

*Nāhau te rourou naku te rourou
ka ora ai te manuhiri*

BULLER CULTURAL COMMUNITY HUB

Project Justification/Needs Analysis – November 2023

A. PROJECT SUMMARY

Building and sustaining resilience is at the very heart of the Buller Cultural Community Hub project. The recent flood events in Westport have heightened the need to consolidate and to build the capacity and capability of Buller's community sector.

The Cultural Community Hub will include the following key functions:

- » Creating a gateway to community services
- » Enabling community organisations to operate from a single location
- » Establishing a safe, inclusive space where everyone is welcome, respected and supported

The project is supported by a dedicated team of key organisations, including Homebuilders West Coast Trust, Te Ha O Kawatiri, Buller District Council, Ngati Waewae and Buller REAP.

A feasibility study is underway to scope the accommodation needs of the project, find a suitable site, and consider operating models for the new facility. The feasibility study will be completed by December 2023.

The project team are currently seeking funding to continue project development into the concept design phase.

B. DETAIL

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Buller Wellbeing Survey following the floods told us that people across the District would like more community events (40%), a centre for youth (37%), more community activities (35%) and more places to meet other people (26%), as well as a Marae (19%).

According to the Buller Wellbeing Survey, there is a high level of support for the development of a Cultural and Community Hub, with over four fifths of Buller District (82%) and Westport residents (80%) supporting the plan.

The Hub was described as a place for people to gather that offers support with wellbeing and education as well as access to social services and serves as an event space when required.

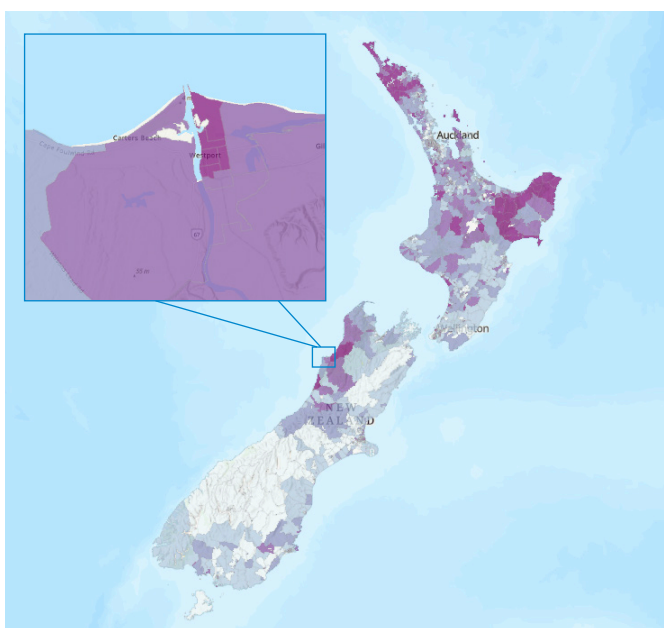
Over the course of the current feasibility study, we have surveyed local public and community organisations to find out who is interested in being involved in the Hub project. Over 30 organisations have expressed an interest in either being based in or using the proposed Cultural Community Hub.





2. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The Buller District is one of the most deprived areas in the South Island and financially poorer areas will tend to have a larger public and community services presence – and a greater dependence on community organisations to deliver key services. On average, if you have less money, there is a higher chance that you will experience poorer outcomes in education, employment, income, health and housing.



Esri, USGS | Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS | Source: The University of Auckland. Index of Multiple Deprivation developed by Exeter et al 2017 and licensed by The University of Auckland for re-use under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence. Exeter DJ, Zhao J, Crengle S, Lee A, Browne M (2017). The New Zealand Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD): A new suite of indicators for social and health research in Aotearoa, New Zealand. PLoS ONE 12(8): e0181260. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0181260> Copyright: 2020 © Daniel J Exeter, Michael Browne, Annie Chiang, Sue Crengle, Jinfeng Zhao, Arier Chi-Lun Lee.

Alongside this, the Buller has a small rateable base, which creates a substantial gap between the high demand for community services and the council's ability to support them. The Buller Cultural Community Hub projects seeks to provide a financially self-sustaining response to delivering much needed public and community services in a co-ordinated and efficient way.

The community hub model is a **well-tested and self-sustaining approach** to delivering integrated public and community services. The model is based on a community-led umbrella body building and holding the Hub asset and then leasing out spaces for community use, the rent paid by community organisations then supports the operation of the building in a **virtuous circle**.

Through community ownership of the Hub, the amount of **rent required will be lower than commercially owned space**, meaning that more community organisations can afford to have a base in Westport to serve the Buller district, (and those that are here already, can afford to stay).

Co-location enables key public and community organisations to **work together more effectively** – we will generate better efficiencies through this cost-effective approach, there will be less duplication, and we will develop strategic partnerships to deliver services.

There are not just benefits in the delivery of social services, our model is based on community organisations working directly with mainstream health and education providers to actively support people into **better health outcomes and employment and training opportunities**.

Our proposed approach is based on breaking down barriers to people accessing help and opportunities, creating good quality public open space in a central location, a place where people want to be, a place where community events can be held, and everyone is welcome.

3. GET IN TOUCH!

If you would like to learn more about the Buller Cultural Community Hub project, we would love to hear from you: bullerculturalcommunityhub@gmail.com

Website and social media pages will be coming soon.