



BULLER RECOVERY update

ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS UPDATE (MARCH/APRIL 2023)

This update focuses on progress with the Essential Infrastructure repairs programme.

We have wrapped up the social recovery side of our recovery work, however the repairs to infrastructure will continue until they are completed.

Buller Flood Recovery was set up after the July 2021 floods and worked with the community in the immediate response to the 2021 and 2022

floods and subsequent recovery work. Our early focus was on supporting the community via the Community Hub and Navigators and initiatives to connect people. Ongoing social recovery support has now transitioned to agencies within the community.

Buller District Council acting chief executive Rachel Townrow says: "We are very grateful for all the work carried out by Buller Flood Recovery including the ongoing project

management of these essential infrastructure repairs."

"We know that a lot of flooding future-proofing for Westport rests with the Kawatiri Business Case that we expect an update on next month, but it is important to us that the community understands that we are working hard on a range of projects to improve our infrastructure, storm, waste and drinking water systems to take Buller into the future."



PROGRESS ON ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is funding a \$17m package of essential infrastructure programme of repairs in Buller.

WHARF DAMAGE

Repairs to the Holcim and Kawatiri wharves at Westport will enable fishing and bulk shipping vessels to continue to use the port. This is one of the largest projects under this programme and work is expected to begin in the third quarter of this year. It will then take about a year to complete.

Meanwhile, the demolition of the KiwiRail buildings adjacent to the port is progressing. All asbestos has been removed and a clearance certificate issued. Excavators are accelerating the demolition process which aims to recycle and salvage as much material as possible.

SHIPPING CHANNEL DREDGING

Dredging of the shipping channel is underway with almost 60,000 cubic metres of debris, silt and gravel removed so far. The goal is to remove 240,000 cubic metres of debris in total for this programme.

Expert advice we've received indicates that dredging as part of flood resilience isn't seen as cost effective. This is because the river in flood moves enormous amounts of silt and gravel to create space for itself. The objective of the current work is to keep the Buller River's shipping channel clear.

TIPHEAD

Work to repair the eastern tiphead wall was completed last month. The tiphead at the mouth of the Buller River sustained severe flood damage.

Rosco Contractors Ltd carried out the work from mid January to late March, placing more than 6000 cubic metres of rock. The project came in on time and within budget.

The work means that if in the future the tiphead and Coates Road (which sits on it) are overtopped by the river in flood, the energy of the water is absorbed by the rock, reducing erosion as the water runs down the back of the wall and out to sea. Trees and shrubs that were removed to allow access to the site will be replanted.



Paths have been reinstated following completion of tiphead repairs. Replanting is planned.

REEFTON CAMPGROUND STOPBANK

River training was carried out last year to reinstate the flood stopbank that protects the Reefton campsite and reserve from flooding from the Inangahua River. Additional minor river training is scheduled for the end of April.

REEFTON HISTORIC LANDFILL

The historic Reefton landfill was badly damaged in the February 2022 floods. This caused a significant amount of landfill material to be scattered downstream.

NEMA approved more than \$1m for the repair of the rock wall which will protect the historic landfill from future Inangahua River inundations. However, this only applies to the areas directly affected by flooding and potentially leaves other parts of the rock wall exposed to future failures.

Buller District Council has agreed to an additional \$250,000 excl GST to strengthen the rest of the wall to withstand a 1 in a 50-year flood. The contract for this work is expected to be awarded by late April, with construction works taking place between May and June 2023.

