm  
Reefton Women's Institute Rooms

### Public Excluded Workshop: Strategic Risk Register

• 13 May, starting 1:00 pm  
Clocktower Chambers

### Annual Plan Hearings/Deliberations\*

Clocktower Chambers  
• 20 May, starting 9:00 am  
• 21 May, starting 9:00 am  
• 22 May, starting 9:00 am

\*Deliberations will begin at the conclusion of the hearings.

### Ordinary Council Meeting

• 27 May, starting 3:30 pm  
Clocktower Chambers

All Council meetings will be livestreamed to Council's YouTube channel. 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 Team: **0800 807 239** or email:

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

## Water supplies

Council reminds consumers to flush their taps for 30 seconds in the morning, prior to use.

This applies to all supplies including rainwater. Visit [bullerdc.govt.nz/plumbosolvency](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/plumbosolvency) for details.

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

**The Cape Foulwind stock water supply is not intended for human consumption.**

### Help us plan for the year ahead by providing feedback on our Draft Annual Plan 2026/27. This plan outlines next year's proposed rates, what we plan to deliver to our community, and how we intend to pay for it.

The key purpose of the Annual Plan is to identify any differences between what was proposed in the Long-Term Plan 2025-34 (LTP) and what is now planned for 2026/27.

A significant departure from the LTP 2025-2034 is that the integration of Westport's stormwater system with the floodwalls has to be co-funded by Council in order to proceed.

Our Consultation Document includes information on Westport's stormwater integration and the two options. It also outlines how Council plans to navigate the coming year, key infrastructure initiatives, our forecasted expenses, income, and the forecast rate increase for the next financial year (1 July 2026 - 30 June 2027).

## Submissions close Tuesday 5 May 2026

Submissions are one of the most powerful ways communities in New Zealand can shape local government decision-making. **Your voice matters. Make it count.**

Let's talk

**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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