

I am here because I fear for the continuance of my community because of the financial harm that will occur due to the creation of Hazard Zones by the TTPP planners.

Hazard Zones will increase insurance costs and decrease property values.

But first the "cherry picked" Master planning team. All hand picked by the BDC senior management team.....

RISING SEA LEVEL

These hazard zones are the result of the planners belief that sea level will rise one metre over the next one hundred years. I have discovered that there is no data to support their claim therefore the Hazard Zones are a figment of the planners belief system and unsupported by facts.

I attended all WCRC/BDC/TTPP/Future Buller public consultation meetings where this claim was made. I asked for data. They said they had none but claimed NIWA had such data. 90% of the public attending thought they were talking nonsense as they had seen no evidence of climate change or rising sea level during their lifetime.

When the groups beliefs were published in The News claiming that Westport may have to suffer mandatory relocation due to rising sea level and rising groundwater I wrote to NIWA and all the following and they have all confirmed they have no reliable data on long term sea level rise or rising groundwater for Westport or the west coast in general:

NIWA

West Coast Regional Council

National Emergency Management Agency

GNS Science

United Nations

Victoria University

No reply was received from Sea Rise

Only the University of Canterbury (UC) claimed to have data but they refused to release it because it was to be publicly released in a document in early September 2024. Six months later no such publication yet exists.

The word wrangling weasels from the UC now claim they cannot release the data because

1. restricted licensing is an obstacle to releasing the data.
2. they "mis-scoped" my request for information.
3. that section 14 of the OIA requires them to transfer my request for information to the BDC because they have the information. (They don't)
4. it has data in a form unable to be sent to third parties.

I have discussed this lack of data with UC "scientists".

They ask to be believed because "they have doctorates."

To me scientists without data are pseudo scientists.

A belief system belongs to religion and not to science.

I asked myself, "are they lying, paranoid or are they just misled?"

I wrote to UC and asked where they get their funding for environmental studies.

The UC advised me that donations form a part with money coming in from the United Nations (UN). Knowing the UN earns no money I wrote to them and asked "where do you source funds that you distribute worldwide for environmental studies?" They advised donations are sourced from various groups including the World Economic Forum (WEF).

It should not need mentioning that the WEF has links to the worlds major insurance companies!

There is a fine line between education and indoctrination. All education is a form of indoctrination. The fine line that separates honest education from indoctrination can be represented by truth and morality.

ECONOMIC HARM

Creating Hazard Zones that don't actually come to exist will cause immediate economic harm to property owners and a long term bonanza for the insurance industry. Using the "Future Value" formula for just 178 properties paying an extra \$1000 for insurance each year for 100 years invested at 6% by the insurance company in a "long term" investment it will accrue to a value of one billion dollars. This is understating the value as Contents Insurances will also rise in Hazard Zones and of course the (minimal) \$1000 differential will increase over time.

Creating Hazard Zones now for a risk that does not exist now is fiscally foolish. It bleeds financial reliance from the community that property owners could use to

fund their own protection at a time when and if there is actual evidence that such measures are necessary.

POOR PLANNING

The TTPP photos depict “erosion” where I see accretion that has occurred in my lifetime. Accretion, when it occurs, should never be considered to be stable. Since the formation of BDC there has been a spate of consents issued to build in risk areas namely North Beach, Snodgrass and Kawitiri Place. Recent flooding to these areas and others in Westport damaged by water back flowing from the broken BDC stormwater system have tainted the whole area as being a flood risk.

RISK

The only obvious intention of Hazard Zones seems to be using the planning process to force the depopulation of coastal areas to remove people from RISK. On all the planners maps there are roads where we all accept the risk that death can occur while driving yet it is blatantly obvious that nobody will drown because sea level may rise one metre over the next one hundred years. The mantra of pseudo scientists that “sea level will rise one metre over the next one hundred years” has been around for approximately thirty years therefore we should have evidence of 300mm of rise over that period. But there is no such evidence. The coastline from Cape Foulwind to Gentle Annie is a modified coastline that has not been considered by the planners. The Buller River harbour walls have accreted a million tons of rock, sand and gravel that has obstructed flood flows in both the Orowaiti and Buller rivers. It has stopped this material being carried north by littoral drift to feed beaches such as at Granity which is currently suffering a cycle of erosion.

CALCULATION OF ONE IN ONE HUNDRED YEAR EVENT

I have studied the planners areas of risk being storm surge, sea level rise and exceptional high tides and can find no information to suggest they have calculated the worst of each to occur simultaneously. Statistically this would be hugely inaccurate.

HEIGHT OF WATER FOR A ONE IN ONE HUNDRED YEAR EVENT

I have written do the WCRC asking for the reduced level (RL) of a relative bench mark in both Granity and Carters Beach and the RL of their predicted water level in a 1 in 100 year event and they have not provided it.

I request that “Hazard Zones” be removed from planning maps until such actual data is collected to show that such zones will be appropriate in the future. They are certainly not appropriate now

Dear Mr Reynolds,

We refer to your further official information request dated 19 December 2024.

The information you have requested is marked below in red:

1. Please provide a copy of the advertisement.

There was no advertisement calling for participants for the participatory design works undertaken for Westport Master Planning. A stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken with many and varied participants invited to attend the design workshops.

2. Please provide a list of all who formally applied to be involved.
Not applicable, please refer to above

3. Please provide a list of all community members who have participated in the Master Planning process.

Refused under section 7 whether any identified harmful effect would prejudice one of the interests protected by section 7, including:

privacy;
commercial activities;
information subject to an obligation of confidence;
free and frank opinion; or
legal professional privilege.

4. Please advise who made the selection of the individuals to be involved in the Master Planning process.

The stakeholder mapping exercise undertaken and subsequent invitations to attend were approved by BDC senior leadership team.

Sub-note – it is important to note that the various members of the community who were involved in the participatory design process to create a draft plan were involved in an iterative design process with no delegated authority or otherwise to make or influence decisions.

The members involved acted as a local 'sounding board' throughout the design process only, the draft plan created is now going through wider community engagement with all information on the process, workshop content and findings are available to the public.

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 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.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be