



**BULLER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

# Connect

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



**Oparara Basin waharoa unveiling in November.**  
Photo by Mark Davies, Department of Conservation.

## Mayor's Message

Welcome to the final edition of Connect for 2023 - it has been a busy year for Council. We have continued to advance infrastructure projects including a multitude of flood recovery projects and began the 2024 - 2034 Long-Term Plan (LTP) conversation with our community.

The first quarter of 2024 will see the draft LTP document produced and released for formal submissions. This LTP will be the product of the current elected member group and the communities we represent. It is the guiding document for everything we do in the next 10 years and is the third and most challenging LTP that I have been involved in.

The balance between community expectations for services, infrastructure investment and the affordability of this to our residents is what keeps me awake at night! Our ability to secure external funding remains vital to building resilience into our community.

In 2024 we will build relationships with the new government and partner agencies to maintain momentum and unlock economic development opportunities for the district. I have visited and met with many individuals and groups during 2023 and am impressed

and appreciative of the efforts of so many who work hard for the success of Buller. I am very excited for 2024 and wish you all a relaxing and safe holiday season.

Take care and enjoy the longer days.

**Mayor Jamie Cleine**

### Buller's next 10-year plan taking shape

After five weeks of chats, polls, surveys and conversations, Buller District Council's engagement with the community closed in early November. Getting towards the end, there was no slowing down in the effort from Councillors, staff

and the community to be part of the conversation. It was great to see a steady stream of responses coming in over the five weeks for people to share their thoughts on what our community wants our district to look like in the coming 10 years - for you, your mates, kids or whānau.

All the hard work has paid off, with a fantastic count of 332 responses to the feedback survey either via the online or paper feedback forms and 170 responses to the quick polls.

We tracked along well in terms of numbers and the quality of data we received. Looking at the regional breakdown, we received input from all corners of the district.

We are now incorporating the feedback into our decision-making process so your thoughts inform our thinking when making decisions on budgets, priorities, projects and community expectations that make up a strong Long-Term Plan.

A challenging part will be to align what we hear with what is going on around us and what is affordable. We can't do everything that the community wants us to do, but we can listen and explain why the final decision is like it is.

A report has been prepared that includes an analysis of recent regional surveys, the analysis of the feedback survey and the insights from the quick polls. This report was published at the end of November.

**SCAN ME**  
to find out what  
the community  
has told us by  
scanning the QR  
code.



2024 has been a busy year for our district and there is plenty to celebrate. Find out what's happening and learn about some new Council initiatives.

## Rates Rebate What is it and how can I apply?

A rates rebate is a once per year subsidy payment deducted off your District Council rates. The rates rebate scheme is overseen by the Department of Internal Affairs to provide assistance with rates for low-income earners.

The amount you receive from this payment depends on the combination of your income, the amount of rates you have to pay, and the number of dependents you look after.

- The maximum rebate is \$750
- Your spouse's income is taken into account as well as your own (that's total household income)

To complete your application, you'll need to provide your rates accounts for BDC and the West Coast Regional Council, plus proof of your income.

If you want to lock in your rates rebate, don't forget to submit your rates rebate application for the rating year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. Applications will be accepted until 30 June 2024.

Forms and supporting information can be collected from Council offices in Westport and Reefton or via our website, [bullerdc.govt.nz/property-rates-and-building/rates-rebate/](http://bullerdc.govt.nz/property-rates-and-building/rates-rebate/)

SCAN ME  
to find out if you  
are  
eligible for a  
rates rebate  
online



James Wilson Humphrey, first Mayor of Westport - photo taken in 1882.  
Photo from Nelson Museum

## Buller District Libraries marks Westport's 150th anniversary

The town of Westport was established as a borough under the Municipal Corporations Act on the 16th of April 1873.

The Sue Thomson Casey Memorial Library has marked the 150th anniversary by displaying a selection of items from its archive collection. Among them are the minutes of the first Council meeting held on the 20th of August 1873 when James Wilson Humphrey (c. 1850-1892) was appointed the first Mayor of Westport.

Library manager Nicky Meadowcroft is pleased to share the heritage items with the community. "We have an amazing collection of books, documents, photographs and newspapers from the Buller District that are hidden away in the archive room. There is a wealth of information in there and we want people to know about it. I particularly love reading the past Westport News editions. It's great to look back on Buller's history.

The library's archives can be searched in the online catalogue and viewed in the library's local history room. The public can

request to view the documents at any time. If the search is going to take some time, we will arrange a time for them to come in and view. We have had people researching the archives for many reasons, including personal family history, writing books,

"This is our 150th year and it is great to see our library team provide a snapshot of what is available for interested local history buffs."  
Mayor Jamie Cleine

planning celebrations such as reunions and more." The library's dedicated history room, which has been set up in the Sue Thomson Casey Memorial Library for a year, is a great space for research.



The history room has a computer that the public can use to search our catalogue and access our online resources.

## Free Funding Finder launched for the Buller community

**Buller District Council recently launched Buller's Funding Finder. This free online tool allows community groups and businesses in the Buller District to find grants easily.**

Council has joined forces with New Zealand and Australia's most powerful grant search engine, GrantGuru, to deliver a free one-stop-shop grants portal. The Funding Finder hand-picks grants and finds funding opportunities specific to local businesses and community groups, encompassing all government and private sector grants on offer. The portal also features Council's grants and initiatives.

Organisations and individuals can use the search engine to find available grants and filter them by specifying industry and type of project. The Funding Finder also assists with advice and top tips for finding and applying for grants to maximise the chances of receiving funding.

Buller's Funding Finder has been locked in to be available to the community for free for the next three years. Users can also register to receive alerts about funding programs relevant to them as they become available, giving businesses and community groups the opportunity to plan well-prepared funding applications.

Council has a range of funding opportunities closing at the end of January that you can access through Buller's Funding Finder or look up on Council's

website. These are the NZ Creative Communities Funding Scheme, Council's Community Grants and Sport NZ's Rural Travel Fund.

**SCAN ME**  
to register and  
start your funding  
journey.



**Reefton JAB rugby team**  
Photo by Reefton JAB

## Future Buller website going live

**Our climate is changing and Buller District Council is working with the University of Canterbury to discuss climate change, resilience, and adaptation with our communities.**

It's important that these conversations are held so everyone can be a part of, and is fully aware of, what we are doing to plan for now and in the future.

This is what we call "Future Buller", and it's a multi-year project to develop adaptation plans for the entire Buller District. The project complements the work underway to build Westport's resilience.

It is an ongoing conversation with the local community over the next three years, to plan how we can best adapt to the changing climate, now and into the future.

Many of our communities already face significant risks, and these are only expected to increase over time as our climate changes.

The changing climate threatens some aspects of our way of life, but this doesn't mean that everything is at risk.

- The first stage of this project is about understanding what you value about your region, and what we must try our hardest to protect.
- All of Buller needs to be involved in the planning process. Part of getting involved is having your say about what's most important, sharing your ideas, opinions and concerns. We want to hear them all!



**Buller Bridge during July 2021 flood**  
Photo by Buller District Council



**You can learn more about the project and have your say at [future.bullerdc.govt.nz](https://future.bullerdc.govt.nz)**

# Recycling and waste

Catch up on recent developments around Buller's recycling and waste systems and what you can do to maximise your recycling efforts.



## Waste management consultation outcome

A public consultation on proposed changes to the waste management system was held between 7 August and 7 September 2023.

The consultation focused on switching from 'pay as you throw' rubbish bags, in waste and recycling zone one, to wheelie bins for rubbish collected fortnightly, funded via a universal, targeted rate.

The key findings from the consultation revealed some support for a shift from bags to wheelie bins, noting that some members of the community would require assistance manoeuvring wheelie bins. There were, however, concerns from residents over making the costs mandatory, and the impact on minimal waste producers.

The final results showed that 73 percent of respondents either opposed (19%) or strongly opposed (54%) the proposed changes. There were 5% neither in support or opposed, 10% who were in favour and 12% who strongly favoured the proposed changes.

In total, 339 submissions were received - 181 in written form and 158 online.

A hearing was held in October for members of the public to speak to their submissions. Around 25 people spoke on the day.

The views expressed reflected the consultation results, with concerns about cost and fairness as well as support for change.

Councillors met for an early November workshop to further discuss waste management going forward and are now looking at next steps. Implementation of any changes to service levels would be seen in 2025 or 2026.

## Christmas hours

There will be no kerbside refuse or recycling collections on Monday 25 December 2023 or Monday 1 January 2024.

Collection for properties affected will take place on Saturday 23 December and Saturday 30 December 2023.



**For Westport and Reefton Transfer Station Christmas hours go to [bullerdc.govt.nz/waste-and-recycling/transfer-stations/](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/waste-and-recycling/transfer-stations/)**

## Update

### What else can I recycle in Buller?

Recycling doesn't stop at paper, cardboard, glass and plastics.

**The Agrecovery programme** recycles a range of containers used to hold agrichemicals and cleaning products used on-farm. Containers up to 60 litres in size are accepted; they must be triple-rinsed and have their product labels left on. Collection sites include Farmlands in Westport and the Reefton Transfer Station.

**Household batteries** can be safely disposed of through BDC's battery recycling scheme. If sent to landfill, battery chemicals can contaminate soil, surface water and groundwater. Lithium batteries can cause landfill fires. Drop them off for recycling at the Westport or Reefton Transfer Station or the Karamea Resource Recovery Centre instead.

**E-waste** is any electrical product that is unwanted or has reached the end of its useful life. Thanks to Smart Environmental and TechCollect NZ, small businesses and individuals can dispose of electronic waste in Buller for free. Take your clean and tidy e-waste to staff at the Westport or Reefton Transfer stations for inspection and collection.

**Polystyrene** can be diverted from landfill in Westport by taking it to the collection cube in Mitre 10's trade drive-through. Households can drop off up to 240 litres of clean polystyrene (no dirt, food residue, stickers or tape) and there's a scheme for trade operators too. EXPOL, a polystyrene manufacturer in Christchurch incorporates recycled content into a number of its products.

## Recycling guidelines for Zone 1 at a glance

The key to improving Buller's waste and recycling footprint is **YOU!** Be a local hero and follow the recycling guidelines, reduce, reuse, and recycle. Your participation is essential to minimise our district's impact on the environment by minimising material that will go to landfill.

### How do I use my recycling bin?

Follow the local recycling rules. If you do not follow these rules, Smart Environmental Ltd can refuse to collect your bin.

Put your refuse and recycling out by 7:30am on your collection day.

Place the wheelie bin and glass crate as close to the kerb as possible and clear of the footpath.

### Glass crate

- ✓ You can only put **clean unbroken glass bottles** and **jars**, rinsed and with lids removed in your glass crate.
- ✓ **Do not over-fill** your glass crate. Overfull glass crates are a safety hazard.
- ✓ You must ensure the **glass is level** with the top of the crate or it may not be picked up.
- ✓ **Extra bottles** can be taken to the Transfer Station for **FREE** - easy!

### A bit about rubbish

**Rubbish (refuse/waste) is any waste or item which cannot be recycled like non-recyclable packaging, toothbrushes, clothes, and batteries.**

- You need to use the 60L official rubbish bags for rubbish that cannot be recycled. You can buy these at local supermarkets or at Council offices.
- You can dispose of refuse at the Westport and Reefton Transfer Stations during opening hours at a per tonne gate fee charge.
- You will find locations on Council's website.
- If your rubbish is not put in an official rubbish bag it will not be collected.

### What can and cannot go into your yellow bin

The best way to improve our recycling system is following the three Rs model of reduce, reuse, and recycle.



#### Materials accepted as recycling



Only **plastics #1, #2 and #5** are recyclable. They need to be rinsed and clean with lids removed.



**Steel tins and aluminium cans** are recyclable. You need to rinse, clean, and check.



**Cardboard and paper** are recyclable. It must be clean and flattened to go into your yellow bin. It needs to be bigger than an envelope to be recycled.



#### Materials not accepted as recycling



**Plastics #3, #4, #6 and #7** cannot be recycled so keep them out of your yellow bin. Check when you buy what type of plastic it is and choose recyclable plastics.

- |                     |                |  |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| ✗ Coloured plastics | ✗ Plastic bags | ✗ Product with multiple components (example Pringles containers) |
| ✗ Meat trays        | ✗ Garden waste |  |
| ✗ Polystyrene       | ✗ Bubble wrap  |  |
| ✗ Coffee cups       | ✗ Lids         |  |



To find out more check out Council's website [bullerdc.govt.nz/recycling-refuse-in-buller](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/recycling-refuse-in-buller) or call **0800 807 239**



**Like @bullerdistrictcouncil** on Facebook to keep in the loop how to minimise our footprint in the Buller District.

FIND YOUR



RECYCLING COLLECTION DAY

# Get ready for summer Buller

Hot tips

Warmer weather is on the way! Be water smart - pick up some easy tips on how to be prepared if water restrictions become a reality this summer



Westport's raw water reservoir, Giles Creek.  
Photo by Buller District Council

## Be water savvy this summer

**Despite our region's generally high rainfall, summer water restrictions are a very real possibility here in Buller.**

Water supplies throughout the district are affected by increased demand from tourists and visitor numbers swelling our population in the summer months.

### Westport and Carters Beach Water Supply

Westport's water supply comes from Giles Creek in the hills behind the town, with both raw and treated supplies stored in reservoirs. The treated supply stores sufficient water for one day of the town's supply, but it is the raw water supply that dictates water restrictions.

When we experience continuous rain events, water clarity decreases (turbidity increases) and we have to wait at least 24 hours for this to clear before the raw water reservoir ponds can be topped up again.

This timeframe is further impacted by any slips that might occur in the catchment area, meaning that it could take up to a week for the water to clear up to a usable quality. If the supply drops below 70% capacity, water restrictions may occur.

### Reefton Water Supply

Reefton's water supply is taken from a groundwater bore along the banks of the Inangahua River. It is therefore not affected by rain events in winter but can experience high demand through the summer months with tourists and visitors in town. Garden irrigation and summer water usage can amplify this demand draw.

The capacity of the Reefton treated water reservoir limits how much treated water is available at any one time. The population in Reefton (including tourists and the campground water consumption) can experience a sharp increase in the summertime, especially from mid-December through to mid-February.

The treatment plant is working almost 24 hours a day to supply the water consumption associated with this.

### Punakaiki Water Supply

Punakaiki's supply is also affected by clarity/turbidity issues after high rainfall which can impact on the ability to undertake water treatment. The raw water source for Punakaiki's water supply is affected by seismic events and slips. The population in Punakaiki can experience a sharp increase (due to tourists and visitors to accommodation providers) in the summertime, especially from mid-December to mid-February.

There are two kinds of water restrictions – restricted use, and essential use. You can find out what each restriction means on Council's website below.



**You can find out more at:**  
[bullerdc.govt.nz/  
infrastructure/water/water-  
reservoirs/](https://bullerdc.govt.nz/infrastructure/water/water-reservoirs/)

## Water saving tips for summer

**Turn off the tap** when you brush your teeth – save six litres/minute.

**Fix any dripping taps** and leaky plumbing – save 15 litres a day.

**Use full loads** in your washing machine and dishwasher.

**Take shorter showers** – cut your shower time from 10 minutes to five and save up to 90 litres of water.

**Mulch your garden** to keep moisture in and cut evaporation by up to 70%

**Reduce the water flow** to your sprinkler system or reduce the frequency of watering the garden.

**Remove weeds** – they compete with productive plants for available moisture.

**Control your hose with a trigger attachment** so you don't waste a drop.

**Use a bucket of soapy water to clean your car** instead of a hose – save 10-15 litres of water a minute.

## Summer boating safety

The summer boating season is approaching fast...yay. Now is a great time to check your boat and make sure you have everything you need to come home safe.

The weather can change quickly and it's no different here on the coast. We also have the bonus of having to contend with a bar crossing if we want to head out to sea.

There are a few simple steps you need to take to ensure you come home safely.

- Check your vessel's equipment so you have trouble-free boating.
- Check the weather forecast.
- Check the bar, tide and, river conditions on [www.westportharbour.co.nz](http://www.westportharbour.co.nz).
- Have two ways to call for help if the worst should happen.
- Make sure everyone wears a lifejacket, all the time, even the pooch.
- If you are crossing the bar, please give an 'all ships' call on VHF Channel 14 to let other users know your intentions.

**None of this is rocket science but it's important to get this right so you can have a great summer of boating.**



**Don't forget lifejackets for your four-legged friends too!**  
Photo by Buller District Council

## Roading repairs making headway

The Buller region's road network suffered significant damage during the July 2021 and February 2022 weather events. In December 2022, the Council received \$13.2M funding approval from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency for the repair of the Buller District's storm damaged roads.

### What's been done?

The first stage of a procurement process (a Registration of Interest or ROI) to identify and pre-qualify a shortlist of civil contractors to deliver the Roading Return to Service (RTS) Programme was completed in late 2022.

Waka Kotahi formally approved an updated BDC procurement strategy to deliver Waka Kotahi funded projects; this includes their approval to operate the shortlisted contractors from the RTS ROI process as a formal Supply Panel. The second stage of contractor procurement has progressed well with contracts awarded for nine of the 12 bundles of work.

Physical construction activities have ramped up over October and November 2023, with 32 sites now completed, including the first of seven retaining wall structures on the Karamea Highway.

### What is ongoing?

A further nine sites are currently under construction, including four large retaining walls on the Denniston Road. The last two bundles of work, including 12 sites on the Karamea Highway, have had tender documentation completed and been issued to the Supply Panel. Construction on these bundles is expected to start in February 2024.

60% of the RTS programme should be completed before the end of 2023.

# Community and Council notices

## Water notices

### Water supplies

Council would like to remind consumers to flush their taps with a mugful of water 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, not intended for human consumption.

A permanent boil water notice applies for Little Wanganui Subdivision, Mokihinui, Ngakawau/ Hector, South Granity and Waimangaroa. Reefton's chlorination has been completed, and the permanent precautionary boil water notice has now been lifted.

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 in Little Wanganui, Reefton and Westport.

Please don't flush any wipes, including those labelled as flushable, or paper towels down 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. Storm water 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)**

## Christmas hours

### Council facilities will close for the Christmas/New Year break at midday on Friday 22 December.


Council's Westport offices at Brougham House/Infrastructure offices will close at 12pm on Friday 22 December 2023, reopening 8:30am Wednesday 3 January 2024.

Buller District Libraries will close at 12pm on Friday 22 December 2023, reopening 9:30am Wednesday 3 January 2024.

During this time, to notify urgent issues, you can call 0800 807 239. For water and roading matters, you will be directed to Council's contractor WestReef Services Ltd.

For urgent noise or animal complaints, call the Animal Management Team using Council's 0800 807 239 number.

To raise a non-urgent service request, go to Council's website and we will respond after 3 January 2024.

 **Please visit Buller District Council's website [bullerdc.govt.nz](https://bullerdc.govt.nz) for Buller District Libraries, Reefton Visitor and Service Centre and Westport and Reefton Transfer Station opening hours.**

## Meetings 2024

**The 2024 meeting calendar will be available in January 2024 and can be found on Council's website [bullerdc.govt.nz](https://bullerdc.govt.nz)**

All Council meetings will be livestreamed to Council's YouTube channel Buller District Council.

Please check the calendar for any updates and additional meetings.

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 Assistant

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

**Phone** 0800 807 239

#### 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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