

## Buller Recovery Steering Group

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q What is the Buller Recovery Steering Group?**

**A** The Buller Recovery Steering Group was established following the July 2021 flood to support the Buller District recovery effort.

The Steering Group comprises The West Coast Regional Council, Buller District Council and Iwi representatives who are working with central government agencies, including the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Former Tasman mayor Richard Kempthorne is the Steering Group's independent chair.

**Q What is the role of the Buller Recovery Steering Group?**

**A** The Buller Recovery Steering Group was formed to provide effective guidance and oversight of the financial assistance provided by the Government in August 2021 to support the Buller Recovery.

The Steering Group has also been tasked with identifying and recommending longer term flood recovery priorities for the Buller District, including the preferred package of river management and flood protection options for Buller, recommended to central government, the West Coast Regional Council and the Buller District Council.

**Q What is being done to improve the longer-term resilience of Westport from future floods?**

**A** The Buller Recovery Steering Group has initiated a cross-agency project to investigate longer-term flood recovery priorities and measures to increase the resilience of Westport and its surrounds from future flood events.

Through this project, a proposal will be submitted to government seeking agreement to co-invest, in partnership with the local community, on a recommended integrated package of resilience measures.

**Q Does the Buller Recovery Steering Group make decisions about flood recovery?**

**A** No. The Buller Recovery Steering Group will report back to elected Council members with the recommended package of measures by the end of June 2022.

The Steering Group will also provide advice to the Crown and elected Council members of both the West Coast Regional Council, and Buller District Council on additional funding that may be sought from the Government to support the Buller flood recovery and increase flood resilience.

Subject to the Councils' and iwi agreement, and support, on the recommended package of measures, a proposal will be made to the Minister of Local Government.

**Q How does the Buller Recovery Steering Group differ from the Joint Committee established for the Westport Rating District?**

**A** The West Coast Regional Council has recently committed to a large-scale flood protection scheme for Westport in its Long Term Plan, and is setting up a rating district to fund this work. The Westport Rating District Joint Committee will run in parallel to the Steering Group and will be responsible for taking recommendations on the physical infrastructure work package component back to the West Coast Regional Council to approve.

The Buller Recovery Steering Group is working closely with the Joint Committee to consider how this proposal fits within the integrated package being developed, including the full range of solutions that are needed to make Buller more resilient to future floods, both now and in the future.

This is an opportunity to bring together both Councils and Government with their combined financial resources to explore solutions which will be challenging for the West Coast to afford on its own.