

# Variation 2 to Proposed TPP - Coastal Natural Hazards Mapping

## Submission form

Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

### Your details:

Are you submitting as an individual, or on behalf of an organisation?

Individual

Organisation

First Name: Janette Surname: Donaldson

Organisation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Would you gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission  Yes  No

If you could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission please complete the following:

I am/am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that (a) adversely affects the environment; and (b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

Postal Address: 17 B Beatons Rd. R/D1 FAIRDOWN Westport

Email Address: janettekydd123@gmail.com

Phone Number: 021 023 66835

Signature: J & Donaldson Date: 1/8/24

### My submission:

(Include whether you support or oppose the specific provisions or wish to have them amended, and the reasons for your views.)

Out of Familiar environment falls (Colconner Home) <sup>from</sup> increased.  
 So Oppose. I Personally witnessed the up lifting of 14 dementia patients and other bed ridden humans forced into transportation to 2 aged care homes in Christchurch. Normal trip 4 hours took closer to 8 hrs. I oppose TPPP for this reason and others because of the many reasons listed below. The meeting 30/7/24 the lady speakers words "Hypertheoretical future flood levels that have a 1 in 100 chance of occurring in any given year" But could happen tomorrow as we know to be true. Her words "Mystical maps that don't reflect reality."  
 No amount of paper work TPPP money spent on them is ever going to produce A WAHh. pto

None of TPPP wages spent are going to give residence of Westport a flood wall or open the Ouwahi river directly to the Tasman Sea. Talk and Hypertethical ideas are not what is needed. 2021 16 Km ring of flood walls was approved. 3 years on Nothing!!

The effect on people who were caught up in the flood or witnessed the devastation of homes, and personal loss was horrific. Yet I see no Empathy from TPPP. TPPP is playing God. Peoples homes have been Red stickered, Orange. This New Mapping from TPPP how can a person even attempt to sell their home in the Carters Beach area, WPT or Snodgrass. Land agents have sold Land + homes that were mud flat and reclaimed Eastry areas. Between TPPP and Westport Land agents How to Screw over the Young and older families alike. Absalutely Shocking! (Please feel free to use additional sheets) Increased Rates. all sickening.

I would like the following decision(s) to be made with respect to this Variation:

Stopp TPPP stop all TPPP further funding  
Action starts with the first step.  
And the first step is always the hardest.

Procrastination is the act of unnecessarily and voluntarily delaying or postponing something despite knowing that there could be negative consequences for doing so. Use local workers

(Please feel free to use additional sheets) Local Knowledge and Lets get cracking.

All submitters have the opportunity to present their submission to Commissioners during the hearing process. Please indicate if you wish to speak to your submission

Another Wairoa just waiting to happen?  
TTTPP... Just a waste of money

I wish to speak to my submission

I do not wish to speak to my submission

(please note that with this option you will not receive correspondence in relation to the hearings but you can keep up to date on the TPPP website)

If any others making similar submissions wish to be heard:

- Yes, I would consider presenting a joint case with them
  
- No, I would prefer to present my own individual case

## Enquiries

All queries regarding this variation or the TTPP in general can be addressed to the TTPP Team at [info@tppp.nz](mailto:info@tppp.nz), 03 768 0466, or 0508 800 118.

## Public information

All information contained in a submission under the Resource Management Act 1991, including names and addresses for service, becomes public information. The content provided in your submission form will be published on the Te Tai o Poutini Plan website and made available to the public.

We collect, use and share your information for the following purposes as directed by Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991:

- Original submission, and the associated address for service, is required (and made public) for:
  - Further submitters to serve their submission on an original submitter
  - TTPP Planning Technician to contact you about making an oral presentation supporting your written submission and/or advising you of the decision of the hearing panel.
- A summary of submissions report is produced following the close of submissions. This report assists the hearings panel and the public to review the submissions made.
- All submission data is required to ensure a sound and accurate consultation and hearings process.

If you wish to update or correct your name or address for service, please contact the TTPP Team on 0508 800 118 or by email at [info@tppp.nz](mailto:info@tppp.nz)

## Validity of Submissions

Please note that submissions may be struck out in whole or in part if authorities (including Council staff, Independent Commissioners or Legal authorities delegated jurisdiction with respect to such decision-making) deem any submission partially or entirely:

- Is frivolous or vexatious in its content;
- Discloses no reasonable or relevant case for a position taken;
- Contains offensive language; and/or
- Is supported only by material that *purports* to be independent expert evidence, but has in fact been prepared by a person who is not independent and/or does not have sufficient specialised knowledge or skill to give expert advice on the matter.

Those hearing submissions may also refuse to take a submission further in whole or in part if believing that there allowing otherwise would be an abuse of the hearing process.



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**ditor**

171 Palmerston St, Westport or Email: [editorial@westport.govt.nz](mailto:editorial@westport.govt.nz)

equal input and  
as in the plan.  
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go to the next meeting. Or ring your council.

Don't go asking others who didn't bother to engage with the councils (note the plural) to explain it.

Pauline Hamill  
Fairdown

17/7/24  
WOT

### Too little, too late

Over half a million dollars was allocated by Buller District Council (BDC) to Future Buller - Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

At the June BDC Risk and Audit Committee (RAC) Cr Neylon questioned the spokesperson of Future Buller citing that 'a fair bit' of spending had occurred to date. He asked what milestones had been achieved.

The spokesperson replied it was about first of all raising awareness across the community. "It's really about trying to build that relationship with the community, that was the primary goal of the first round."

When asked about the milestones for the round to follow the reply was that they were "still working through the detail of what the next round would look like". They would bring that detail to the next RAC meeting in August.

A further Future Buller spokesperson Tracey Hatton added, "the next step is to go out with the actual risk information which will be very challenging and confronting".

Sorry BDC. Sorry Project Buller. The Te Tai o Poutini Plan mail drop got in ahead

of you. The submission process is underway ending August 16, prior to your A meeting. Whatever your milestone they are too little too late for your area community.

There was no relationship formed, was no awareness given. The challenge and confronting information referred has been delivered. The affected areas were blindsided. Your spending wasted.

Rae Reynolds  
Westport

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Rae Reynolds  
Westport

2nd August

2024

YK

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# TTPP: no effect on day-to-day

**Ellen Curnow**

Buller residents will not be forced from their homes when new rules in the Te Tai Poutini Plan (TTPP) take effect, council planners assured locals this week.

The plan aimed to identify properties that are most at risk from natural hazards and curb future development there. But some locals were still worried about how natural hazard zones in the plan would affect their property values and insurance costs.

TTPP principal planner Lois Easton said the rules set for properties with coastal or other natural hazards did not affect existing use rights.

"You can continue to be within those areas. It doesn't affect your day-to-day use of the property."

But some new developments would require resource consents

West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) regulatory and policy group manager Jocelyne Allen said the TTPP committee was legally required to address risk from natural hazards when it set rules.

The plan was originally notified and consulted on in 2022. But it used inaccurate maps for coastal hazards in some parts of the region, Ms Allen said.

"The focus of the TTPP and this public process is on what planning restrictions should apply to land that is subject to the hazards."

Snodgrass resident Jane Duncan asked how specific the information on LIM reports would be. She asked whether a property where only a metre was susceptible to flooding would receive the same tag as a property that was entirely susceptible.

Ms Easton said she was unsure how the LIM recording would be done but would find out.

One man said having a natural hazard on a LIM report could lower property values or make it harder to sell.

"It would be helpful to know if, in the TTPP, there are any plans in play to help mitigate those risks which may then alter the data again (by) removing some of that risk."

Ms Easton said the TTPP was a planning document. It focussed on rules and regulations rather than how councils could protect people from natural hazards.

However, the WCRC planned to build floodwalls around Westport. Once they were built the risk profiles in the TTPP would change, most likely through another variation.

# day-to-day

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The plan was originally notified and consulted on in 2022. But it used inaccurate maps for coastal hazards in some parts of the region, Ms Allen said. New Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) information for areas as far north as Hector was more accurate so TTPP planners redrew the hazard maps and launched a fresh consultation.

Because the WCRC now had the hazard information, it had to be included on Land Information Memorandum (LIM) reports for affected properties, Ms Allen said. Challenges to the TTPP would not change that.

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However, the WCRC planned to build floodwalls around Westport. Once they were built the risk profiles in the TTPP would change, most likely through another variation.

"Once that scheme is built it will enable us to review what's in the plan."

In places that already had protection works, the LiDAR mapping took this into account. *did it?*

WCRC Buller representative Cr Frank Dooley said his council was currently working with insurance companies to make sure they understood Westport's risk profile would change once the floodwalls were built.

Prices down, listings up

*who will ensure changes are made + how to is the time*





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## THREE YEARS TODAY SINCE FLOOD DISASTER

# ‘Absolutely disgusted’

**Ellen Curnow**

Westport people should be “absolutely disgusted” at the lack of physical progress on flood protection, says West Coast Regional Councillor Frank Dooley.

When Westport’s 16km ring of floodwalls was approved soon after 2021’s flood, Cr Dooley never imagined the town would still be unprotected three years on.

“We have, some 13 or 14 months ago, received central government funding. But the time to actually progress the quick wins and other projects has just been unbelievably slow. It doesn’t help anyone.”

West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) had to jump through many hoops before physical work could start, Cr Dooley said.

“You’ve got design, then you’ve got bloody landowner consents and peer reviews of the designs and God knows what else. And it’s a bureaucratic process which frustrates the shit out of most people.”

The previous Government announced the \$22.9 million Resilient Westport co-funding package in May last year. But it also demanded the WCRC spend \$300,000 reviewing its original designs because a peer review commissioned by the Department of Internal Affairs claimed they were flawed.

The review of the designs and peer review, undertaken by Te Urū Kahika, the regional council arm of Local Government New Zealand, found no flaws and that the Government

had no grounds to withhold the funding.

Cr Dooley said there had been some progress – emergency work at Organs Island and behind the O’Conor Home was complete.

“But it doesn’t assist our community to a large extent.”

The Organs Island wall reduces the volume of floodwater entering the Orowaiti from the Buller River and should protect areas like Domett Street, Eastons Road and Kawatiri Place. Further work at Cats Creek would also reduce flooding in those areas.

But the WCRC took over a year to tackle the urgent protection work. The council approved \$2.6 million funding in May 2022 for both the Organs Island floodwall and a new floodwall behind O’Conor Home. However, the council took three months to tender and award the Organs Island contract and another three months to tender and award the O’Conor Home contract, which also went to Avery.

The Cats Creek work is currently in limbo while the council negotiates with KiwiRail.

Cr Dooley said the WCRC was responsible for much of the delay getting flood protection underway.



**Avery Bros rebuilding the Organs Island rockwall in August, 2022. Photo: Flag M**

“There’s been dysfunction within the regional council which took a long time to resolve. But now we have a team on board... They are working to the best of their ability to get things done but it’s not easy.”

Negotiating with landowners was challenging, Cr Dooley said.

“You’re seeking permission to come across their farm with a massive big wall. You know, you are creating an imposition.”

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### Avery Bros rebuilding the Organs Island rockwall in August, 2022. Photo: Flag McKenzie

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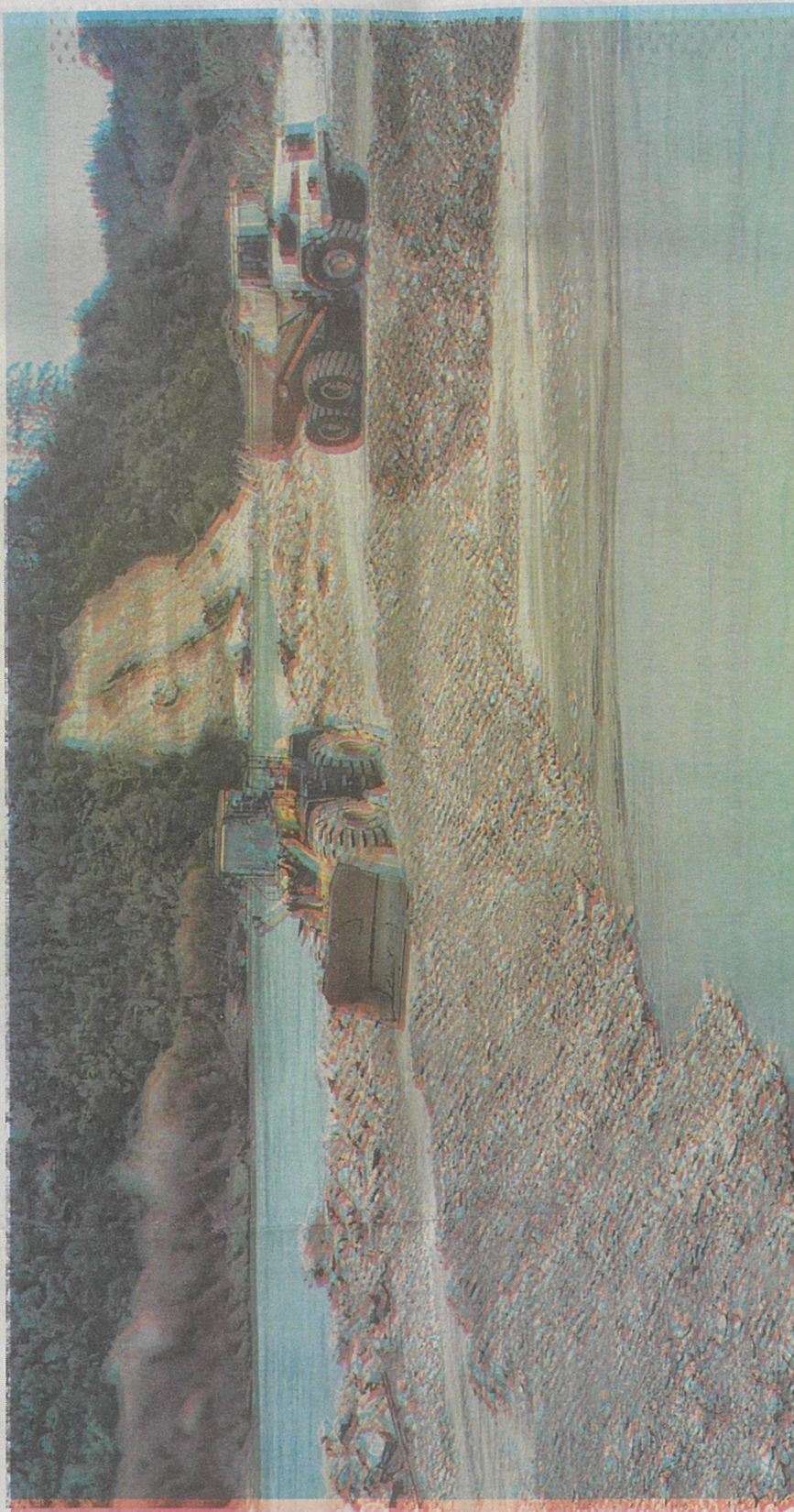
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“You’re seeking permission to come across their farm with a massive big wall. You know, you are creating an imposition.”

Buller Mayor Jamie Cleime told The News last week some of the walls would be 30 metres wide at the base. He said they would run for about 2km through one farm.

Mr Dooley said the WCRC was relying on the goodwill of private landowners for the benefit of the rest of the community. Staff were “proactively meeting with the landowners”, Cr Dooley said.

“We’re doing the groundwork, we’re doing the designs. But, when can we build?” See more page 3



LC

# Floodwall designs almost finished

*West Coast News  
11/17/24*

## Ellen Curnow

The West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) has almost finished final designs for the stopbanks it approved in the wake of the July 17, 2021 floods.

Chief executive Darryl Lew expects work on stage one projects to start

Assessment of Environmental Effects report and resource consent lodged.

“All going well, construction may get underway in the final quarter of this year,” Mr Lew said.

### McKenna Road stopbank

The McKenna Road project was a low

(WRC) has almost finished final designs for the stopbanks it approved in the wake of the July 17, 2021 floods.

Chief executive Darryl Lew expects work on stage one projects to start before the end of 2024. Within the next two years, Westport would be surrounded by about 16km of stopbanks and floodwalls.

He said hard protection was the largest project being undertaken by Resilient Westport and was led by WCRC.

The project is funded via a contribution of \$15.6 million from central government, the lion's share of Westport's \$22.9m business case grant.

The WCRC now estimates Westport ratepayers would need to put in \$8.37m, down from \$10.2m when the plan first went out for consultation.

Draft designs by principal engineer Peter Blackwood include a combination of earth stopbanks, planter-box stopbanks, concrete floodwalls, wooden floodwalls, and professionally produced portable flood barriers.

"The flood protection is intended to give a good ongoing standard of protection from the Buller and Orowaiti Rivers," Mr Lew said.

Most of the walls and banks were designed to provide 1 percent annual exceedance probability (AEP) and take climate predictions into account. A 1 percent AEP flood has a 1-in-100 chance of occurring in any given year.

Mr Lew said stage one, which included Cats Creek, McKenna's, Avery's and the Floating Lagoon stopbanks, was "progressing well". He expected the rest of the work, stage two, to be mostly completed in 2026.

#### Avery's

The Avery's stopbank would form part of the lower Orowaiti stopbank. In the next three months, geotechnical design would be complete, as well as

underway in the final quarter of this year," Mr Lew said.

#### McKenna Road stopbank

The McKenna Road project was a low earthen bund that would help prevent overflow from the Orowaiti River. It formed part of the upper Orowaiti stopbank.

"In the next few months, we expect to see final plans, landowner agreements and consents for the McKenna's stopbank. Subject to consent construction on the first 740 metres of the stopbank is scheduled to start later this year," Mr Lew said.

#### Cats Creek stopbank

"It's hoped construction of the Cats Creek stopbank (a small earthen bund that will redirect floodwaters in Cats Creek to the Abattoir Drain) will be underway soon," Mr Lew said. The WCRC and KiwiRail are locked in negotiations about this work because it's on KiwiRail land.

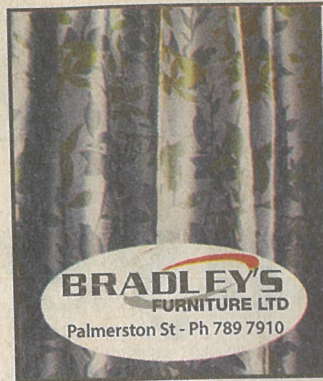
#### Floating Lagoon

A stopbank and 200-metre-long portable flood barriers were planned near the Floating Lagoon. Vegetation clearance and remediation of low sections of an existing stopbank on Buller District Council (BDC) land was planned for the coming months.

The councils "were talking to landowners whose homes back onto the existing stopbank, some of whom may have encroached onto the space over time.

"Those residents have been asked to remove the items such as stored items, gardens, sheds, steps, rocks or other structures on BDC land where the repair work is necessary."

Meanwhile, geotechnical design, assessment and preparation for resource consent were underway. The main work on the Floating Lagoon stopbanks would occur next year.



## Drapes

### READY-MADE RANGE

Good range of  
plains or patterns

- 1.6m or 2.2m drop
- 2 widths
- Thermal coated or lined

FROM

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# Gisborne firm won *dated 2020* without *September* tendering

## Lee Scanlon

The Gisborne-based consultancy firm so far paid more than \$100,000 of West Coast ratepayers' money was chosen without a tender process.

Kereru Consultants is advising the Te Tai o Poutini Committee (TTPP) on developing one plan to regulate the Coast's three district councils.

The News revealed yesterday that Kereru had received \$100,592 between August last year and June 30 this year. A Kereru consultant planner who travels to the Coast had received \$6209 for expenses.

The West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) contracts and pays staff on TTPP's behalf, provides administrative support for TTPP, and is required to rate to fund the committee.

WCRC acting chief executive Robert Mallinson has confirmed the consultancy contract was not tendered. He said Kereru was chosen by the

for personal car use.

Greymouth businesses have provided most other TTPP services.

Greymouth-based Nook Creative had received \$7546 for design work by June 30.

Mr Mallinson said Nook had designed "all of the TTPP collateral": letterhead, power-point templates, newsletters, banners, caravan signage, roadshow advertising etc (\$3407); a logo (\$2443), six questionnaires (\$1305), and business information cards (\$390).

Another Grey company, baby-e, received \$4587 for website design.

Greymouth's Howe Delicious received \$1755 for catering. Westport's Dog Holdings and Freckles Café received a total of \$471 between them.

The Greymouth Star received \$3886 in TTPP advertising to June 30. The Westport News received \$1063.

Mr Mallinson said the payments to the Star included some advertising revenue for The News, because the ads

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WCRC acting chief executive Robert Mallinson has confirmed the consultancy contract was not tendered. He said Kereru was chosen by the WCRC's former chief executive, Mike Meehan, and TTPP project leader, Jo Armstrong, under delegated authority.

"The services sought were quite specialised and wouldn't normally go through a tender process."

The News asked why a Gisborne-based firm was chosen, with the associated extra travel and accommodation expenses, rather than a company on or near the West Coast.

Mr Mallinson replied: "The level of experience and extremely good hourly rate more than compensates for the additional travel."

The News asked why a WCRC planner had also received \$2781 in expenses for TTPP work when the planner lived in Greymouth.

Mr Mallinson said the expenses included \$1268 for a rental car, accommodation and meals for a TTPP roadshow, and \$591 for travel and accommodation for training in Christchurch and Wellington.

The remainder was reimbursement

for personal car use.

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Mr Mallinson said the payments to the Star included some advertising revenue for The News, because the ads were sent via the Star.

"Our normal process is that if it is a one-off advertisement it is placed in all three main daily papers.

"If multiple advertisements are required then we would have a conversation with the newspapers to get the best price for multiple ads."

He said an iwi representative on the committee, Greymouth Star editor Paul Madgwick, had no influence on where the committee advertised.

The News' manager Vanessa Neighbours said TTPP ads arriving via the Star had amounted to only \$431 by June 30. Ads sent from one newspaper to another cost the advertiser more because of a commission charge.

The News had not been asked to quote for a major TTPP advertising campaign until after the campaign had begun and The News complained to the project leader, Mrs Neighbours said.

The one district plan is likely to take at least another two years to complete. This year's TTPP budget is \$692,000.

# KiwiRail, WCRC show of unity

Lee Scanlon

After contradicting each other in the media, the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) and KiwiRail today provided a joint statement about Westport's flood protection.

The statement doesn't explain last week's standoff between the council and KiwiRail. The council said KiwiRail would only consent a temporary stopbank at Cats Creek/ Abattoir Drain. KiwiRail responded that the council had only sought a temporary stopbank.

The public disagreement prompted a meeting Monday between WCRC chair Cr Peter Haddock, chief executive Darryl Lew and KiwiRail South Island regional infrastructure manager Gary Ikin.

Cr Haddock and Mr Ikin issued a statement today. They said the meeting had provided an opportunity for both parties to better understand possible sticking points and how to make progress.

"WCRC and KiwiRail are united on wanting to ensure the best possible outcomes for Westport through the flood protection works.

"KiwiRail is progressing the deed of grant for flood works on KiwiRail land at Cats Creek.

WCRC submitted the application in late May. KiwiRail is aiming to respond to the Council soon. The standard timeline for assessing a deed of grant application is about 10 weeks. KiwiRail has received council's flood modelling report and other information.

"One of the issues discussed at the meeting earlier this week was the constraints around the provision of flood modelling data. WCRC and KiwiRail are working on this.

"KiwiRail engineers would like to see the data to ensure there are no impacts on the rail line and other assets from the planned flood protection works.

"The data also helps understand changes in water flow around Stephen Road to assist with the design of culvert changes that may be needed."

The council clarified that "data" referred to the raw data on which its flood modelling was based. It did not explain what "constraints" it referred to.

NOON TEMPS:

KARAMEA  
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WESTPORT  
12





# Letters to the Editor

171 Palmerston St, Westport or Email

## Stop blaming BDC

Why is it everyone's default is blame Buller District Council (BDC).

BDC isn't in control of Te Tai o Poutini Plan. TTPP was the West Coast Regional Council baby.

The TTPP Committee is a joint committee made up of the four West Coast Councils and local iwi. It is comprised of the mayor or chair and one other councillor from each council, and one representative each from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio.

It is chaired by an independent chairperson.

The committee has full decision-making powers, and the make-up of the committee

ensures each district has equal input and voting rights on what goes in the plan.

It's the one district plan for the whole of the West Coast.

One has to ask where have these people been since 2022 when the TTPP was implemented?

One has to also ask did any of these people who are enraged bother to attend any of the first meetings where representatives tried to engage with the local communities to find out what the locals wanted to know about coastal erosion zoning?

We know Paul Reynolds and Kevin Smith attended every meeting, but poo poed them because, according to them, global warming doesn't exist.

Quite simply if they didn't understand it,

go to the next meeting. Or ring your council.

Don't go asking others who didn't bother to engage with the councils (note the plural) to explain it.

Pauline Hamill  
Fairdown

17/7/24  
WOT

## Too little, too late

Over half a million dollars was allocated by Buller District Council (BDC) to Future Buller - Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

At the June BDC Risk and Audit Committee (RAC) Cr Neylon questioned the spokesperson of Future Buller citing that 'a fair bit' of spending had occurred to date. He asked what milestones had been achieved.

The spokesperson replied it was about first of all raising awareness across the community. "It's really about trying to build that relationship with the community, that was the primary goal of the first round."

When asked about the milestones for the round to follow the reply was that they were "still working through the detail of what the next round would look like". They would bring that detail to the next RAC meeting in August.

A further Future Buller spokesperson Tracey Hatton added, "the next step is to go out with the actual risk information which will be very challenging and confronting".

Sorry BDC. Sorry Project Buller. The Te Tai o Poutini Plan mail drop got in ahead



# Buller Mayor

WPT News  
17/9/24

tiphead, meant Emergency Management staff could make decisions based on more than "gut feeling", Mr Cleine said.

Responding to events couldn't be "person-centric". Both BDC and WCRC had high staff turnover and few of the key personnel working in the Emergency Operations Centre during the floods still worked for the councils.

Buller emergency management officer Janis Lennon had done a lot of work co-ordinating local Civil Defence groups and working with stakeholders, Mr Cleine said.

He acknowledged that many in the community still felt anxious about a repeat event, and some felt progress had been too slow. Recovery was more complicated than response.

"July 2021 was the big one, but you can't ignore the fact we had another run in February 2022, which effectively halted the recovery."

The councils had to hit pause and assess whether there'd been new damage. A further red warning in August 2022 again "had the community on a knife-edge", Mr Cleine said.

"If it had of been one event and then done, I think it would have been a smoother road to recovery."

Councils in the North Island were facing similar challenges in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle and events earlier this year.

Reaching agreement with central government on how to fund repair work was com-

plex and involved multiple agencies.

"There isn't an easy answer to that."

Because of Buller's small rating base and high deprivation rate, its request for recovery help was "outside policy", which made getting approval much harder.

The Government eventually agreed to drop the 40 percent council contribution and paid for most of the recovery.

The projects themselves needed to be carefully designed, engineered, peer-reviewed and tendered, Mr Cleine said. That could mean many months between initial approval and spades in the ground.

The last of the NEMA funded projects, a \$5.92m repair job on the flood-damaged Kawatiri and Holcim #2 wharves was due to start this week.

"I guess people on the ground look to council as the barrier or the reason why it's taking so long," Mr Cleine said. "But I would just push back a little and say it's more complicated than that."

Both the councils and central government had worked hard to ensure flood damage was repaired and that the people of Westport were safer next time an event hit.

n't

# Westport safer now, says Buller Ma

Ellen Curnow

Westport would now fare better in a flood like the one that hit on this day three years ago, says Buller Mayor Jamie Cleine. *SORRY Mayor! But No.*

But there's still plenty of work to do.

"We're in a much better position to handle a significant flood than what we were in July 2021."

The Buller District Council (BDC) and West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) had made a lot of progress on stormwater, early warning systems, emergency response and riverbank protection, Mr Cleine said.

Until Westport's full flood protection scheme was built, there was still risk.

"But you can't ignore the significant work that's been done off the back of the flood recovery packages in terms of stormwater."

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) poured \$17.1 million into reinstating or improving Buller's infrastructure in the wake of 2021 and 2022's devastating events. This was separate to the \$22.9m the Government granted for the Resilient Westport business case.

"So, significant parts of Westport were definitely affected by water coming back up through the stormwater network," Mr Cleine said. "That has largely been eliminated with somewhere between 15 and 20 WaStops – one-way valves – now on all those significant outlets to the rivers."

Some of the NEMA money was spent lifting pump stations at North Beach, Derby Street, Rintoul Street and Roebuck Street. The four pumps were now likely to work better than they did during the flood, Mr Cleine said.

"They either failed because of inundation or had to be shut down to prevent damage that was likely due to inundation when the floodwaters were coming in, arguably right when they really needed to be doing as much as they could have."

The stormwater network still wasn't up to scratch though, Mr Cleine said.

"No-one's pretending that we've done our job and that we're all sweet. But I'm absolutely confident, hand on heart, that the intended outcome of the flood recovery money has gone into the network and... putting it back to at least as good as it was, but in many cases significantly better."

It was estimated the system needed about 40 percent more capacity to handle future events. In addition, smoke-testing had identified about 600 cross-connections between stormwater and wastewater. These needed to be separated.

"We can't pretend that our stormwater network is fixed or that it's in a state or even a design that's going to see us well in the coming decades. There's no doubt about it. That's a major body of work that council still needs to work on and focus on."

BDC was currently drawing up plans for how the stormwater network would integrate with the WCRC's floodwalls. A concept study would be completed mid-August. It would guide the next steps, including application for further government funding support due to affordability challenges Westport residents faced.

Mr Cleine said WCRC had had major flood protection wins, too.

"A real positive is the reinstatement of Organs



**Electro Services Ltd services workers lift the height of a BDC pump station in north Derby Street above the one-in-100-year flood level. Photo: Lee Scanlon**

Island's rock revetment, back to the appropriate design levels it was meant to be at. That was clearly an asset that had dropped out of repair and was further damaged in the floods."

The regional council had also done significant work on the riverbank near O'Connor Home, Mr Cleine said.

"It's all putting us back to a higher level of performance than what we had at

Early warning systems, including a wave buoy stationed out from th

tiphead, meant Emergency Management could make decisions based on more than "feeling", Mr Cleine said.

Responding to events couldn't be "perfunctory". Both BDC and WCRC had high standards over and few of the key personnel worked at the Emergency Operations Centre during the flood. The centre still worked for the councils.

Buller emergency management officer Lennon had done a lot of work co-ordinating local Civil Defence groups and working with other stakeholders, Mr Cleine said.

He acknowledged that many in the community still felt anxious about a repeat event, but felt progress had been too slow. Recovery had been more complicated than response.

"July 2021 was the big one, but you can't ignore the fact we had another run in February 2022, which effectively halted the recovery."

The councils had to hit pause and assess whether there'd been new damage. A further warning in August 2022 again "had the community on a knife-edge", Mr Cleine said.

"If it had of been one event and then another, I think it would have been a smoother recovery."

Councils in the North Island were facing similar challenges. The work was ongoing.

# er now, says Buller Mayor

WPT NEWS  
17/12/24

because of inundation or to prevent damage that was done when the floodwaters were at their peak. It's probably right when they really need it, but they can't do much as they could have." Mr Cleine said. "The work still wasn't up to par," Mr Cleine said. "I think that we've done our job well. But I'm absolutely certain that the intended outcome of every penny that has gone into it is to get it back to at least as good as many cases significantly better."

The system needed about 40 years to handle future events. The council had identified about 10 projects between stormwater and floodwater that needed to be separated. "I think that our stormwater system is in a state or even a better one than we see us well in the coming years. I have no doubt about it. That's a major challenge the council still needs to work on."

The council is drawing up plans for how the system would integrate with other infrastructure. A concept study would be completed by August. It would guide the council's application for further funding and support due to affordability issues residents faced. "The WRC had had major flood damage and the reinstatement of Organs"



**Electro Services Ltd services workers lift the height of a BDC pump station in north Derby Street above the one-in-100-year flood level. Photo: Lee Scanlon**

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