

BULLER RECOVERY update

ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS UPDATE (MARCH/APRIL 2023)

REPAIRS TO 3 WATERS INFRASTRUCTURE

The Flood Recovery 3 Waters repair work programme is nearing completion. Note, this is separate to the government's 3 Waters reforms.

The efficiency of the storm and wastewater networks was severely compromised following the July 2021 and February 2022 floods. The 'red' weather events deposited silts and debris through 60% of the networks in Westport.

- All post-flood CCTV and pipe cleaning works have been completed.
- The final grit clean out for the Westport wastewater treatment plant was carried out in March. The aeration diffusers that deliver oxygen to the aerobic digestion phase of the wastewater treatment process have been replaced.
- All recovery-approved open drain clearing works is complete.
- Reefon's drinking water reservoir access track requires further repairs. A culvert to redirect the damaging surface water run-off was installed in March but further works on the track are still required over the upcoming months.
- A repair strategy is being worked out for



The aeration diffusers were damaged from silt and grit accumulation at the bottom of the treatment chambers. Their role is to deliver dissolved oxygen to the aerobic bugs that break down the wastewater organic matter.

repair of the historic Brick Arch section of the stormwater network running under Brougham/ Palmerston streets. Thus far this work has centred on seeking and achieving access permission from stakeholders such as KiwiRail and Heritage NZ and starting on engineering design.

- Replacement of the final electrical components of Westport's wastewater pump stations is close to fully complete. A flowmeter at Pakington Street pump station and two overflow sensors are the final items to closeout.



Above: Westport wastewater treatment plant diffuser assembly.

Right: Westport wastewater treatment plant diffusers in place.

BETTERMENT

'Betterment' projects largely relate to Westport stormwater and wastewater improvements that can logically be carried out during the overall repair programme.

Projects include:

- Lifting flood-damaged wastewater pump station electrical cabinets above 1-in-100 year flood height. Council is working towards appointing a contractor.
- Providing backflow prevention to five stormwater outfall locations. Two WaStop valves have been installed and three more are planned over the next three months.
- A consultant is being appointed to manage grit and sediment removal and a replacement screen at the Westport wastewater treatment plant.
- A consultant is being appointed to oversee the investigation into an alternative drinking water supply for the town.
- Design for the Coates Steet stormwater upgrade is underway.
- The stormwater reinstatement scope at the Westport Domain changed to the installation of a new sump, completed in March.
- Roebuck Street SW manhole was completed in March.
- Mill Street SW manhole is scheduled for April 2023.

Progress on essential repairs will be updated through the Buller Flood Recovery Facebook page and website (bullerrecovery.org.nz) over the coming months.

