



Long-Term Plan 2024 - 2034

Pre-engagement

November 2023

About PublicVoice

PublicVoice Limited has completed this research project. PublicVoice is a leading research and engagement consultancy headquartered in Wellington, New Zealand. We concentrate on public policy research and consultation, providing services to various local and central government agencies throughout New Zealand. To learn more about our work, please visit www.publicvoice.co.nz.

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Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Background | 3 |
| The consultation process..... | 3 |
| Overview of Pre-Engagement Inputs..... | 6 |
| Key findings | 6 |
| Data analysis methodology | 11 |
| Element one - Review and Analysis of Past Reports, Surveys and Workshops | 12 |
| Element two - Structured Community Engagement & Feedback Analysis..... | 31 |
| Element Four - Quick polls..... | 52 |

Background

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) mandates that all local authorities must have Long-Term Plans (LTPs) and that this document is reviewed every three years. The LTP is a central comprehensive document outlining the Council's objectives and actions for the next 10 years.

The document outlines the vision and direction for Council staff and the district moving forward. It gives the reasons behind Council's actions and provides cost estimations.

The LTP serves various key purposes, such as:

- Identifying and effectively communicating Council's vision and the community outcomes it aims to achieve.
- Describing the activities Council intends to carry out in the medium to long-term.
- Facilitating integrated decision-making and coordination of Council's resources.
- Providing a framework for maintaining a long-term perspective in Council's decisions and actions.
- Offering effective opportunities for community engagement and participation in Council's decision-making processes.
- Demonstrating accountability to the community

The 2024 – 2034 LTP is developed through a series of steps grounded on community engagement split into pre-engagement and the consultation process. The pre-engagement seeks to actively involve the local communities earlier in the process, seeking their input and ideas to ensure that the draft LTP reflects their needs and aspirations. The results presented in this report encapsulate the outcome of this pre-engagement.

The pre-engagement forms the basis for councillors and the senior leadership team (SLT) to carefully assess the collected feedback and make informed decisions on the proposed strategies and endeavours. This is then solidified into the draft LTP and the Consultation Document, forming the consultation base.

During the consultation, the draft LTP is shared with the community for further input and validation; submissions from the community are then taken to help outline steps for moving forward and finally arrive at a final LTP, which Council will adopt.

The consultation process

A new approach

In September – November 2023, Council was in its preliminary stages of planning for the next 2024 – 2034 LTP, and this time around, Council wanted to focus on the pre-engagement phase as the key phase to engage with its communities. In the past, the focus was on the consultation period. However, feedback during the consultation is often too late to make significant changes to the final LTP.

The shift to focus on the pre-engagement phase should ensure early input and increase the chance to write a draft plan that has the community's inspiration and aspiration at its heart. Essentially, Council wanted to flip the script and re-focus its efforts. This new focus unlocks the opportunity to facilitate and put in place actions that foster engagement in its true meaning being "an intentional process with the specific purpose of working across organisations, stakeholders, and communities to shape the decisions or actions of members of the community, stakeholders, or organisation in relation to a problem, opportunity, or outcome. (IAP2 Australasia, 2023)"

To reach this end goal, the communication and engagement strategy focused on coming together with the community to have conversations and gather feedback to write a draft LTP that has the community's aspirations at its heart.

Five key ingredients to success

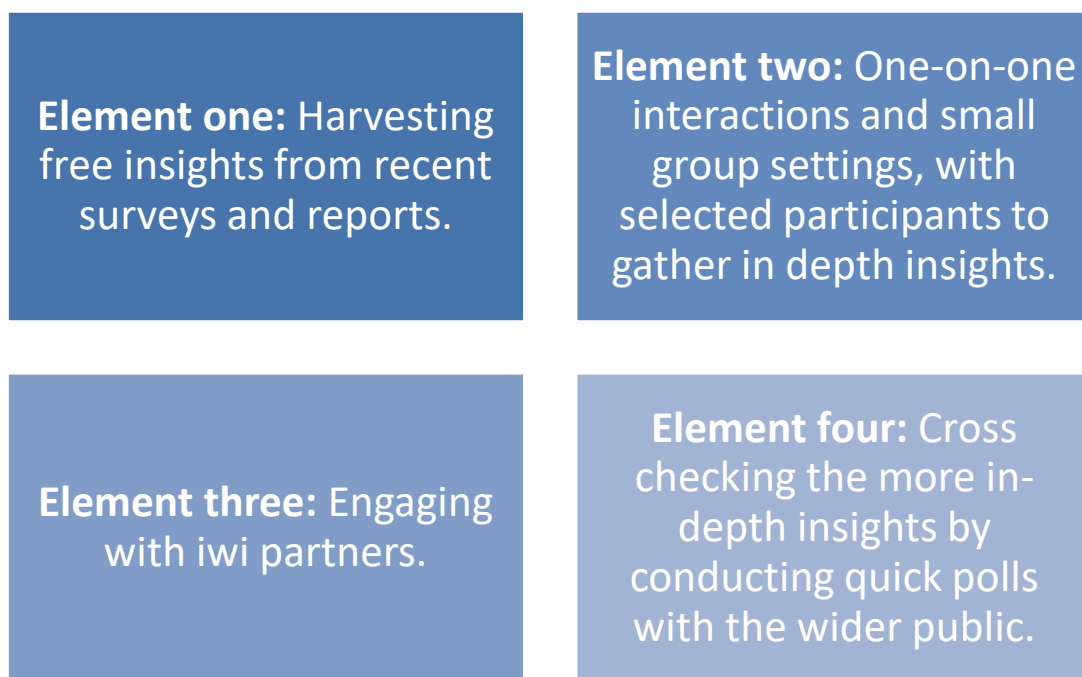
To this extent, five key elements underpinned any actions, the language, and the way Council interacted with the Buller community, these were:

1. Have engagement be less formal, more personal, and more real.
2. Tailor our engagement process to suit the district's communities.
3. Make the process a fun, enjoyable, easy and interesting experience.
4. Ensure people feel listened to.
5. Speak like a human.

Four building blocks

Powered by these five elements, Council focused its efforts on four components that combined gather actionable and insightful feedback from a diverse and broad cross-section of the community to inform and create the communities 2024 – 2034 Long-Term Plan that has the communities’ aspirations at its heart. These are displayed below. The results from elements one, two, and four form the content of this report.

Figure 1: Different elements of the pre-engagement



Five weeks of listening and conversations

Between 2 October and 12 November 2023, the community was invited to join the conversation and share their thoughts with Council. The key message for the campaign was "Buller's next 10–year plan - Your thoughts, your plan, your community's future, let's bring it together."

Within each component of the pre-engagement, a raft of actions was undertaken to provide the community with a straightforward way to join the conversation and share their thoughts how to make Buller a better place for their children, mokopuna, mates, and whānau.

Figure 2: Outreach actions for the different elements of the pre-engagement

| Element one | Element two | Element four |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze already captured data and knowledge that has been collected between 2018 and 2023. Reports and surveys were selected that could provide insights into questions that are relevant for the 2024 – 2034 LTP. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated online or in person engagement workshops with representatives of different community segments. • Paper or online surveys to hand out to subcommittees, industry groups, forums, networks, social circles, and to other stakeholders in person or via email. • Hold drop in sessions through the district at local events or stand alone. • Promotion of pre-engagement at already organised meetings or forums from a wide range of community groups, networks, and groups. • Distribution and promotion of pre-engagement via Council's networks. • Presentation at subcommittee meetings. • Special edition of Connect posted to all households in Buller. • Promotion of the survey through all channels used as part of element four. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles in the news. • Full page adverts in the Chronicle. • Full page adverts in the Clarion. • Full page adverts in the BullerBayBulletin. • Full page adverts in the Maruia School Newsletter. • Radio advertisement on CoastFM. • Special edition of Connect posted to all households in Buller. • Email to Connect email list and other Council email distribution lists. • Social media posts. • Media Releases. • Dedicated page on Council's website. • Posters at facilities. • Promotion at drop in sessions. • E-newsletters. |

Overview of Pre-Engagement Inputs

| Element | Key metrics |
|--|--|
| Element one - Review and analysis of past reports/ surveys and workshops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 relevant reports published from 2018-2023 were reviewed and analysed. 6 workshops. |
| Element two - Structured community engagement & feedback analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 332 survey responses were received during the consultation period. |
| Element Four - Quick polls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 170 quick poll responses were received during the consultation period. |

Key findings

This section presents the collective sentiment of the Buller community, as expressed during the pre-engagement phase. It includes an in-depth analysis of the perspectives of various communities within Buller, showcasing the regional nuances and diverse viewpoints.

Community outcomes

Table 1 shows survey respondents' average importance ratings on various community outcomes on a scale from 1 (very unimportant) to 5 (very important). The data is broken down by location to showcase regional differences across Buller.

| | Westport | Karamea/ Little Wanganui | Northern Buller | Punakaiki/ Charleston | Reefton/ Inangahua | Total |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Social well-being | 4.0 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.2 |
| Affordability | 4.1 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 4.2 |
| Environment | 3.8 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.1 |
| Prosperity | 3.9 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 4.1 |
| Culture | 3.4 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 3.7 |
| Column n | 106 | 86 | 42 | 17 | 9 | 314 |

Table 1: How important are the following community outcomes to you? average - 1 = very unimportant, 5 = very important

Social well-being key findings

- The community places a high importance on social well-being, rating it as very important for building vibrant, healthy, and connected communities. It has an average importance score of 4.2 out of 5 across the survey.
- The top social well-being priorities mentioned are:
 - Safe and healthy families/communities.
 - Community connectivity.
 - Community development and inclusivity.
 - Improved health services.
- Key themes include:
 - A desire for Buller to be a safe place to raise healthy, happy children with access to basic amenities and clean drinking water.
 - Fostering vibrant, caring, and inclusive communities that nurture social connections.
 - Support services for vulnerable groups like youth, older people, and those with mental health needs.
 - Developing amenities like cycle tracks, footpaths, and community hubs.
- Respondents from Karamea/Little Wanganui and Northern Buller place the greatest importance on social outcomes, rating them 4.4 and 4.5 out of 5, respectively. Westport also ranks it highly at 4.0.
- Key projects mentioned to improve social well-being include better health services, youth programs, affordable housing, community events, and spaces for social connection.

Affordability - key findings

1. Affordability is rated as a significant community outcome, with an average score of 4.2 out of 5 in the survey.
2. The top affordability priorities mentioned are:
 - Focus on core services.
 - Concerns about the cost of living.
 - Affordable lifestyle.
3. Key themes include:
 - Prioritising basic infrastructure over aesthetically pleasing elements
 - Balancing service provision and infrastructure maintenance
 - Fostering economic opportunities while minimising environmental impact
 - Concerns over high rates and lack of services
4. Westport residents rate affordability as most important at 4.1 out of 5.
5. Suggested priorities and projects include improving infrastructure maintenance, addressing substandard housing, limiting rate increases, and supporting those with their own water systems.

Environment - key findings

1. The environment is rated as an important outcome with an average score of 4.1 out of 5.
2. The top environmental priorities raised are:
 - Sustainable environmental management.
 - Environmental protection and biodiversity.
 - Climate change adaptation.
3. Key themes include:
 - Protecting habitats, ecosystems, and native species
 - Transitioning to renewable energy and low-emissions approaches
 - Enabling sustainable tourism and employment opportunities
 - Preparing communities for intensifying climate impacts
4. Karamea/Little Wanganui rates the environment as most important at 4.4 out of 5. All other areas rate it between 3.8 to 4.0.
5. Priorities and projects include wetland restoration, sustainable land use, waste reduction, environmental education, and climate adaptation planning.

Prosperity - key findings

1. Prosperity is rated as an important outcome, with an average score of 4.1 out of 5 in the community survey.
2. The top prosperity-related priorities raised are:
 - Economic sustainability.
 - Economic development.
 - Road infrastructure.
3. Key themes include:
 - Concerns about the future sustainability of the economy
 - The need to balance economic opportunities and environmental impacts.
 - Infrastructure investment to support businesses.
4. Northern Buller and Karamea/Little Wanganui rate prosperity as most important at 4.5 and 4.1, respectively.
5. Suggested priorities and projects include encouraging private investment, supporting tourism, addressing rising business costs, maintaining freight infrastructure, and economic diversification beyond mining.

Culture - key findings

1. Culture is rated as the least important community outcome on average, scoring 3.7 out of 5 across the survey.
2. The top cultural priorities raised are:
 - Acknowledging local history/culture.

- Supporting artistic ventures/facilities.
3. Key themes include:
 - Desires for community-driven heritage and arts projects with outside funding support.
 - Spaces to celebrate history and promote cultural events.
 - Maintaining infrastructure and inclusive communities alongside cultural promotion.
 4. Karamea/Little Wanganui residents rate culture as most important at 3.9 out of 5. Reefton/Inangahua rate it lowest at 2.7.
 5. Suggested priorities/projects include heritage preservation, funding community facilities, youth programs, public art, and cultural celebrations.

Priorities and projects

The community was asked to prioritise Council services for budget allocation on a scale of 1 to 12, with 1 being the highest priority. Table 2 shows the average ranking respondents gave each element, indicating its relative priority level from the community's perspective.

The top 3 priority areas for budget allocation are:

1. Roothing and Transport, with an average ranking of 3.9 out of 12. This area includes roads, footpaths, public transport, parking, and road safety. It emphasizes connectivity needs.
2. Community Services ranked 4.5 out of 12. This encompasses health services, community events/groups, emergency management, economic development and other services impacting residents.
3. Infrastructure Resilience also ranked at 4.5 out of 12. This focuses on enhancing resilience against flooding, natural disasters, climate change impacts and robust infrastructure systems.

| 4. | Westport n = 85 | Karamea/ Little Wanganui n = 56 | Northern Buller n = 27 | Punakaiki/ Charleston n = 8 | Reefton/ Inangahua n=8 | Total n=191 |
|---|--------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Roothing and Transport | 5.1 ↓ | 2.6 ↑ | 3.1 | 5.5 | 4.3 | 3.9 |
| Community Services | 5.1 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| Infrastructure Resilience | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 4.5 |
| Infrastructure Planning | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 3.9 | 4.9 | 5.0 |
| Refuse and Recycling | 5.6 | 5.9 | 4.7 | 5.8 | 4.8 | 5.5 |
| 3 Waters | 4.3 ↑ | 8.3 ↓ | 7.2 | 3.8 | 5.9 | 5.9 |
| Climate Change | 7.2 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 4.9 | 5.6 | 6.4 |
| Support Services | 7.2 | 5.9 ↑ | 6.6 | 8.0 | 8.5 | 6.7 |
| Property | 7.1 | 7.0 | 6.6 | 5.9 | 6.8 | 6.9 |
| Commercial Infrastructure | 7.3 | 7.1 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 8.8 | 7.3 |
| Regulatory Services | 7.8 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.6 | 8.0 | 8.0 |
| Governance and Elected Member's Support | 9.5 | 9.1 | 8.6 | 8.3 | 10.6 | 9.2 |

Table 2: How would you prioritise the following Council services for budget allocation?

The emphasis on roads, community services, and resilient infrastructure indicates an overarching focus on systems and initiatives that enable transportation, quality of life, and the capacity to withstand environmental shocks regarding budget allocation.

The following priorities and common themes represent the needs identified in pre-engagement inputs and consultation. They provide insights to inform Buller District Council's planning and decision-making in the 2024-2034 LTP. These priorities reflect the community's desire for Council to focus efforts and resources on core infrastructure,

amenities, and services that enable transportation, resilient systems, and quality of life for residents. The community's feedback indicates clear direction for allocating attention and budgets to the highest priority needs underpinning social, economic, and environmental well-being.

Key themes by priorities/projects

Roading and Transport

- Improve and maintain roads, footpaths, cycleways.
- Develop public and active transport options.
- Address rural accessibility and resilience.

Community Services

- Support community groups, events, projects.
- Maintain/upgrade halls, pools, libraries, and facilities.
- Improve health and social services.

Infrastructure Resilience

- Enhance flood protection and climate resilience.
- Strengthen stormwater, wastewater, and drinking water systems.
- Ensure infrastructure robustness and redundancy.

Infrastructure Planning

- Maintain and improve core infrastructure.
- Prioritise basic amenities and transport networks.
- Develop master plans for growth and development.

Refuse and Recycling

- Improve waste and recycling programs, accessibility.
- Reduce waste through minimisation and diversion.
- Overhaul waste management systems.

3 Waters

- Ensure safe, resilient drinking water accessibility.
- Upgrade aging water supply and wastewater networks.
- Support small supplies and rural needs.

Climate Change

- Plan adaptation initiatives and emissions reductions.
- Factor climate impacts into infrastructure/services.
- Engage communities on resilience and preparation.

Support Services

- Streamline internal processes and staff training.
- Leverage skills and manage budgets strategically.
- Improve customer service standards.

Property

- Maintain and develop parks, reserves, amenities.
- Provide public facilities like toilets and parking.
- Leverage properties for housing and community needs.

Commercial Infrastructure

- Develop the airport as a regional transportation hub.
- Enhance port capabilities to support economic activity.

Regulatory Services

- Streamline licensing, permitting and consenting.
- Balance development and conservation needs.
- Support business growth opportunities.

Governance and Elected Members Support

- Advocate for government investment and partnerships.
- Improve community engagement and consultation.

What matters to different parts of Buller?

Below are the key findings related to location, highlighting the specific priorities and concerns of different areas within the Buller region.

Westport

- Affordability and social well-being were the most important outcomes. Environment and prosperity outcomes also hold importance. While still valued, cultural outcomes received the least emphasis.
- Residents strongly prefer to prioritise 3 Waters, underlining its importance over other areas. Infrastructure Resilience and Infrastructure Planning are also key areas for budget allocation, emphasising sustainable infrastructure and essential services.

Karamea/Little Wanganui

- Karamea/Little Wanganui strongly emphasise affordability and prosperity, with these areas topping their list of priorities. Social well-being and environmental considerations are also given high importance. Cultural outcomes are not the primary focus.
- The Karamea/Little Wanganui community has identified Roding and Transport as their foremost budgetary concern, followed by Community Services and Infrastructure Resilience, indicating a focus on transport infrastructure, community support, and resilient systems.

Northern Buller

- Northern Buller strongly emphasises social well-being and the environment, with these areas topping their list of priorities. Affordability, prosperity, and cultural outcomes are also given high importance.
- The community has identified Roding and Transport as their foremost budgetary concern, followed by Community Services and Refuse and Recycling. These priorities indicate a focus on transport, community welfare, and the importance of waste management services within the region.

Punakaiki/Charleston

- Punakaiki/Charleston strongly emphasises social well-being, environment, and prosperity, with these areas topping their list of priorities. Affordability considerations are also given high importance. Cultural outcomes are not the primary focus.
- For Punakaiki/Charleston, the highest priority is Infrastructure Resilience. This is closely followed by 3 Waters and Infrastructure Planning, showing a critical concern for water-related services and infrastructure planning. Community Services also ranks highly, illustrating the importance of social infrastructure to the residents.

Reefton/Inangahua

- Environmental and social well-being outcomes are ranked as the most important. Affordability and prosperity outcomes are close behind. Cultural outcomes are considered the least important.
- The community has identified Roding and Transport, and Infrastructure Resilience as their foremost budgetary concern, followed by Community Services. Indicating a focus on transport infrastructure, community support, and resilient systems.

Data analysis methodology

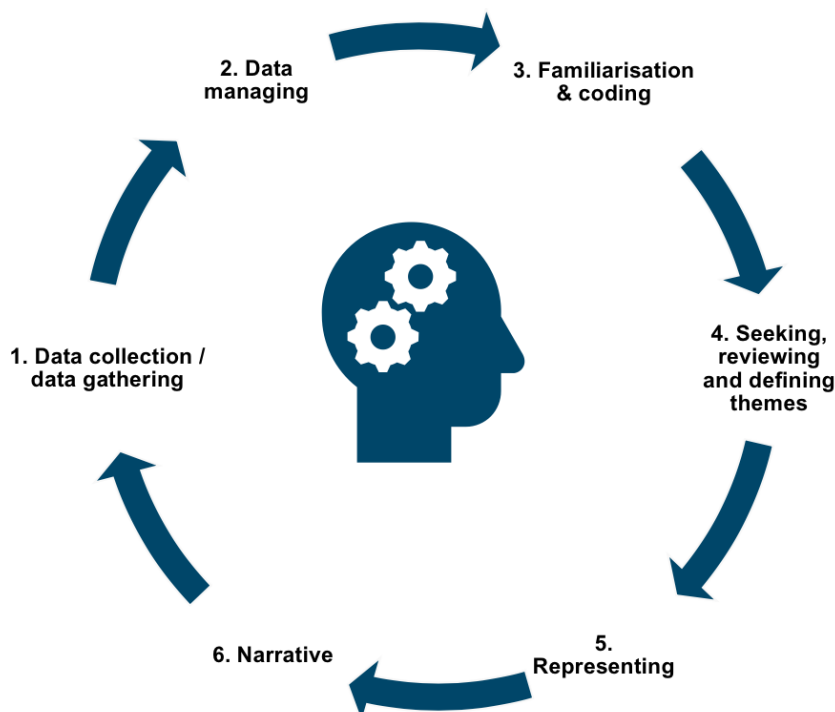
Thematic analysis

For the qualitative analysis of responses from open-ended questions and written feedback, PublicVoice employed a thematic analysis approach. This approach is rooted in the systematic framework introduced by Braun and Clarke in 2006, and it offers a structured method for identifying, analysing, and interpreting patterns of meaning within data. The following outlines the specific phases of this methodology:

1. **Familiarisation with the Data:** Analysts immersed themselves in the data through repeated reading to understand its content deeply.
2. **Generating Initial Codes:** A systematic coding process was executed across the entire dataset. This foundational step organised the data into distinct segments, labelling them to reflect key insights.
3. **Searching for Themes:** Initial codes were subsequently grouped into potential overarching themes and subthemes, providing broader patterns of meaning.
4. **Reviewing Themes:** Themes were refined to ensure their relevance to the coded extracts and the broader dataset. Themes without substantial supporting data or which were overly diverse were reconsidered.
5. **Defining and Naming Themes:** Each theme was meticulously refined to encapsulate its core, with further deliberation on potential sub-themes.
6. **Report Compilation:** The analysis was then articulated into a cohesive narrative supported by pertinent data extracts. This provided a descriptive overview and a deeper interpretative analysis in alignment with the research objectives.

Additionally, to bolster the efficiency and accuracy of the thematic analysis, PublicVoice integrated tools such as MAXQDA and Caplena. Platforms like MAXQDA help streamline the coding process and ensure a comprehensive examination of themes in the data.

The analysis process



Reporting

Tables illustrating the frequency of subthemes associated with each theme have been included to demonstrate the significance of each theme. The tables focus on the key themes revealed from the analysis. Sub-themes with a frequency of less than three have been removed from the tables.

Element one - Review and Analysis of Past Reports, Surveys and Workshops

Overview

Since 2021, numerous reports containing insights integral to the LTP process have been produced. This analysis is centred on examining the desired outcomes and priorities for the LTP. This section encapsulates the key findings from our review and offers a detailed breakdown of each report to inform Council's LTP development.

| Name | Author | Year | Topic |
|--|---|------|-----------------------|
| Buller Kawatiri's Local Food Economy Project Stage 1 Progress Report | Kawatiri Nature Environment & Communities Trust | 2023 | Food Security |
| West Coast Business Opinion Survey | Development West Coast | 2023 | Business |
| Child and youth environmental scan | Ministry of Social Development | 2023 | Children and Youth |
| Published summary of existing community voice and experiences | Takiwā Poutini | 2023 | Community well-being |
| Whanau and Community Voice, Takiwā Poutini | Takiwā Poutini | 2023 | Community well-being |
| Te Tai o Poutini Housing Action Plan | West Coast Housing Forum | 2023 | Housing |
| Update about Charleston community visioning | Buller District Council | 2022 | Community Development |
| Ageing Population and Housing on the West Coast | West Coast Housing Forum | 2021 | Aging population |
| Buller Community Engagement, Specific to Council Planning Takiwā Poutini | Takiwā Poutini | 2023 | Community well-being |
| Promoting Buller Workshop November | DWC, local operators | 2023 | Tourism development |
| Heritage West Coast District Strategies 2023 to 2033 | West Coast Heritage Forum | 2023 | Heritage development |
| Themes of Community & Whānau Māori Voice | Takiwā Poutini | 2023 | Community well-being |
| Karamea Area Community Plan | Karamea Community Incorporated | 2023 | Community development |

Table 3: Reports reviewed for long term plan.

Buller Kawatiri's Local Food Economy Project: Stage 1 Progress Report

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Organisation: | Kawatiri Nature Environment & Communities Trust |
| Date: | September, 2023 |

Report Overview:

The report describes efforts to develop a more resilient, sustainable local food system in Buller. Community engagement has revealed a desire for greater connection, infrastructure, and branding to overcome barriers like regulations and distribution challenges. The draft vision focuses on staple food production, facilities, networks, culture, and regenerative practices to improve social, economic, and environmental outcomes. The next steps are to refine the vision, analyse the system further, and find solutions to realise the community's aspirations. The goal is to increase food security, sustainability, and resilience in Buller.

Outcomes:

Analysis in the report highlights several potential priorities and projects aimed at enhancing well-being, affordability, prosperity, culture, and the environment:

Social Well-being:

- Establish community gardens and food-sharing networks to improve healthy, affordable food access.
- Develop food education programs to promote nutrition and food skills, especially for youth.

Affordability:

- Create centralised food processing facilities to reduce costs for small producers and consumers.
- Develop cooperative distribution networks to reduce transportation costs.

Prosperity:

- Promote agritourism and local food branding to diversify the economy beyond mining and dairy.
- Develop training and employment pathways in food production and hospitality.

Culture:

- Celebrate traditional food gathering practices like hunting and fishing.
- Develop a unique West Coast cuisine and food identity.

Environment:

- Promote regenerative agricultural practices that rebuild soils and enhance biodiversity.
- Reduce food waste through preservation, reuse, and redistribution.

The report highlights the need for greater community collaboration, appropriate infrastructure, and strategic coordination to overcome barriers and realise Buller's vision for a resilient local food system. Activities should aim to improve social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes together.

Areas of priority:

While the report does not directly refer to the areas of priority, some indirect associations can be made in relation to the priority areas:

3 Waters:

- Water is essential for food production, so developing a resilient local food system could relate to water security.

Climate Change:

- Adapting the food system to be more sustainable could help with climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Commercial Infrastructure:

- Transportation, distribution, and storage infrastructure will be important to enable the local food economy.

Community Services:

- A thriving local food system could provide economic and community development opportunities.

Governance and Elected Members Support:

- Local governance support will be important to enable the changes outlined in the vision.

Infrastructure Resilience:

- Planning for infrastructure resilience is relevant, given the climate and disaster vulnerabilities noted.

Property:

- Public spaces like parks could potentially be used for some food production.

Regulatory Services:

- Food safety/hygiene regulations are noted as a current barrier.

Refuse and Recycling:

- Waste minimisation through food reuse/redistribution is mentioned as an opportunity.

Roading and Transport:

Transportation, distribution, and storage infrastructure will be important to enable the local food economy.

West Coast Business Opinion Survey

Organisation:

Development West Coast

Date:

August 2023

Document overview:

This report summarises the results of an August 2023 survey of 142 West Coast business owners on topics critical to regional economic development. The data aims to inform strategies and priorities for supporting regional businesses.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- The survey highlights recruitment and staff retention challenges that could impact social well-being if businesses struggle to maintain workforce and service levels. Comments indicate a lack of entertainment options and community connectedness for younger residents.
- 38% find it challenging to recruit staff.

Affordability:

- Respondents cite rising business costs, materials, and transportation as key challenges. 56% cited rising material/input costs as a key challenge.
- Some note that the West Coast is less affordable than commonly perceived.
- Infrastructure issues like poor roading are also mentioned.

Prosperity:

- Workforce shortages, lack of talent, and recruitment struggles are frequently cited as hindering business prosperity and growth. But some see opportunities from new residents and businesses.

Culture:

- 81% indicated overall quality of life as a locational advantage.

Environment:

- Some businesses highlight sustainability practices they have implemented. Others want more guidance and support on this.
- Extreme weather events are noted as a key business risk. 30% said extreme weather events are a key challenge.

Areas of priority:

Climate Change:

- 15% cited extreme weather events as a critical challenge.

Commercial Infrastructure:

- Working closely with businesses on significant infrastructure projects to minimise negative impacts and communicate timelines.

Regulatory Services:

- Some comments indicate frustrations with local council processes around consenting making it difficult to start new ventures. 18% indicated frustrations with government compliance and regulation.

Refuse and Recycling:

- 29% are implementing sustainability/circular economy practices.
- A few businesses highlight implementing sustainability practices like recycling and waste reduction, relevant to refuse/recycling services.

Roading and Transport:

- Some businesses cite poor road quality/infrastructure as a major issue affecting operations.
- Regional connectivity gaps like lack of EV charging stations are mentioned.

Other priorities:

- Considering subsidies, incentives or other cost offsets to help address rising overhead costs cited by many businesses as a key challenge.
- Placemaking and community building initiatives tailored to younger demographics could help address the lack of entertainment and connectedness raised.
- Promoting the West Coast's quality of life advantages to attract skilled workers could help address recruitment struggles.
- Workforce development and training initiatives to build a larger skilled talent pool on the West Coast. 58% said this was an action they would take if unable to fill positions.

Child and youth environmental scan

Organisation:

Ministry of Social Development

Date:

August, 2023

Document overview:

The report is a Child and Youth Environmental Scan for the Nelson, Tasman, Marlborough, and West Coast regions of New Zealand. It was developed by the Regional Public Service to support the Ministry of Education's Attendance and Engagement Strategy. The scan provides a comprehensive overview of central and local government strategies, action plans, and interventions focused on children and youth aged 0-24 years. It aims to inform regional decision-makers by highlighting areas for improvement in addressing the needs of young people. The research involved desk reviews, data analysis, and stakeholder interviews between November 2022 and February 2023. Key findings identify fragmentation, duplication, and opportunities for better coordination across agencies to enhance outcomes for children, youth, and their families. Recommendations include trialling tools to support more joined-up ways of working between government and community providers. The goal is to try a more holistic, collaborative approach to supporting child and youth well-being in the region.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- The report highlights concerning mental health statistics for youth, such as high psychological distress and increasing youth suicide rates. It notes that youth have lower subjective well-being and connection to the community than other age groups.
- School attendance and engagement have declined, especially for Māori learners. Connection to school is related to well-being.

Affordability:

- Identifies transportation barriers and costs as significant obstacles for youth in accessing services in Buller, suggesting interventions to mitigate these challenges.

Prosperity:

- Youth unemployment is 9.4% nationally, with limited career prospects in rural areas. The scan advocates for initiatives to expand employment opportunities and vocational training for young people, particularly in rural regions.

Culture:

- The report highlights the overrepresentation of Māori learners in adverse educational outcomes and the feelings of neglect among ethnic community learners. The report recommends culturally responsive interventions to address these disparities.

Areas of priority:

Climate Change:

- Younger people face disproportionate climate change impacts.

Community Services:

- Emphasises the need for enhanced coordination of youth services and activities across agencies for a more integrated approach to service delivery.

Governance and Elected Members Support:

- Urges a heightened focus on youth needs, particularly in West Coast/Buller regions, emphasising the central government's need for more centralised attention and resources.

Roading and Transport:

- Recognises the challenges youth face due to lack of licences and transportation, calling for strategies to improve mobility and access to services.

Published summary of existing community voice and experiences

Organisation:

Takiwā Poutini

Date:

August, 2023

Report overview:

This published summary compiled in February 2023 reviews existing community voices and experiences from the West Coast region of New Zealand. The summary draws on 19 reports published between 2018-2023 that capture local, regional and whānau Māori voices on health, social services, local government, and community well-being. The reports utilised mixed methods including surveys, interviews, focus groups and workshops. Key insights highlight strengths, challenges and opportunities for improving outcomes, with common themes around access, rural geography, cost of living, community connectedness, and the need for culturally informed and whānau-centered approaches. The purpose is to inform the new Takiwā Poutini locality prototype by respecting and building on prior community engagement.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- Expand health and social services to be more accessible across the region, especially mental health, disability, and kaupapa Māori services.
- Develop more spaces, events and activities for youth and families.
- Strengthen community connectedness and social inclusion.

Affordability:

- Improve the availability of affordable housing options across the region.
- Develop affordable and reliable transportation options between towns and cities.
- Address cost barriers to accessing health care and social services.

Prosperity:

- Diversify the economy beyond traditional industries to provide more employment opportunities.
- Invest in education and training pathways for rangatahi.
- Support small businesses and social enterprises.

Culture:

- Increase visibility and celebration of Māori culture and history.
- Develop a stronger sense of regional identity and community pride.
- Preserve and promote heritage sites and traditions.

Environment:

- Sustainably manage natural resources and mitigate climate change impacts.
- Enhance the protection of native ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Promote sustainable tourism practices.

Areas of priority:

3 Waters:

- Ensure drinking water accessibility in rural areas.
- Manage wastewater and stormwater risks exacerbated by climate change.

Climate Change:

- Build resilience against increased frequency of extreme weather events.
- Transition to renewable energy sources.

Commercial Infrastructure:

- Develop Westport airport as a regional transportation hub.
- Enhance port capabilities to support economic growth.

Community Services:

- Expand health, disability, social and kaupapa Māori services.
- Develop more youth recreation amenities and events.

Governance and Elected Members Support:

- Advocate for increased government investment in regional development.
- Improve engagement and consultation with communities.

Infrastructure Planning:

- Taking a long-term, resilient, and sustainable approach to infrastructure.

Infrastructure Resilience:

- Mitigate impacts of natural disasters like earthquakes, flooding, and erosion.

Property:

- Provide more affordable housing, especially for the elderly.
- Maintain heritage buildings and sites.

Regulatory Services:

- Balance development and conservation through resource consent processes.
- Support business growth through streamlined licensing.

Refuse and Recycling:

- Expand recycling and waste minimisation programs.

Roading and Transport:

- Maintain local road network resilience.
- Develop affordable regional public transportation.

Whanau and Community Voice, Takiwā Poutini

Organisation:

Takiwā Poutini

Date:

April, 2023

Document overview:

This report summarises community engagement feedback collected from February - April 2023 across Te Tai o Poutini to inform health and well-being priorities. Themes include timely access to consistent primary care, reduced barriers to accessing care, a whānau-centered approach, more recreation opportunities, community connection spaces, civil defence preparedness, affordable housing, education to raise health literacy, and improved food security through community gardens and cooking workshops. The report provides quotes, stats, categorisation of feedback, and next steps to address inequities and incorporate other local reports. The goal is to capture community voice to guide planning and decision-making around health, well-being and equity in the region.

Outcomes:

Social well-being:

- More mental health services are needed, including specific services for men, trauma, rangatahi and neurodiverse whānau.
- Increased addiction support and treatment options.
- Activities and safe spaces for youth to connect.
- Community connection opportunities for all ages.
- Health and wellness programs, especially for aging populations.
- Disaster preparedness education and planning.

Affordability:

- Reduce barriers to healthcare access like transport costs.
- Increase affordable housing options.
- Address food security through community gardens and cooking workshops.
- Provide affordable public transportation options.

Culture:

- Create more community spaces for connecting with Māori culture.
- Fund Māori community services.
- Prioritise access to te ao Māori.

Environment:

- Concerns over mining's impact on the environment and roads.
- Emphasise ecological responsibility, intergenerational responsibility, and valuing the environment and tourism in decision-making.
- Provide more outdoor recreation opportunities.

Areas of priority:

Climate Change:

- Concerns noted over preparedness for natural disasters and climate impacts like flooding.

Community Services:

- Requests for more community spaces, youth activities, health/fitness programs, community gardens, and cooking workshops.

Infrastructure Resilience:

- Emphasis on importance of civil defence preparedness and planning.

Property:

- Need for more housing options noted, including for elderly.

Roading and Transport:

- Concerns over mining's impact on roads.
- Requests for more recreation opportunities like cycle lanes.
- Need for affordable public transportation options.

Te Tai o Poutini Housing Action Plan

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Organisation: | West Coast Housing Forum |
| Date: | 2023 |

Document overview:

The Te Tai o Poutini Housing Action Plan aims to address housing issues across the West Coast region of New Zealand. It was developed through community engagement by Takiwā Poutini, the West Coast alliance of health, social services and local government agencies. The plan identifies a lack of affordable, healthy, suitable housing options, particularly for older people and those in emergency housing. It outlines a collaborative vision to increase supply, improve quality, provide support, and enable development and consenting processes. Proposed actions include re-forming a housing network, collecting data, increasing options for seniors, enabling developers, improving regulations, and providing financial literacy. The goal is to improve housing accessibility, sustainability, and community well-being.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- The plan was developed through community engagement to address housing issues impacting well-being.
- Lack of suitable, affordable housing options, especially for older people, negatively impacts community health and safety.
- Proposed actions aim to increase supply, improve quality, and provide support to enhance well-being.

Affordability:

- There is a lack of affordable, healthy housing options across the region.
- The plan calls for subsidies, financial assistance, and financial literacy to improve affordability.
- Increasing suitable public, assisted, and emergency housing aims to improve affordability.

Environment:

- The plan aims to increase sustainable, quality housing options.
- Bringing existing housing up to quality standards enhances sustainability.
- Papakāinga and kaumātua housing supports cultural approaches.

Areas of priority:

Climate Change:

- The plan aims to increase housing quality and sustainability, which supports climate resilience.

Community Services:

- It aims to improve community well-being through better housing.

Governance and Elected Members Support:

- The plan calls for local government collaboration on consenting processes.

Infrastructure Planning:

- The plan identifies needed housing developments and infrastructure.

Property:

- The plan suggests utilising public property like Kowhai Manor for housing.

Regulatory Services:

- Improving consenting processes is a priority area.

Other Priorities:

- Financial literacy and subsidies to improve housing affordability.
- Supporting developers and builders through improved consenting.
- Increasing papakāinga and kaumātua housing options.

Update about Charleston community visioning

Organisation:

Buller District Council

Date:

March, 2022

Document overview:

This is a report prepared by Buller District Council in March 2022. It summarises community engagement efforts since 2021 to develop a vision for the future of Charleston. Workshops and surveys revealed desires for lower speed limits, heritage preservation, environmental protection, and greater social connection. Initial priority projects identified are speed limit changes, signage, beautification, and community gatherings. The next steps are forming community teams to advance these goals, connecting with partner agencies, and facilitating engagement. The aim is to empower the Charleston community to achieve its vision for the area.

Outcomes:**Social Well-being:**

- Create a place for people to gather, like a playground, amenities, green space, picnic area, and skatepark to improve community connections.
- Improve safety by reviewing speed limits, adding footpaths, and considering street lighting.
- Make the area family-friendly and inclusive of all residents and newcomers.

Prosperity:

- Develop Charleston as a destination to support local businesses and higher value tourism.
- Employ locals to maintain infrastructure like tracks and landscaping.

Culture:

- Install heritage and wildlife signage to share local history and environment.
- Host community events and gatherings to bring people together.
- Make history more accessible through workshops, anniversary days, etc.

Environment:

- Protect the natural environment and wildlife through actions like better plantings and track maintenance.
- Develop walking tracks and employ locals to maintain them.
- Reduce litter with rubbish bins and penalties.
- Promote sustainability through initiatives like community gardens.

Areas of priority:**Community Services:**

- Fostering social connections and inclusion.

Property:

- Create a playground, amenities, green space, picnic area, and skatepark for the community.
- Environmental protection through plantings, track maintenance, etc.
- Beautification of public spaces.

Refuse and Recycling:

- Add rubbish bins in public areas and implement penalties to reduce litter.

Roading and Transport:

- Review speed limits on main highway and roads in Charleston.
- Add footpaths for safety.

- Consider street lighting and impacts.
- Add bike stands.

Ageing Population and Housing on the West Coast

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Organisation: | West Coast Housing Forum |
| Date: | June, 2021 |

Document overview:

The West Coast Housing Forum surveyed 443 West Coast residents aged 55 and over in June 2021 to understand their housing needs and preferences as the region's population ages. The results show most respondents plan to move within 5 years, want to remain on the West Coast, and prefer 1-2 bedroom homes with amenities like laundry, parking, and accessibility features. 70% expressed interest in a West Coast retirement village. The survey also asked about ideal rent prices, neighbourhood features, and openness to shared housing. The results will inform West Coast investment and development to support aging in place for the growing 55+ population.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- 70% of respondents expressed interest in a West Coast retirement village, indicating a desire for age-specific housing and amenities to support social connections.
- The top preferred neighbourhood features were supermarkets, medical services, pharmacies, parks/recreation, and libraries - contributing to vibrant, healthy communities.

Affordability:

- 83% said \$200-250/week rent was acceptable for a studio unit. 81% would pay that for a 1-bedroom. This suggests appropriate price points for affordability.
- Energy efficient appliances were an important housing amenity, reducing utility costs.

Areas of priority:

Community Services:

- 70% interest in a retirement village indicates demand for age-specific housing and amenities.
- Top preferred neighbourhood features like medical services, pharmacy, and parks/recreation related to community services.

Property:

- Survey provides insights on housing preferences to guide the development of appropriate, resilient properties for the aging population.

Roading and Transport:

- Parking was an important housing amenity, suggesting the need for adequate parking in age-specific housing.

Other priorities:

- Continued engagement with older residents to understand evolving needs as the population ages further.
- Partnerships with health providers to integrate housing with in-home care/support services.
- Financial modeling of options like rentals vs. assisted living to balance affordability and services.

Buller Community Engagement, Specific to Council Planning Takiwā Poutini

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Organisation: | Takiwā Poutini |
| Date: | July, 2023 |

Document overview:

This report summarises feedback from the Buller community in West Coast, New Zealand, collected up to 25 July 2023. It contains input from whānau and residents on what is needed to improve well-being in Buller. Topics include health services, education, community connection, emergency preparedness, housing, food security, disability access, aging/elder care, volunteer capacity, roading, employment, and the environment. Specific ideas

and what is working well and not working in the community, are highlighted. The purpose is to inform community leaders and government on actions needed to improve well-being and resilience in Buller.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- Need regular transport services to access specialists and support people.
- Concerns about the lack of increase in medical services despite population growth.
- Need for a men's support group.
- Support for new mums is needed, including help with household chores.
- Education needed on mental health impacts of trauma like flooding.

Affordability:

- Housing costs and lack of available housing are issues, impacting well-being and ability to attract workers.
- Disabled parking needed at facilities like supermarket, council buildings.
- Delayed home modifications for disabled residents.

Prosperity:

- Lack of employment opportunities in rural areas.
- Attractions are disappearing due to lack of maintenance.
- Suggest utilising schemes like PEP (Project Employment Program) to maintain tracks and recreation.

Culture:

- Desire for local food growing and education initiatives.
- Interest in community classes on cooking and sewing.
- Support for Te Reo translations.

Environment:

- Concerns about mining impacts on the environment, roading, and well-being.
- Need for climate change preparation and emissions reduction.
- Suggestions for regenerative agriculture and biodiversity.

Areas of priority:

3 Waters:

- Concerns about water quality, with an area on permanent boil water notice.

Climate Change:

- Questions on regional plans and action on climate change.
- Call for emissions reduction and messages of hope.

Community Services:

- Interest in community classes and facilities.
- Economic development beyond mining needed.
- Support for health and social services, including NGO funding.

Infrastructure Resilience:

- Flood impacts and need for flood protection infrastructure.
- Food security and local food system development.

Property:

- Need for more pensioner housing and care facilities.

Regulatory Services:

- Frustration with mining consent process prioritising economics over environment.
- Emergency preparedness planning.

Roading and Transport:

- Concerns about road safety, quality, and access, especially rural areas.

Promoting Buller Workshop November

Organisation:

DWC, local operators

Date:

2023

Document overview:

This report summarises the raw notes and feedback from the 'Promoting Buller' workshop. The workshop engaged the community to help develop a strategy for promoting Buller's identity and offerings to visitors. Key themes include leveraging natural assets, events, heritage, arts, and outdoor activities while improving infrastructure, transport links, and packaging. Gaps identified include a need for coordination, funding, branding, online presence, and better gateway signage. The next steps are to refine the vision, consider other factors like sustainability and community needs, and determine the required investments to promote Buller effectively.

Outcomes:

Affordability:

- Improve public transport links between towns in Buller region.

Prosperity:

- Develop training and employment pathways in tourism and hospitality.
- Encourage food and retail businesses to extend operational hours, especially on weekends.

Culture:

- Preserve and promote heritage sites and stories (e.g., Denniston, Waiuta, Charleston).
- Develop a brand identity and messaging that captures Buller's unique culture.

Environment:

- Leverage natural assets like beaches, rivers, and rainforest through branding and promotions.
- Ensure tourism growth sustains environmental health.

Areas of priority:

Commercial Infrastructure:

- Promote Westport Airport more effectively.

Community Services:

- Develop training programs related to tourism and hospitality, especially for youth.
- Create a cohesive branding and online presence for promoting Buller.
- Improve signage and information at key entry points to drive traffic to Buller.
- Consider sustainability and community capacity with tourism growth.

Roading and Transport:

- Improve public transportation links between Buller towns.
- Ensure tourism growth does not negatively impact road infrastructure.

Additional Priorities:

- Foster collaboration and networking among local stakeholders.
- Emphasise regenerative tourism to maintain environmental and community health.
- Balance the relationship between local industry and tourism.

Heritage West Coast District Strategies 2023 to 2033

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Organisation: | West Coast Heritage Forum |
| Date: | 2023 |

Document overview:

The draft heritage strategies report outlines proposed actions for Buller, Grey, and Westland Districts from 2023-2033 to protect, engage with, and optimise local heritage. It summarises input from Heritage West Coast workshops held in October 2023. The strategies aim to preserve heritage cost-effectively, engage new generations, and increase collaboration through initiatives like shared archives, youth programs, training, networking events, and a region-wide heritage advocate role. The goal is to deliver social, cultural, and economic benefits by coordinating efforts across the West Coast.

Outcomes:

Affordability:

- Build a shared regional archive facility to reduce storage costs for heritage items.

Prosperity:

- Support heritage tourism products and experience development to appeal to new audiences.

- Have a dedicated regional Heritage Advocate to help navigate funding and compliance requirements.

Culture:

- Engage youth in heritage preservation and education activities.
- Seek younger volunteers to sustain heritage groups.
- Establish a website as a heritage marketing and resource hub.
- Share skills and collaborate across heritage groups in the region.

Overall, the strategies focus on affordability through shared infrastructure, prosperity through heritage tourism and funding support, and culture through youth engagement, volunteering, marketing, and collaboration. Key priorities are developing a regional archive, online hub, and dedicated heritage advocate role.

Areas of priority:

Governance and Elected Members Support:

- Seeking small ongoing heritage funding contributions from each district council (e.g., \$25,000 annually) to support a regional Heritage Advocate role.

Infrastructure Planning:

- Plan for a new shared regional archive facility.

Other priorities:

- Youth engagement and volunteering initiatives to sustain heritage preservation.
- Online heritage marketing and resources hub.
- Heritage skills training and collaboration opportunities.

Themes of Community & Whānau Māori Voice

Organisation:

Takiwā Poutini

Date:

September, 2023

Document overview:

This report summarises findings from community engagement by Takiwā Poutini to uplift Māori and community voice in Te Tai o Poutini (West Coast region of New Zealand). It includes a review of existing research, new engagement during February-July 2023, and the Growing Up Well on the West Coast project. Key themes are health access, support services, mental health, environment, recreation, education, transport, housing, and food security. Priorities include health literacy, mental health services, community spaces, climate action, public transport, affordable housing, and local food production. The report aims to inform planning and decision-making to improve well-being and achieve Pae Ora (healthy futures) in the region.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- Improved access to mental health services, especially for youth, is a high priority.
- More community spaces and activities are needed to reduce isolation and improve connectedness.
- Public transport would increase social participation for those without private transport.

Affordability:

- The lack of affordable, healthy housing is a major concern.
- Improved access to affordable, nutritious food is needed.
- Health-related travel subsidies should be expanded to reduce financial barriers.

Culture:

- Desire for more culturally appropriate spaces and practices, especially for Māori.
- Interest in learning traditional skills like gardening, cooking, and first aid.
- Need for greater cultural competency in health and other services.

Environment:

- Climate change threats underscore the need for sustainability and climate action.
- Maintaining access to the natural environment is important for well-being.
- Improved active and public transport would reduce environmental impact.

Overall, the report highlights social connection, mental health, affordability of basics like housing and food, and environmental sustainability as key priorities for improving well-being in the region. Cultural revitalisation and competency are also emphasised.

Areas of priority:

Climate Change:

- Climate impacts underscore the need for sustainability and climate action.

Community Services:

- Need for more community spaces, activities, events, and support groups.
- Interest in community education programs and workshops.

Property:

- Need for more public spaces that are culturally appropriate and accessible.

Roading and Transport:

- Improving roads, footpaths, public and active transport are priorities.
- Barriers to accessing services due to limited public transport.

Other priorities:

- Health literacy and navigation supports are needed.
- Workforce development, especially for Māori health workers.
- Food security through local production and affordable access.

Karamea Area Community Plan

Organisation:

Karamea Community Incorporated

Date:

September, 2023

Document overview:

This is a brief summary of results from the 2023 Karamea Community Plan review consultation conducted June-September. The consultation engaged over 130 residents and produced over 13,000 words of feedback and 374 hopes, dreams, and suggestions. It identified key community values like resilience and inclusion. Desired outcomes include sustainable economic well-being, cultural awareness, transparency, and being good ancestors by maintaining community spirit and investing in youth. Celebrating the natural environment, local businesses, and community cohesion are key strengths. The next steps are further consultation to refine priority hopes and dreams into a 5-year community plan with annual reviews and a long-term perspective.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- Fostering an inclusive, empowering community through events and cultural expression.
- Creating opportunities for families and young people to enhance community vibrancy.
- Preserving the community spirit of looking after one another.

Prosperity:

- Fostering a diverse and sustainable economy through industry diversity.
- Harnessing natural resources for sustainable economic well-being.

Culture:

- Promoting cultural awareness and celebrating diversity.
- Encouraging mutual inclusion through events, education, and cultural expression.
- Preserving stories of history, people, and place.
- Fostering a culturally inclusive community with spaces, events and education about tradition, customs and identity.

Environment:

- Focusing on environmental care, regeneration, and preservation.
- Emphasising natural environment resilience.
- Leaving a legacy of environmental stewardship for future generations.
- Ensuring growing conditions are maintained for food production.
- Creating awareness and understanding of the local environment.

Areas of priority:

Community Services:

- Supporting individuals in arts, sports, and community-contributing activities.
- Creating opportunities for recreation clubs and outlets.
- Fostering an inclusive and empowering community.

- Providing education opportunities.
- Infrastructure Resilience:**
- Planning for infrastructure resilience and adverse event preparedness.
- Roading and Transport:**
- Focusing on bluff road access resilience in case of adverse events.
- Other priorities:**
- Fostering community communication and information sharing.
 - Establishing a community toolkit for communication and asset management.
 - Monitor and support community projects for accountability and success.

Workshops

As part of the consultation process, six workshops were conducted. The workshops were:

1. Charleston workshop
2. New World workshop
3. Punakaiki workshop
4. Public Health workshop
5. Can-B (Northern Buller)
6. Youth Voice Kawatiri

More detailed information and analysis of each workshop is detailed in the following section.

Charleston workshop

| | |
|--|--|
| Community group: | Charleston |
| Date: | 29 th October 2023, Charleston Hall |
| Workshop overview: | |
| The session was a community engagement workshop held on 29th October 2023 at Charleston Hall. Key topics discussed included community priorities, projects, and feedback on council services. | |
| Outcomes: | |
| <p>Social Well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve acoustics in Charleston Hall to support community events and connections. • Address road safety issues like speed limits and penguin roadkill to protect community well-being. <p>Affordability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding support for community facilities like Charleston Hall to maintain affordable access. • Review parking and roading infrastructure to meet community needs efficiently. <p>Culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support community-led revitalisation projects to nurture West Coast culture and heritage. <p>Environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address beach parking and toilet facilities to manage impacts on natural areas sustainably. • Review speed limits and roading infrastructure to protect wildlife. | |
| Areas of priority: | |
| <p>Community Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for community-led projects like the Constant Bay concept plans. • Need for public toilet facilities in Charleston. <p>Infrastructure Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of parking and roading infrastructure like road reserves. <p>Property:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for community facilities like Charleston Hall. <p>Roading and Transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of speed limits, parking, footpath plans, and penguin roadkill issues. • Consideration for road safety improvements like on Beach Road. | |

Other priorities:

- Funding support for community projects and facilities.
- Revitalisation of rural communities.

New World workshop

Community group:

New World

Date:

27th October 2023

Workshop overview:

This was a community engagement session held by the New World Front Table group on October 27th, 2023 held at New World. The session had a variety of participants. Key insights were around the importance of transport, green spaces, waste management, stormwater, and town beautification.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- Transport services like taxis and chits are important for the mobility of those without cars.
- Appreciation for well-maintained green spaces for recreation and access.
- Desire for adequate footpaths for non-drivers.

Affordability:

- Support for user pays waste collection to reduce costs.
- Interest in council providing plastic collection services.
- Suggestions for food/green waste collection and facilities to reduce waste costs.

Prosperity:

- Keeping towns attractive to support local businesses.

Environment:

- Concerns about stormwater management.
- Interest in food/green waste collection to reduce waste.

Areas of priority:

3 Waters:

- Concerns about stormwater management.

Community Services:

- Importance of transport services like taxis and chits for mobility.
- Appreciation for green spaces and recreation facilities.
- Keeping towns attractive to support local businesses (economic development).

Governance and Elected Members Support:

- Support for user pays waste collection.
- Suggestions for plastic, food and green waste collection services.

Roading and Transport:

- Desire for adequate footpaths for non-drivers.

Punakaiki workshop

Community group:

Punakaiki

Date:

29th October 2023

Workshop overview:

A community engagement workshop was held in Punakaiki on October 29, 2023 to gather feedback on the Buller District Council's 2024–2034 Long-Term Plan. Key topics discussed were dissatisfaction with rubbish collection, need for better local tourism promotion, the importance of the Paparoa Track, parking concerns, and desire for continued investment in community facilities.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- Improve rubbish collection service consistency and communication to address local dissatisfaction.

- Enhance parking availability and disabled access in high-traffic tourist areas.

Prosperity:

- Increase tourism promotion and support for local events to increase visitor numbers.
- Develop cycle trails, nature walks, and shuttle services to increase time and spending in the region.
- Leverage Paparoa Track to promote wider Buller district attractions.

Areas of priority:

Commercial Infrastructure:

- Support tourism infrastructure like parking, signage, and amenities to enable sector growth.

Community Services:

- Maintain investment in community facilities that are valued locally.
- Consider mobile library services to improve rural access.
- Increase promotion of local events and West Coast attractions to grow tourism.
- Leverage new developments like the Paparoa Track to spotlight wider Buller district.
- Facilitate tourism industry coordination on signage, storytelling, transport etc.

Refuse and Recycling:

- Support businesses through changes like rubbish collection and infrastructure projects.
- Address local dissatisfaction with rubbish collection consistency and ease of use.

Roading and Transport:

- Improve parking availability in high traffic tourist areas.
- Enhance walkways, cycle trails, and shuttle services for visitors.

Public Health workshop

Community group:

Public Health

Date:

7th November 2023

Workshop overview:

The workshop brought together public health experts and council members to discuss infrastructure, facilities, and policies relating to community well-being and public health. Key topics included water supply, climate change resilience, active transport, community spaces, and developing policies to improve health and social outcomes.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- Establish more opportunities for active transport (cycling, walking) through improved linkages, footpaths, and cycleways to prevent disease and promote well-being.
- Ensure community facilities like libraries provide opportunities to connect, learn, and access information technology. Consider discounted membership for those facing financial barriers.
- Make community spaces like pools and halls accessible and affordable to all to enable participation.

Affordability:

- Make infrastructure climate resilient cost-effectively, especially for vulnerable communities. Consider funding options to prevent wastewater overflows.
- Collaborate with other councils to find infrastructure expertise and efficiencies.

Prosperity:

- Develop a master infrastructure plan for Northern Buller/Karamea to support economic development.
- Continue implementing the Punakaiki Plan to support the tourism economy.

Environment:

- Make water supplies safe through treatment and monitoring, especially in small settlements.
- Make waste management systems resilient to climate change, focusing on legacy waste sites.
- Engage communities on climate change preparation and infrastructure resilience.

Areas of priority:

3 Waters:

- Make water supplies safe through treatment and monitoring, especially in small settlements.

- Make wastewater and stormwater infrastructure climate resilient through funding options to prevent overflows.

Climate Change:

- Engage communities on climate change preparation and infrastructure resilience.
- Make infrastructure climate resilient in a cost-effective manner, especially for vulnerable communities.

Community Services:

- Ensure libraries provide opportunities to connect, learn, and access technology through discounted membership.
- Make pools, halls, and other community spaces affordable and accessible.
- Continue implementing the Punakaiki Plan to support tourism economy.

Infrastructure Planning:

- Develop a master infrastructure plan for Northern Buller/Karamea.

Infrastructure Resilience:

- Collaborate with other councils for infrastructure expertise and efficiency.

Refuse and Recycling:

- Make waste management systems resilient to climate change, focusing on legacy waste sites.

Roading and Transport:

- Establish more opportunities for active transport through improved linkages, footpaths, cycleways.

Other Priorities:

- Foster partnerships with health organisations to inform planning and policy decisions.

Can-B (Northern Buller)

Community group:

Can-B (Northern Buller)

Date:

12th October 2023

Workshop overview:

This was a community engagement session held by the Buller District Council on October 12th, 2023 with the Northern Buller community group Can-B to gather input on priorities and projects for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan (LTP). Key discussion topics included community outcomes in alignment with the LTP vision for Buller, infrastructure maintenance and improvements, climate change resilience, and public health and well-being. Participants highlighted priorities like better public transport options, supporting older people, improving water quality and supply in rural areas, and enhancing local engagement and self-sufficiency

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- Support more local engagement and getting back to super local.
- Support for older adults.
- Establish public transport/ride share options.

Affordability:

- Improve infrastructure maintenance.
- Address substandard housing.
- Limit rates increases.

Prosperity:

- Diversify the economy beyond mining to improve self-sufficiency.
- Promote economic growth.

Culture:

- Nurture the strong local heritage and culture.

Environment:

- Address mining impacts on local rivers.
- Discuss climate change risks like coastal erosion with communities.
- Improve water quality and wastewater treatment.

Areas of priority:

3 Waters:

- Infrastructure maintenance.
- Address substandard water quality and supplies in rural areas.
- Improve wastewater treatment.

Climate Change:

- Discuss climate change risks like coastal erosion with communities.

Community Services:

- Support more local engagement.
- Support for elderly people.
- Establish public transport/ride share options.

Infrastructure Resilience:

- Address infrastructure impacted by climate change like coastal erosion.

Refuse and Recycling:

- Lack of rubbish collection services in some areas.

Roading and Transport:

- Establish public transport/ride share options.

Other Priorities:

- Economic diversification beyond mining.
- Limit rates increases.
- Address mining impacts on local rivers.
- Improve communication regarding infrastructure projects.

Youth Voice Kawatiri

Community group:

Youth Voice Kawatiri

Date:

9th October 2023

Workshop overview:

This was a community engagement session held by the Buller District Council on October 9th, 2023 with the Youth Voice Kawatiri group to get input on the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan. Activities included icebreakers and group discussions to provide feedback on community outcomes, priorities, and projects to improve Buller and budget allocation. Key insights were gained around climate change, flood protection, youth development, job opportunities, and sustainability.

Outcomes:

Social Well-being:

- Create youth spaces and hubs for development and support.
- Establish a centralised location for social services.
- Develop emergency/transitional housing specifically for youth.
- Create recycling initiatives and beach clean-up events.
- Support groups for the elderly

Affordability:

- Address cost of living.

Prosperity:

- Job creation and opportunities.
- Options for tertiary education.
- Environmental conservation to support tourism.

Culture:

- Change negative town nickname to something more positive.
- Preserve local rivers and environment.

Environment:

- River health and waterway improvements.
- Increased recycling and proper rubbish management.
- Climate change resilience planning.
- Environmental conservation.

- Flood protection initiatives.
- Clean electricity options.

Areas of priority:

3 Waters:

- Improve sewage infrastructure.
- River health and waterway improvements.

Climate Change:

- Flood protection.
- Moving vulnerable infrastructure to higher ground.
- Climate resilience planning.

Community Services:

- Youth spaces, hubs, and support systems.
- Social services in one centralised location.
- Emergency/transitional housing specifically for youth.
- Support groups for the elderly.

Infrastructure Resilience:

- Flood protection.
- Moving vulnerable infrastructure to higher ground.

Refuse and Recycling:

- Increased recycling initiatives.
- More recycling bins.
- Better rubbish management.

Other priorities:

- Job creation and opportunities.
- Options for tertiary education.
- Community building and placemaking initiatives for youth.
- Promoting the area's quality of life to attract more workers.

Element two - Structured Community Engagement & Feedback Analysis

Overview

Between 2 October and 12 November, Councillors and staff have been out and about in the community, engaging with people to listen to their thoughts on what would make Buller a better place to live. These moments to connect, have a conversation, and talk about Buller's next 10-year plan, ranges from stands at local markets to stand-alone workshops with community groups. They were diverse and colourful and took place on the communities' terms, time, and turf. Overall, 31 engagement sessions took place listening to a diverse range of people from Karamea to Punakaiki to Reefton.

Feedback was also collected through paper or online surveys, which were handed out at engagement sessions to cater for people who wanted to fill it out at a different time. The link to the online version was sent out to subcommittees, industry groups, forums, networks, social circles, and other stakeholders in person or via email. Councillors and staff used already organised meetings or forums with a wide range of community groups, subcommittees, networks, and organisations to gather feedback or promote the opportunity to join the conversation. The online form was distributed via email using Council's networks. A special edition of Connect was posted to all households in Buller. The pre-engagement feedback form was promoted at regular intervals through various channels, including articles in local papers, advertisements in local publications, radio advertisements, Council's newsletter, Connect email list, Media Releases, Council's website, posters at facilities, drop-in sessions, and regular e-newsletters. 332 submissions were received.

Community Outcomes – Importance

The community was asked to indicate the level of importance of the following proposed outcomes:

1. **Social well-being:** Our communities feel safe, vibrant, healthy, and connected.
2. **Affordability:** Our communities are supported by quality, efficient, and affordable infrastructure, facilities, and services.
3. **Prosperity:** Our district is supported by a resilient infrastructure that promotes an innovative and diverse economy.
4. **Culture:** Our lifestyle is treasured, our strong community spirit is nurtured, and our inclusive and caring communities understand our whakapapa and heritage.
5. **Environment:** Our distinctive environment and natural resources are sustainably managed, healthy, and valued.

Figure 2 and Table 4 contain data from a survey on the importance of various community outcomes, broken down by location. Here are the key insights by location measured by average rating of importance (*1 = very unimportant, 5 = very important*)

Westport: Demonstrates a balanced view with the most prioritised affordability and social well-being outcomes, scored at 4.1 and 4.0, respectively. Prosperity and environment outcomes also hold importance, with close ratings of 3.9 and 3.8. While still valued, cultural outcomes receive the least emphasis with a score of 3.4.

Karamea/Little Wanganui: Highlights a strong emphasis on affordability and prosperity outcomes, with top scores for at 4.5. Social well-being and environmental outcomes are equally important, rated at 4.4. Cultural outcomes, while considered less crucial, still holds a considerable score of 3.9.

Northern Buller: Places the highest importance on social well-being, rated at 4.5. Both environmental and affordability outcomes are also highly valued, with scores of 4.4 and 4.3. Prosperity and culture are seen as significant as well, each scoring 4.1, indicating a well-rounded approach to community outcomes.

Punakaiki/Charleston: Presents uniform ratings across all categories, suggesting an even distribution of importance. Social well-being, environmental, and prosperity outcomes are all rated at 3.6, indicating no single area stands out significantly above the others. Cultural outcomes are given the least priority with a score of 3.1.

Reefton/Inangahua: Indicates that environmental and social well-being outcomes are relatively important, with scores of 3.9 and 3.8, respectfully. Affordability and prosperity outcomes are close behind, both with a score of 3.7. Cultural outcomes are seen as the least important, with the lowest score of 2.7 across all regions and outcomes.

Across these locations, there is a clear indication that social, environmental, and economic factors are central to community well-being, with culture consistently receiving the lowest priority. The data reflects diverse priorities that can guide targeted community development and resource allocation.

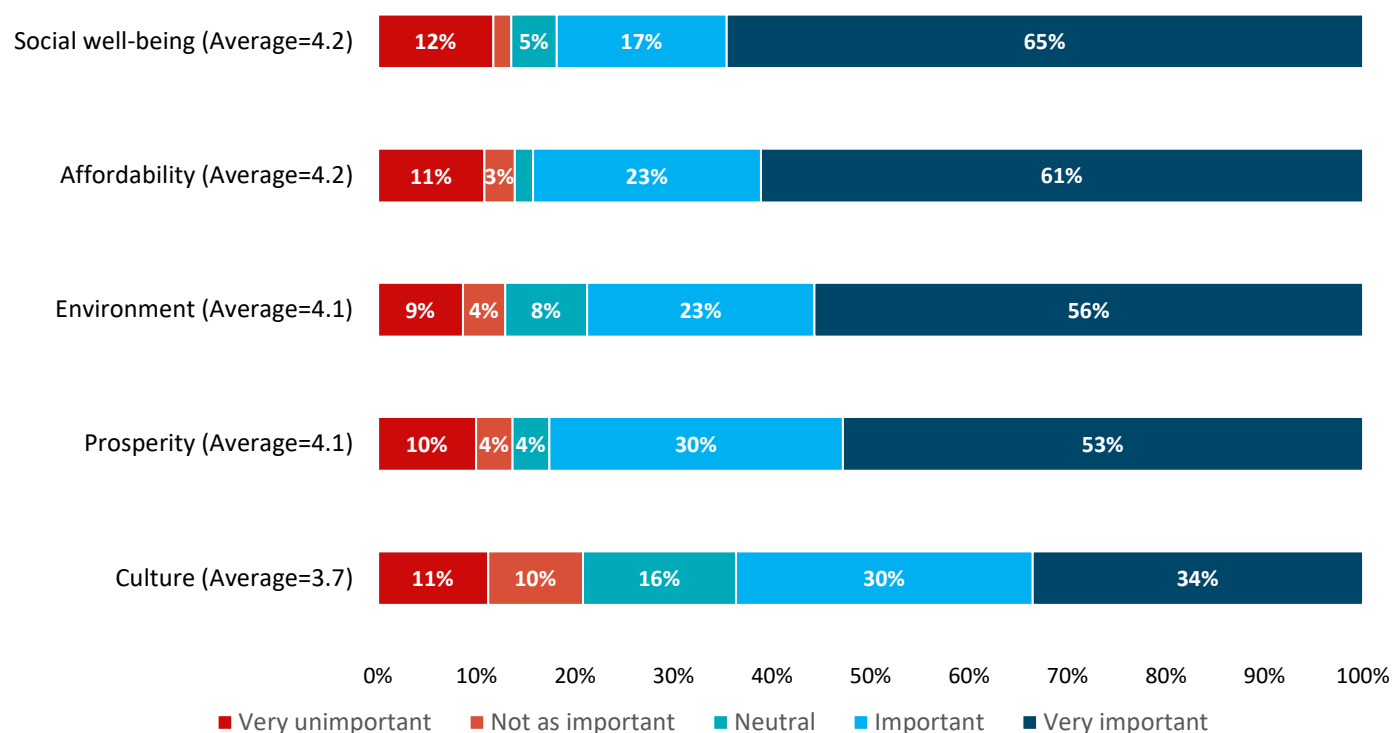


Figure 2: How important are the following community outcomes to you? - average - 1 = very unimportant, 5 = very important

| | Westport | Karamea/ Little Wanganui | Northern Buller | Punakaiki/ Charleston | Reefton/ Inangahua | Total |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Social well-being | 4.0 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.2 |
| Affordability | 4.1 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 4.2 |
| Environment | 3.8 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.1 |
| Prosperity | 3.9 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 4.1 |
| Culture | 3.4 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 3.7 |
| Column n | 106 | 86 | 42 | 17 | 9 | 314 |

Table 4: How important are the following community outcomes to you? average - 1 = very unimportant, 5 = very important

What do these community outcomes mean to you and your community?

The community was invited to provide feedback on the proposed plans and desired outcomes and share personal reflections on their significance. Figure 3 illustrates the outcomes of the thematic analysis derived from this community input.

The top 3 areas of focus were:

1. Social well-being
2. Prosperity
3. Affordability

The top 5 topics raised across outcomes were:

1. Social Well-being - Safe and healthy families/community: 62 mentions (19%)

Respondents express the importance of having a safe and healthy community for raising children, focusing on affordability and access to essential services like clean drinking water and infrastructure. They also emphasise the need for a connected and vibrant community that values its natural environment and supports the well-being of its residents, including mental health support and employment opportunities.

2. Environment - Sustainable environmental management: 44 mentions (13%)

Respondents emphasise the importance of sustainable environmental management and the protection of species and habitats. They highlight the impact of climate change on penguins and the need to reduce emissions and regulate activities that threaten the environment. They also emphasise the need for open communication and transparency in decision-making. The community seeks to create a resilient and sustainable future while preserving its unique natural surroundings.

3. Prosperity - Economic sustainability: 38 mentions (11%)

Respondents expressed concerns about the future sustainability of the economy and the need to transition away from industries like mining. They emphasise balancing economic opportunities with environmental impact and the need for infrastructure investment.

4. Social Well-being - Community connectivity: 34 mentions (10%)

Community connectivity is seen as essential for a well-functioning and thriving community. Respondents emphasise the importance of support, inclusivity, and involvement in community events and activities. There is a focus on infrastructure maintenance, economic opportunities, and environmental sustainability. The role of community hubs in providing support and resources during challenging times is also highlighted.

5. Affordability - Focus on core services: 34 mentions (10%)

Respondents emphasise the importance of prioritising basic infrastructure over aesthetically pleasing elements, affordability, and the need to balance service provision and infrastructure maintenance. Respondents also expressed concerns about the need for more services, high rates, and the need for improvements in roads, power, and water infrastructure.

A more detailed examination of the principal themes, following Figure 3, delves into the community's collective perspective and individual sentiments regarding the proposals.

| Outcome/Theme | Topics | Frequency | % |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------|-----|
| Social wellbeing | | 164 | 49% |
| | Safe and healthy families/community | 62 | 19% |
| | Community connectivity | 34 | 10% |
| | Community development and inclusivity | 26 | 8% |
| | Youth support | 6 | 2% |
| | Community hub | 5 | 2% |
| | Safe drinking water | 5 | 2% |
| | Community inclusiveness | 4 | 1% |
| | Community revitalisation | 4 | 1% |
| | Concern regarding aging population | 3 | 1% |
| | Cycling tracks/infrastructure | 3 | 1% |
| | Mental health support | 3 | 1% |
| | Support for elderly | 3 | 1% |
| | Vibrancy | 3 | 1% |
| Welcoming to new people | 3 | 1% | |
| Prosperity | | 126 | 38% |
| | Economic sustainability | 38 | 11% |
| | Economic development | 23 | 7% |
| | Importance of road infrastructure | 13 | 4% |
| | Concern regarding council costs | 11 | 3% |
| | Support for smaller towns | 11 | 3% |
| | Support for tourism | 11 | 3% |
| | Community growth | 10 | 3% |
| | General support for prosperity | 3 | 1% |
| | Importance of water infrastructure | 3 | 1% |
| Support for freight infrastructure | 3 | 1% | |
| Affordability | | 79 | 24% |
| | Focus on core services | 34 | 10% |
| | Concern regarding cost of living | 18 | 5% |
| | Affordable lifestyle | 11 | 3% |
| | Affordable rates | 7 | 2% |
| | Community facilities | 6 | 2% |
| | Access to health care | 3 | 1% |
| Environment | | 71 | 21% |
| | Sustainable environmental management | 44 | 13% |
| | Protect natural beauty | 8 | 2% |
| | Concern regarding climate change | 7 | 2% |
| | Concern regarding natural disasters | 6 | 2% |
| General | Improve attractiveness of district/towns | 6 | 2% |
| | | 57 | 17% |
| | General support for community outcomes | 54 | 16% |
| Culture | Community outcomes are limited | 3 | 1% |
| | | 18 | 5% |
| | Acknowledge local history/culture | 9 | 3% |
| | Support for artistic ventures/facilities | 9 | 3% |

Figure 3: What do these community outcomes mean to you and your community?

A detailed description of each outcome/theme is outlined below.

Social well-being

Respondents desire a safe and affordable community where they can raise happy children and access essential services such as clean drinking water. They emphasise the importance of community involvement and connection. Overall, they want Buller to be a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive place that prioritises the well-being of its residents.

It is important that people feel connected to their community & that they have the opportunity to be involved in healthy events which give meaning and balance to their everyday life.

Prosperity

Respondents emphasise the importance of community engagement, infrastructure maintenance, and job opportunities for prosperity in the Buller district. They express the need for support in various areas such as tourism, healthcare, road maintenance, and business growth. There is a strong emphasis on affordability, environmental protection, and the preservation of cultural heritage. Some respondents also highlight the challenges of an aging population, limited infrastructure, and the impact of climate change on the region. The community desires a vibrant, safe, and sustainable environment that fosters growth and well-being.

If we want your people to stay and thrive we need to ensure the local economy and services are able to provide what they need

Affordability

Respondents emphasise the importance of affordability in their community. They highlight the need for prioritising infrastructure and necessities over aesthetically pleasing elements. There is also a focus on fostering economic opportunities while keeping the environmental impact in check. Additionally, respondents express concerns about the cost of living and the need for affordable rates.

I want us to protect and enhance the natural beauty of our district for future generations and ensure life on the coast stays simple, affordable and fun!

Environment

Respondents emphasised the importance of protecting and conserving the environment, especially the marine and coastal habitats for penguins and other sea and shore birds. They highlighted the impact of climate change, marine heatwaves, and storm events on these species and their ability to thrive. They also emphasised the need for sustainable practices, community involvement, and support for local businesses and initiatives that prioritise environmental well-being.

Karamea is a very unique part of New Zealand, containing rich fauna and flora that can only be found in Aotearoa. This beauty must be treasured.

General

Respondents emphasise the importance of all the community outcomes. They desire support and investment in various areas such as infrastructure, healthcare, arts, and environmental preservation. They also highlight the need for community involvement and collaboration to achieve these outcomes and ensure a high quality of life for future generations.

These are well chosen outcomes, and failings in any one of these outcomes would have a strong negative impact on overall community well-being.

Culture

Respondents emphasise the importance of community-driven projects and outside funding for small rural towns like Westport. They highlight the need for a central hub to unite the community, celebrate their history, and promote

cultural events. Maintaining infrastructure, preserving the environment, supporting the arts, and fostering inclusivity and diversity are also key concerns mentioned by the respondents.

All of these being in balance are critical to a community but with regard to this submission, key for a thriving Arts community; and in turn a thriving Arts community contributes significantly to a community in terms of vibrancy, culture and identity.

Priorities and Projects

What should our community's key priorities and projects be to make Buller a better place to live?

The community was invited to provide feedback on its key priorities and projects to make Buller a better place to live. Figure 4 illustrates the outcomes of the thematic analysis derived from this community input.

The top 3 areas of focus were:

1. Rooding and transport
2. Social/cultural well-being
3. Community services

The top 5 topics raised across project/priorities were:

1. Rooding and Transport - Improve/maintain rooding: 49 mentions (15%)

Respondents emphasise the importance of improving and maintaining the rooding infrastructure. They highlight the need for safe roads, enhanced accessibility, and proper maintenance. Some specific concerns include improving road access to Karamea, repairing the Bluff highway, and addressing infrastructure issues in Charleston. There is a strong sentiment that prioritising road-related issues is crucial for the well-being and development of the communities.

2. Infrastructure Planning - Improve/maintain infrastructure: 48 mentions (14%)

Respondents call for infrastructure improvements, particularly in areas such as footpaths, water supply, and stormwater systems. They emphasise the importance of maintaining existing public spaces and facilities. Some also highlight the need for upgrades to accommodate modes of transportation such as cycling.

3. Infrastructure Resilience - Improve/maintain flood protection: 37 mentions (11%)

Respondents emphasise the importance of improving flood protection and stormwater infrastructure to ensure the safety and protection of the community. Some respondents express concerns about the need for more funding from the central government and the potential impact on water supply resilience. Overall, the priority is to address flood protection and ensure the long-term safety and well-being of the community.

4. Prosperity - Support business/employment: 37 mentions (11%)

Respondents emphasise the importance of supporting business and employment for prosperity. Key aspects highlighted include encouraging private investment, supporting new business opportunities, creating jobs and economic growth, promoting tourism, and developing infrastructure.

5. Environment - Environmental protection and biodiversity: 29 mentions (9%)

Respondents have expressed various concerns and priorities regarding environmental protection and biodiversity. These include promoting sustainability and innovation, addressing climate change, and preserving the region's natural beauty. There is also a need to address specific issues like the impact of dogs in sensitive areas and the effects of freedom camping on the environment.

| Theme | Priorities/projects | Frequency | % |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|-----|
| Roading and transport | | 106 | 32% |
| | Improve/maintain roading | 49 | 15% |
| | Improve/maintain walking tracks | 17 | 5% |
| | Improve/maintain cycle paths | 13 | 4% |
| | Improve/maintain footpaths | 13 | 4% |
| | Develop public transport | 7 | 2% |
| | Improve road safety | 7 | 2% |
| Social/cultural well-being | | 103 | 31% |
| | Improve health services | 24 | 7% |
| | Encourage more events | 20 | 6% |
| | Support youth | 20 | 6% |
| | Safe and healthy families/community | 12 | 4% |
| | Improve education | 10 | 3% |
| | Support community engagement | 8 | 2% |
| | Encourage affordable/safe housing | 5 | 2% |
| | Support for older persons | 4 | 1% |
| Community services | | 79 | 24% |
| | Improve/maintain community facilities | 27 | 8% |
| | Funding for community facilities/projects | 13 | 4% |
| | Improve attractiveness of buller | 12 | 4% |
| | Improve communication | 12 | 4% |
| | Work with community groups | 11 | 3% |
| | Support arts | 4 | 1% |
| Prosperity | | 65 | 20% |
| | Support business/employment | 37 | 11% |
| | Encourage tourism | 28 | 8% |
| Infrastructure resilience | | 57 | 17% |
| | Improve/maintain flood protection | 37 | 11% |
| | Improve long-term resilience | 11 | 3% |
| | Improve resilience to natural disasters | 5 | 2% |
| | Improve food resilience | 4 | 1% |
| Infrastructure planning | | 53 | 16% |
| | Improve/maintain infrastructure | 48 | 14% |
| | Implement/improve toilets | 5 | 2% |
| Environment | | 35 | 11% |
| | Environmental protection and biodiversity | 29 | 9% |
| | Environmental education | 6 | 2% |
| Climate change | | 33 | 10% |
| | Climate change adaptation | 29 | 9% |
| | Climate change mitigation | 4 | 1% |
| Other | | 28 | 8% |
| | Equity for smaller townships e.g. karamea | 28 | 8% |
| Affordability | | 26 | 8% |
| | Affordability of rates | 15 | 5% |
| | Consider cost savings e.g., less consultants | 11 | 3% |
| 3 waters | | 25 | 8% |
| | Improve/maintain drinking water | 17 | 5% |
| | Improve/maintain water infrastructure | 5 | 2% |
| | Support those with own water systems | 3 | 1% |

| Theme | Priorities/projects | Frequency | % |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Refuse and recycling | | 18 | 5% |
| | Improve waste management | 14 | 4% |
| | Initiatives for waste reduction | 4 | 1% |
| Property | | 11 | 3% |
| | Improve/maintain parks/reserves | 11 | 3% |
| Governance | | 11 | 3% |
| | Governance and operational efficiency | 11 | 3% |
| Regulatory services | | 10 | 3% |
| | Streamline regulatory processes | 7 | 2% |
| | Resource management | 3 | 1% |

Figure 4: What should our community's key priorities and projects be to make Buller a better place to live?

A detailed description of each theme is outlined below.

Roading and transport

Respondents express a strong sentiment for prioritising improving and maintaining roads and infrastructure, especially in isolated areas such as Karamea. They emphasise the need for safe and accessible transport options, including cycleways and footpaths, to encourage active transportation and reduce reliance on cars.

Equity spread out to "all" Buller, not just Westport - better planning around roads, signs, footpaths, epitaphs, parks etc... Maintenance, smarter options for public transport.

Social/cultural well-being

Respondents highlight the importance of focusing on future generations. They emphasise the need for improved water delivery and health services and the importance of supporting and engaging with youth. Additionally, respondents express the need for safe and affordable housing, and improved communication and community engagement.

Jobs. Creating and future proofing economic growth in the area. Youth projects. Affordable options to housing developments that are 'off the Island.'

Community services

Respondents highlight the importance of prioritising basic services, such as clean water and footpaths, while also creating accessible and usable public spaces. They emphasise the need to protect the natural environment and support community groups working towards a better place to live. Additionally, there is a focus on climate change preparedness, supporting local businesses, and investing in the arts and cultural sector.

Better advertising and connection to community services, especially those that fly under the radar - community help centres like Citizens Advice, and facilities of social interaction and connectedness like the Library and Theatre. Paving and walkways to make these easier to access.

Prosperity

Respondents emphasise the importance of encouraging private investment and attracting quality enterprises and people to the region.

Promote Buller in a sustainable way, and support local creativity, small businesses, the environment, and have a solid plan for community resilience.

Infrastructure resilience

Respondents highlight the importance of protecting the district from events like flooding. They emphasise the need to develop infrastructure that is resilient to climate change and ensure food resilience.

Resilience - we face a number of threats to our community and way of life from climate change to AF8, but this should also be a Govt priority to support the West Coast E.g.: - Plan for a managed retreat of those areas at risk and ensure access to services for communities both sides of the Buller River. - Develop the port to provide alternatives to road and rail transport links that are inherently at high risk of interruption, and ensure the airport remains sustainable and is resilient to natural disaster threats. - Ensure power and safe drinking water supplies are able to be maintained or at least reestablished within days (not weeks) in the event of natural disasters. - Support local food production to provide supply chain resilience and reduce environment impacts.

Infrastructure planning

Respondents emphasise the importance of maintaining and improving infrastructure, such as footpaths, water, and stormwater systems. Some specific concerns include better cycle lanes, road safety, and public toilet facilities.

We seem to excel in creation but fail to set aside budgets to maintain these creations. The Kawatiri Cycle Trail is one such venture. Fabulous, yet frustrating as the maintenance is up to the local communities and there is real risk over time these will become neglected.

Environment

Respondents highlight the need for infrastructure improvements, such as better roads and clean water supply. They also emphasise the importance of protecting and preserving the natural environment, including native restoration and addressing climate change. Other priorities include promoting sustainable tourism, providing community facilities, and improving communication between Council and communities.

I would like to see Council supporting community initiated projects to protect our environment (e.g., Paparoa Predator Free project). This could be financially but could also be with staff and councillor time and communications support.

Climate change

Respondents mention several important aspects related to climate change. Environmental protection and climate adaptation are cited as key priorities, including transitioning to low carbon operating models and engaging with and listening to youth. Water supply resilience and flood protection are also highlighted, with a need for better stormwater infrastructure and preparedness for extreme weather events.

Address climate change issues, protect nature and peoples' well-being in the face of resource extraction and other commercial activities.

Other

Respondents from the Karamea area expressed various concerns and needs. They mentioned the need for more public services such as rubbish collection, water supply, and sewage systems. They also highlighted the need for improved infrastructure, support for community-led projects, and job opportunities in order to retain young talent and promote economic growth. One respondent emphasised the unique geographical isolation of Karamea and the need for tailored solutions to address their specific needs.

In Karamea we received fewer services such as those mentioned above. To receive funding to ensure other facilities can run well is essential, such as our swimming pool. Also, to keep having creative opportunities sorted by the council.

Affordability

Respondents feel it is important to have better water and stormwater infrastructure and support in keeping rates affordable. They suggest reducing rates, making it easier to build houses, and addressing the high costs and overregulation faced by small businesses. They also mention the need for effective management of projects, listening to the community, and investing in core services. Additionally, respondents express concerns about the cost

of rates, the use of consultants and lawyers, and the misuse of funds. The provision of clean drinking water and affordable rates is also emphasised.

Keep land value rating. Support volunteers and non-profit groups if they are making a difference. Use less consultants and lawyers - back your own staff.

3 Waters

Respondents emphasise the importance of having safe drinking water and the need for infrastructure improvements in the district. Some also mention the need for reliable water supply and flood protection.

Ensure key services like water is provided and flood management is a priority. It's no good wasting money on things that can be destroyed in a flood.

Refuse and recycling

Respondents mentioned various aspects related to refuse and recycling. Some important aspects highlighted include the need for efficient and cost-effective waste management systems and support for recycling initiatives. There is also a focus on reducing waste, promoting composting, and involving the community in events and decision-making processes.

Sort out Refuse problem. Why are we still paying for rubbish to be carted out of town? Make rubbish fees more affordable.

Property

Respondents highlight the need to promote community safety and parks. Additionally, they emphasise the need for public facilities, such as toilets, in Charleston and Westport. Funding for these improvements and collaboration with other agencies are suggested as potential solutions.

On Karamea we have a park of over 1 million acres (Kahurangi) 5 minutes away so spending money on little parks possibly could be channelled elsewhere. I question how often small parks are used in this area.

Governance

Respondents emphasise the need to improve internal staffing and systems, leverage existing talent, and address the needs and aspirations of the people and culture.

Council requires an administer to be placed into this Council and wrong's from the past put right.

Regulatory services

Respondents express the importance of streamlining and providing excellent customer service in regulatory services. They criticise the restrictive consent processes and high costs for small businesses and suggest making it easier to build houses. There are also concerns about the impact of permanent residents with dogs on beachfronts and near wildlife colonies and the environmental and economic impacts of freedom camping.

Stop the very restrictive consent processes, for small business or building consents. Flexibility in allowing people to take their own risk to buy a product that is made at home and not in a commercial kitchen, this allows small cottage business to work. Home properties with excessive requirements for consent. If there is possible risk why can't the owner sign a waiver to council responsibility allow the owner to take the risk?

How would you prioritise the following Council services for budget allocation?

The community was asked to prioritise Council services regarding budget allocation. Figure 5 displays budget preferences rank ordered by ranked average¹.

Highest priority – by total

1. Roothing and Transport (3.9)
2. Community services (4.5)
3. Infrastructure Resilience (4.5)

Lowest priority – by total

1. Governance and Elected Member's Support (9.2)
2. Regulatory Services (8.0)
3. Commercial Infrastructure (7.3)

Westport: Westport residents placed a higher priority on 3 Waters (4.3) than most other locations. This was closely followed by Infrastructure Resilience (4.5) and Infrastructure Planning (5.0). These areas are considered the most important for budget allocation, reflecting the community's emphasis on sustainable infrastructure and essential services.

Karamea/Little Wanganui: Karamea/Little Wanganui residents placed a top priority on Roothing and Transport (2.6). This was followed by Community Services (4.0) and Infrastructure Resilience (4.5), suggesting a strong focus on transport infrastructure, community support, and resilient systems.

Northern Buller: Residents of Northern Buller gave the highest priority to Roothing and Transport (3.1), followed by Community Services (4.0) and Refuse and Recycling (4.7). These priorities indicate a focus on transport, community welfare, and the importance of waste management services within the region.

Punakaiki/Charleston: For Punakaiki/Charleston, the highest priority is Infrastructure Resilience (3.7), demonstrating a significant emphasis on developing robust systems. This is very closely followed by 3 Waters (3.8) and Infrastructure Planning (3.9), showing a critical concern for water-related services and the planning of infrastructure. Community Services (4.5) also ranks highly, illustrating the importance of social infrastructure to the residents.

Reefton/Inangahua: The top priority for Reefton/Inangahua is Infrastructure Resilience (4.3) and Roothing and Transport (4.3), highlighting the importance of a robust infrastructure that can withstand environmental and other stresses and a need for effective transportation systems. Community Services (4.5) is also a key area, reflecting the value placed on services that directly impact the community's quality of life.

¹ The lower the score, the higher the importance ranking i.e. 1= most important, 12 = least important

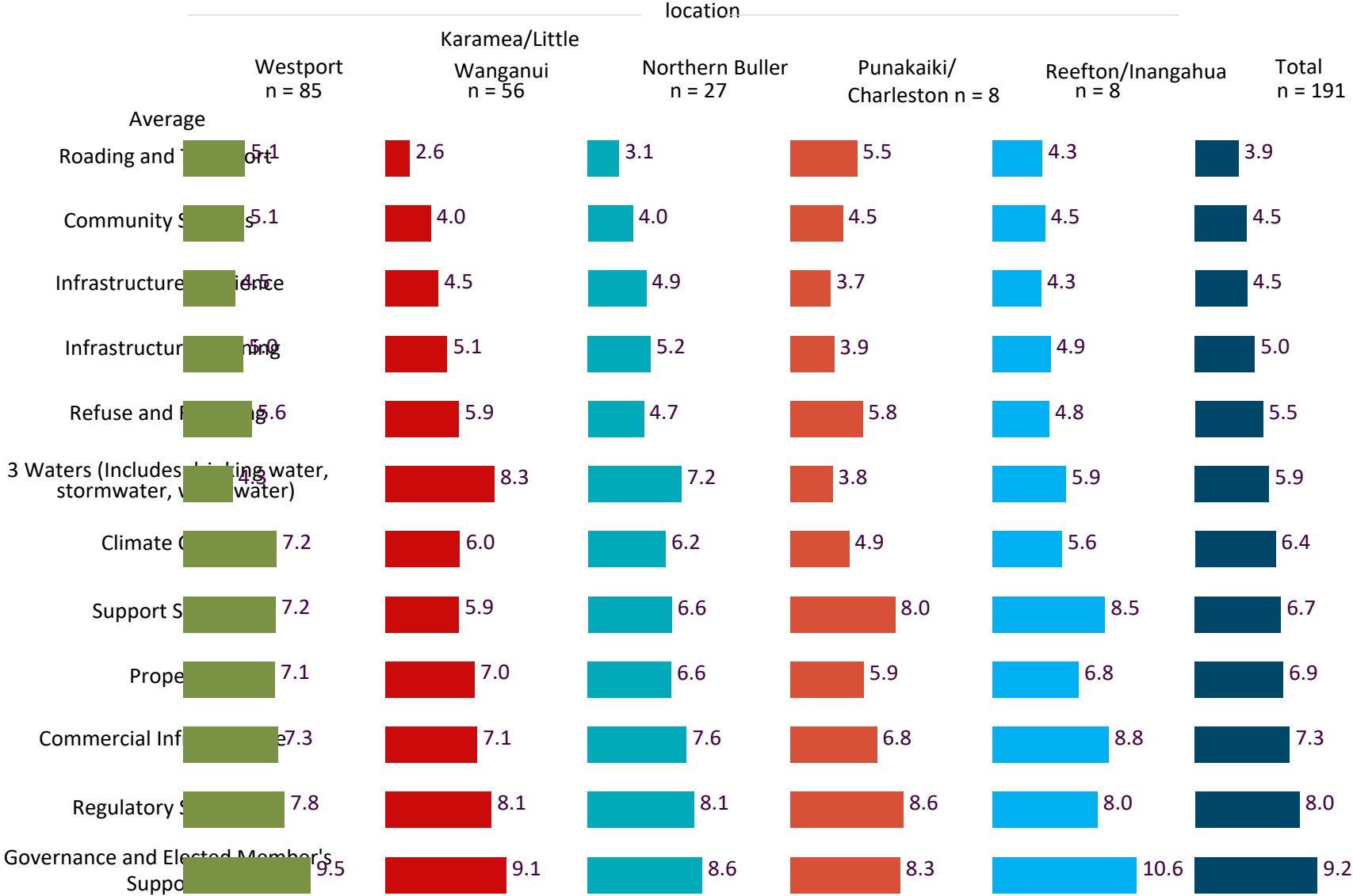


Figure 5: How would you prioritise the following Council services for budget allocation?

Feel free to share any additional thoughts or priorities that you think the Council should consider in its planning and budgeting

The community was invited to provide feedback on its key priorities and projects and additional thoughts or priorities that you think the Council should consider in its planning and budgeting. Figure 6 illustrates the outcomes of the thematic analysis derived from this community input.

The top 3 themes are:

1. Roading and transport
2. Affordability
3. Community services

The top 5 subthemes are detailed below, along with a detailed description.

1. Affordability - Concerns regarding rates affordability: 19 mentions (6%)

Respondents expressed concerns about the affordability of rates, highlighting the need for low maintenance costs and the burden on the older community. They suggest solutions such as united councils sharing resources and a fairer balance of rates across property owners. There are also calls for the Council to generate more revenue without increasing rates and to budget effectively. Respondents also mentioned the need for strategic planning and a proactive approach by council-controlled organisations to increase revenue and support key projects.

2. Roading and Transport - Improve/maintain roading resilience: 18 mentions (5%)

Respondents emphasise the importance of maintaining road access, particularly for the Karamea area, and prioritising core infrastructure over new projects. They also express the need for adequate funding, traffic control measures, and the central government's support for maintaining the Karamea Bluff Road. Additionally, a local business, Gentle Annie Seaside Accommodation and Camping Ground, highlights the economic contribution of visitors to the area and calls for improvements to De Malmanches Road. Respondents stress the significance of well-maintained and safe roads in ensuring the region's thriving.

3. Climate Change - Climate adaptation plans: 17 mentions (5%)

Respondents expressed concerns about proposed flood protection works in Westport, advocating for managed retreat as a prioritised outcome. They also emphasise the need for community engagement in environmental initiatives and the importance of resilience to climate change in long-term planning. Some respondents call for transparency and involvement of ratepayers and taxpayers in discussions about climate threats and managed retreats. Additionally, there are suggestions to address climate change through rezoning for buildings and implementing environmental protection policies.

4. Infrastructure Resilience - Improve flood protection: 16 mentions (5%)

Respondents mention the importance of flood protection and prevention in Westport, emphasising the need for improved stormwater management, functional drainage systems, and clear rivers. Some express concerns about the lack of investigation into the causes of flood damage and criticise the town's poor planning and inadequate drainage systems. There are also suggestions for building new structures on "stilts" and considering the potential impact of climate change and population decline on infrastructure resilience.

5. Community Services - Improve/maintain community facilities: 15 mentions (5%)

Respondents emphasised the importance of improving and maintaining community facilities to create a vibrant and attractive place. They mentioned the need for an enormous community hall, funding essential services like libraries and swimming pools, and upgrading play and adventure spaces for children. There were also requests for more recreational facilities, such as ten-pin bowling and mini-golf, and the preservation of important documents and artifacts through a new regional archival facility. Additionally, respondents highlighted the need for infrastructure improvements in certain areas, like footpaths, and toilets.

| Theme | Subtheme | Frequency | % |
|---------------------------|---|-----------|------|
| Roading and transport | | 38 | 11% |
| | Improve/maintain roading resilience | 18 | 5% |
| | Improve/maintain walkways | 9 | 3% |
| | Improve road safety | 4 | 1% |
| | Improve/maintain Bluff Road | 4 | 1% |
| | Improve/maintain public transport | 3 | 1% |
| Affordability | | 35 | 11% |
| | Concerns regarding rates affordability | 19 | 6% |
| | Consider cost savings e.g. less consultants | 13 | 4% |
| | Concerns regarding cost of living | 3 | 1% |
| Community services | | 32 | 10% |
| | Improve/maintain community facilities | 15 | 5% |
| | Support businesses/employment | 8 | 2% |
| | Promote tourism | 5 | 2% |
| | Improve/maintain public toilets | 4 | 1% |
| Climate change | | 23 | 7% |
| | Climate adaptation plans | 17 | 5% |
| | Climate mitigation actions | 6 | 2% |
| Infrastructure resilience | | 16 | 5% |
| | Improve flood protection | 16 | 5% |
| 3 waters | | 11 | 3% |
| | Clean drinking water | 8 | 2% |
| | Concerns regarding 3 waters policy | 3 | 1% |
| Governance | | 11 | 3% |
| | Governance and operational efficiency | 8 | 2% |
| | Focus on core business/basics | 3 | 1% |
| Environment | | 9 | 3% |
| | Environmental protection and biodiversity | 9 | 3% |
| Refuse and recycling | | 9 | 3% |
| | Initiatives for waste reduction | 6 | 2% |
| | Concerns regarding new rubbish collection | 3 | 1% |
| Regulatory services | | 8 | 2% |
| | Improve regulatory processes | 4 | 1% |
| | Invest in natural disaster response | 4 | 1% |
| Other priorities | | 6 | 2% |
| | Equity for smaller townships e.g. karamea | 3 | 1% |
| | Improve council employment conditions | 3 | 1% |
| Social well-being | | 4 | 1% |
| | Improve health services | 2 | 1% |
| | Development contributions | 1 | 0.3% |
| | Improve early childhood education | 1 | 0% |
| Infrastructure planning | | 3 | 1% |
| | Improve/maintain basic infrastructure | 3 | 1% |
| Commercial infrastructure | | 2 | 1% |
| | Encourage Air NZ to return | 1 | 0.3% |
| | Improve airport | 1 | 0.3% |

Figure 6: Feel free to share any additional thoughts or priorities that you think Council should consider in its planning and budgeting.

A detailed description of each theme is outlined below.

Roading and transport

Respondents emphasise the importance of maintaining and improving road access, particularly in the Karamea area. They also highlight the need for adequate funding for roading and transport projects. Additionally, there is a call for investment in public transport, primarily to support the aging population and address climate change concerns.

We need to maintain what we have and get core infrastructure sorted before we invest in new infrastructure and the cherries like new libraries and pools and parks which will need to be maintained and paid for in future. I would sooner a good road into Karamea than a new BBQ area somewhere.

Affordability

Respondents expressed concerns about the affordability of living in the area, particularly for those on low incomes. They suggest reducing costs by cutting down on consultants, reducing office staff, and reducing reliance on external support. There are also calls for improved waste management, more equitable rates, and better flood protection. Some respondents also express frustration with Council's spending priorities and suggest finding alternative revenue streams.

Rates affordability is a growing issue nationally and one that needs a solution. A united council across the West Coast sharing resources and expertise, offers benefits worth considering. The affordability of continuing to maintain 4 councils across a large geographic area and small population is simply no longer viable. Council also need to be thinking wisely about natural disaster response and resilience and ensuring that planning, resourcing and systems are in place.

Community services

Respondents expressed enthusiasm and support for community engagement processes and emphasised the need for more involvement and communication between Council and the community. They also highlighted the importance of funding and supporting essential services such as libraries, swimming pools, and information centres and promoting economic development, tourism, and arts in the community. Some specific infrastructure improvements, such as road access, recreational facilities, and public amenities, were also mentioned.

Consideration of any age group when any planning is done, it is essential. Change the RMA it is outdated. Westport needs a new multi function hall for weddings, and other large events situated away from floods and residents. The perfect hall for such events was turned into a picture theatre.

Climate change

Respondents express concerns about the proposed flood protection works and advocate for managed retreat as a priority, referencing the example of Grantham, Queensland. They emphasise the need for community engagement in environmental initiatives such as wetland restoration, flood resilience, and wildlife protection. There is also a call for long-term planning for coastal erosion and reducing carbon emissions through alternative clean air burning options. Climate change is a significant issue that should be factored into all planning and budgeting decisions. Finally, there is a desire for transparency and community involvement in discussions about climate threats and managed retreat.

Climate change is a big one it will affect all other areas listed. Crisis management, enabling people to respond to crisis and obtain sufficient training in responding that would also include mental health and trauma management. We need to talk about it open and frank to all community members of all ages.

Infrastructure resilience

Respondents mention the need for autonomous response during floods with support from BT Mining, but express concern about future planning without BT. They also emphasise the importance of engaging with the environment through initiatives like wetland restoration and flood resilience measures. Other important aspects include

investigating the causes of flooding, improving stormwater management and drainage, and avoiding wasteful spending while prioritising necessary flood protection measures.

The number one priority has to be flooding and a means of preventing further damage. There has never been an investigation into what causes the damage to the various parts of town. How can something be fixed if you don't know the cause? The planning has been abysmal, building houses in the wrong places and without adequate drainage systems in place. The very last consideration is moving or relocating. If there is no budget for that then it can't happen. A move would cost billions of dollars. Timely and proactive flood protection measures would have been a few million. That should have been done 10 years ago, not left as something to discuss in another ten year plan.

3 Waters

Respondents express various sentiments about the topic of '3 Waters'. One respondent criticises the government's plan, stating that each council should assess their own needs instead of investing in a nationalised infrastructure program. Another respondent highlights the importance of clean and drinkable water, while another mentions that bringing the water supply up to drinking standard is unaffordable for their community. Some respondents oppose the three waters proposal, emphasising the need for local control and the ability for ratepayers to have a say. Other aspects mentioned include the need for better water systems and filters, as well as concerns about fluoride in water.

Water infrastructure is critical. Also, roads and footpaths. Health care - we need access to quality healthcare. Equal opportunities for people living outside of Westport.

Governance

Respondents express concern over the affordability of maintaining multiple councils across a large area with a small population and emphasise the need for a united council that shares resources and expertise. They also highlight the importance of natural disaster response and resilience planning and the need for strong governance that considers the entire district and communicates effectively with all areas.

Council should stick to its core business of providing infrastructure and services and leave all the nice to do PC stuff alone. Climate change is a theory well covered by the science industry and not a priority for a town our size beyond adding resilience via flood protection.

Environment

Respondents emphasise the importance of school programs focused on environmental and social awareness. They also express the need to protect and preserve the natural environment, including controlling pests and avoiding activities that harm waterways and wetlands. Financial support for maintaining the Charleston-Westport Coastal Trail and the Kawatiri Coastal Trail is highlighted, with the belief that these trails enhance the community's well-being and celebrate the district's natural environment. Additionally, there are mentions of the need to keep rivers clear, stop flooding, and oppose certain initiatives like the TTPP, and the use of 1080.

That we live in and benefit from a diverse, healthy and growing district, that's innovative, dynamic and cares for the environmental future

Refuse and recycling

Respondents are concerned about reducing waste and rates, suggesting an overhaul of the waste management department and advocating for cheap and efficient collection and disposal. They also emphasise the need for fixed rubbish bins at beaches to keep them rubbish-free.

Reduce rates and all rubbish costs and put fixed rubbish bins at our beaches to reduce summer swimming rubbish and local tyrant littering!

Regulatory services

Respondents expressed concerns about the resource consent process, suggesting that it must be improved to encourage regional investment and development. Collaboration with regional council and DOC for monitoring resource consent breaches is also suggested. Building community resilience and well-being, working with larger businesses, and making Council more user-friendly is also emphasised.

Stop putting unnecessary demands on resource consent applications Deal with consent applications promptly

Other priorities

Respondents express the need to address substantial wage disparities in the workplace, as it affects motivation and employee retention. They also emphasise the importance of considering Karamea's unique location when planning and allocating resources. Additionally, there are complaints about council policies, the government's 3 Waters plan, and calls for better training and staff retention, affordable rates, and improved communication channels. Lastly, there are requests to prioritise protecting assets, reconsider recycling systems, and accommodate those who do not rely on electronic communication.

Karamea is a sizeable community, whilst being an hour and a half away from Westport, the next nearest town. It is a unique and community, in a unique location. It would be great if this was a consideration for planning and rating, rather than being lumped in to the systems that need to pay for water, sewerage and waste management.

Social well-being

Respondents emphasise the need for well-maintained roads and footpaths for social well-being. Access to quality healthcare is also a significant concern.

Water infrastructure is critical. Also roads and footpaths. Health care - we need access to quality healthcare. Equal opportunities for people living outside of Westport.

Infrastructure planning

Respondents emphasise the importance of prioritising efficient infrastructure planning and creating mining jobs, while criticising distractions with cultural heritage. They stress the need to maintain and prioritise core infrastructure over investing in new projects that may result in additional maintenance and expenses. The focus should be on improving existing infrastructure rather than allocating resources to new amenities.

We need to maintain what we have and get core infrastructure sorted before we invest in new infrastructure and the cherries like new libraries and pools and parks which will need to be maintained and paid for in future. I would sooner a good road into Karamea than a new BBQ area somewhere.

Commercial infrastructure

Respondents are requesting the return of Air NZ flights to Westport, suggesting the possibility of negotiating school holiday flights to bring more people into the area. Some suggestions include moving the airport to higher ground, improving public facilities such as larger toilets at Granity, and opening up pool tables at Hector to the public while removing them from the Freedom Campsite to save costs.

Not sure if this is council jurisdiction but is there any chance of Air NZ returning to Westport? Could we negotiate just having school holiday flights? This could bring more people into the area and also give locals better access for getting away.

Who we heard from

Survey respondents – organisation/individual

95% (n=259) of survey feedback came from individuals, while groups or organisations provided 5% (n=15).

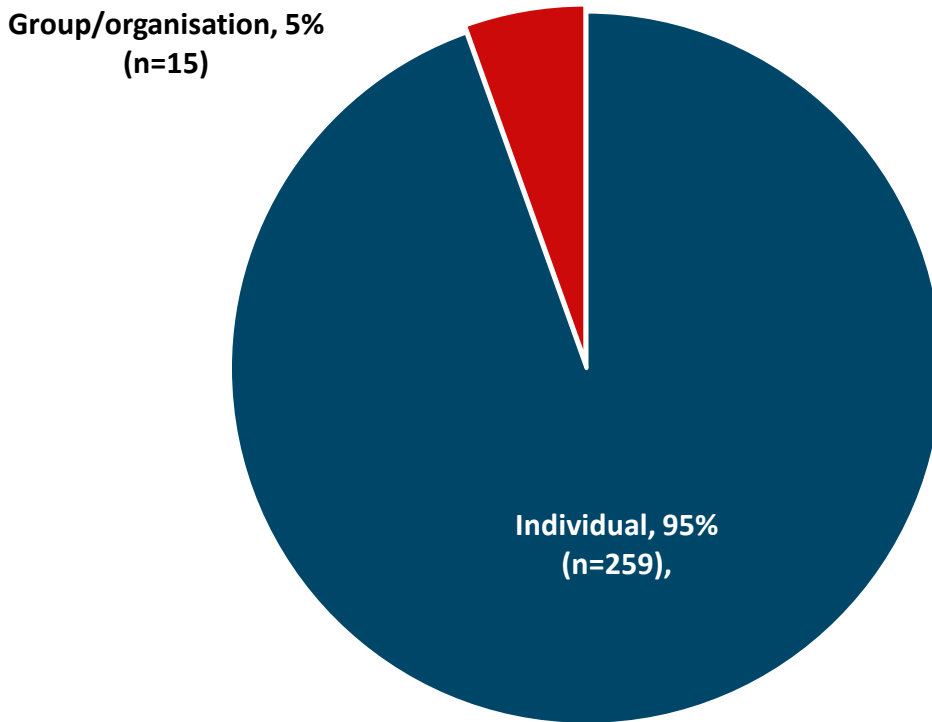


Figure 7: Are you providing feedback as an individual or for a group/organisation?

Organisations we heard from were:

- Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa, the Outdoor Access Commission
- West Coast Penguin Trust
- Karamea Information & Resource Centre
- Kawatiri Coastal Trail
- Heritage West Coast Inc.
- Charleston-Westport Coastal Trail Trust
- Gentle Annie Seaside Accommodation
- Karamea Community Incorporated (KCI)
- Promoting Buller (a new collaborative project)
- Karamea Pop Up Gallery
- On behalf of the Charleston Waitakere Community Group
- Buller Cultural Community Hub
- Homebuilders West Coast Trust

Survey respondent – location

Figure 8 displays the location of the survey respondents. It shows that the largest proportion of respondents are from Westport, making up 40% (n=108) of the total. This is followed by Karamea/Little Wanganui with 33% (n=91) of respondents. Northern Buller has 16% (n=43) of the respondents. Smaller percentages are noted for Punakaiki/Charleston with 7% (n=18), Reefton/Inangahua with 3% (n=8), and those outside Buller or representing an organisation at 1% (n=4). There is a single respondent (less than 1%) from Maruia/Springs Junction.

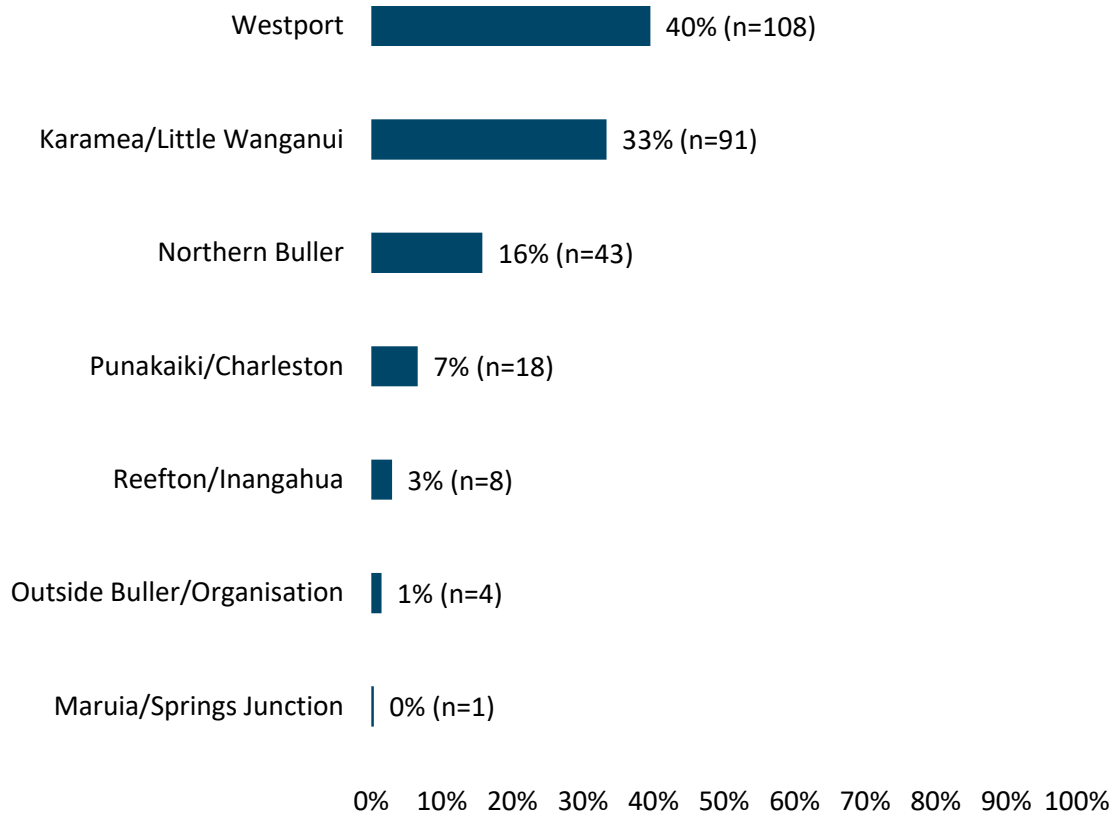


Figure 8: Where do you live?

Survey respondents - age

Figure 9 highlights the age of survey respondents.

- Respondents are predominantly in the older age brackets, with 55-64 years being the most common.
- Young adults (18-24 years) and seniors (75 years or older) are the least represented.
- A significant portion of respondents falls within the retirement age range of 55-74 years.
- There is a notable drop in representation from the 35-44 age group to the 25-34 age group.

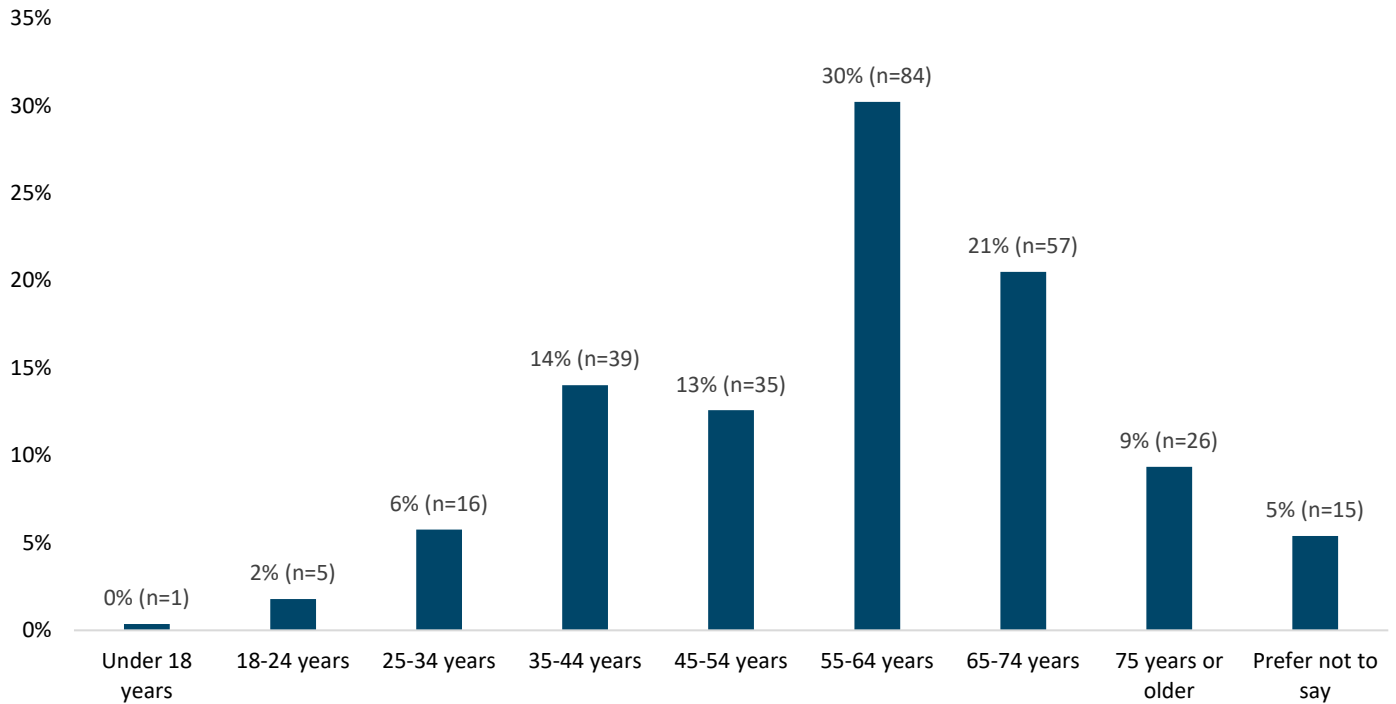
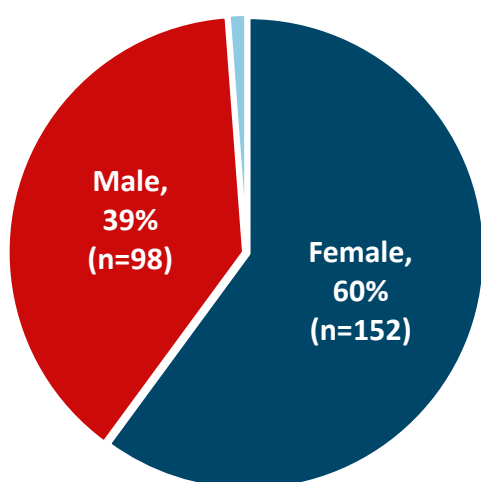


Figure 9: What is your age group?

Survey respondents – gender



Another gender, 1% (n=3)

Figure 10 displays the gender distribution of survey respondents. Females make up the majority with 60% (n=152), males constitute 39% (n=98), and another gender category is represented by 1% (n=3). This shows a higher engagement from female participants in the survey.

Figure 10: What is your gender?

Survey respondents – ethnicity

Figure 11 displays the ethnic distribution of survey respondents. The predominant ethnic group is New Zealand European, representing 81% (n=225) of the participants. Māori respondents account for 4% (n=10). Other identified groups include New Zealanders at 3% (n=7), Samoan and Tongan each at 0.4% (n=1), and Chinese at 0.4% (n=1).

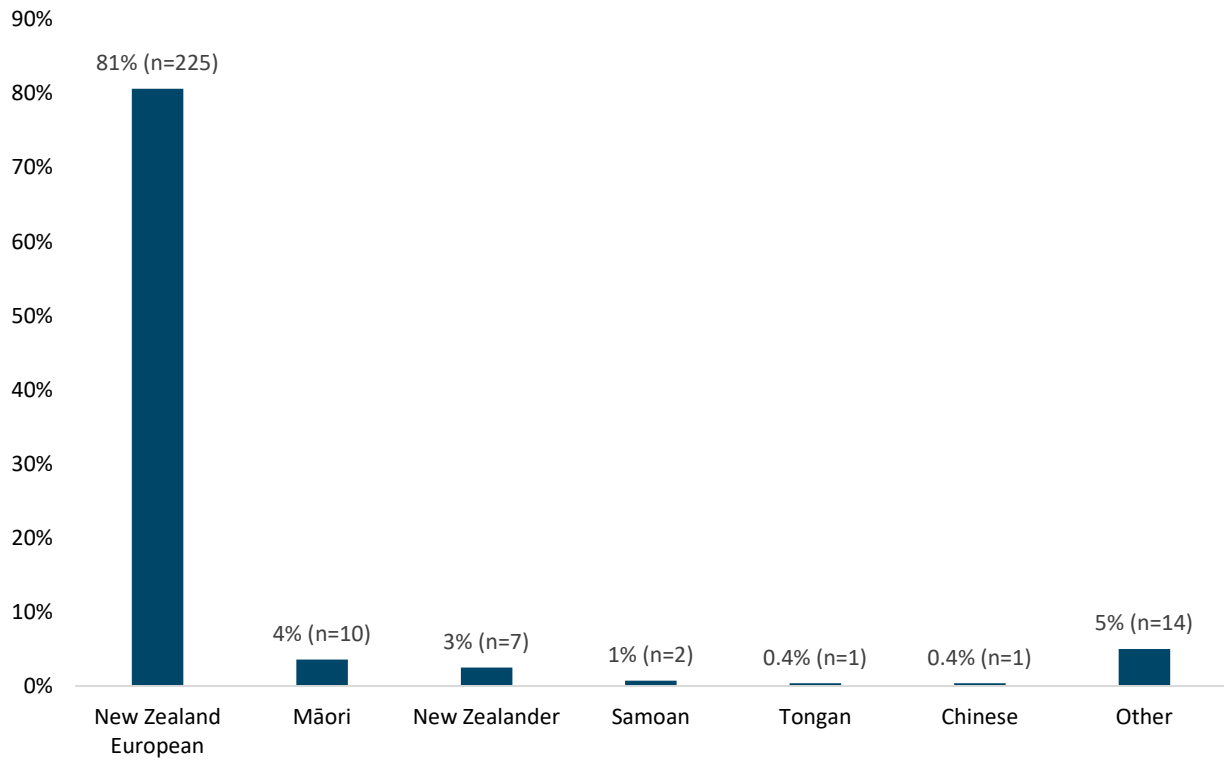


Figure 11: Which ethnic group do you belong to?

Element Four - Quick polls

Overview

Acknowledging that people are often too busy to complete long feedback forms, Council developed a solution for those usually unable to participate due to time constraints. The key message for the quick polls was, "If you're short on time, our quick online polls are the solution." These polls were available online, taking just a minute to answer with straightforward ranking or multiple-choice questions. They offered a quick and simple way for the community to contribute insights into Buller’s future.

Accessible through Council's website, these no-fuss questions spanned a range of topics, including infrastructure, climate change, roading, community facilities, services, council property, key projects, parks, green spaces, and funding, all focusing on the next decade’s priorities. Designed to take only a minute per question, the quick polls allowed time-poor individuals to engage and help shape a better Buller.

Council ensured widespread awareness of the quick polls by promoting them regularly through various channels. These included articles in local newspapers, advertisements in publications, radio spots, Council’s 'Connect' newsletter, media releases, Council website, posters in community facilities, engagement at drop-in sessions, and regular e-newsletters.

What infrastructure would you like to see the Council investing in the most over the coming 10 years?

Table 5 reveals community preferences for infrastructure investment over the next decade, highlighting stormwater (25%), drinking water (24%), and rubbish and recycling (22%) as the top three priorities. Lower priority areas include roading and transport (7%), community facilities (6%), and commercial infrastructure along with council property (4% each). Wastewater investment is a priority for 3% of respondents. These insights indicate a strong community focus on essential utility services.

| Infrastructure | Frequency | % |
|--|-----------|-----|
| Stormwater | 41 | 25% |
| Drinking water | 38 | 24% |
| Rubbish and recycling | 35 | 22% |
| Roading and transport | 12 | 7% |
| Community facilities (recreation and cultural facilities, libraries, communications, theatre/cinema) | 10 | 6% |
| Commercial infrastructure (Westport Airport, Westport harbour) | 7 | 4% |
| Council property (public toilets, parks and reserves, cemeteries, housing for the elderly) | 6 | 4% |
| Wastewater | 5 | 3% |
| All of the above | 3 | 2% |

Table 5: What infrastructure would you like to see Council investing in the most over the coming 10 years?

What’s important to residents?

Quick poll participants were asked to indicate the level of importance they attributed to the following elements

1. Climate change/ natural hazard resilience
2. Local road maintenance
3. Key district projects
4. Maintenance of parks, reserves and playgrounds

Figure 12 suggests that while all elements are considered important to some degree, maintenance of parks, reserves, playgrounds, and local road maintenance is slightly more important than key district projects and climate change/natural hazard resilience.

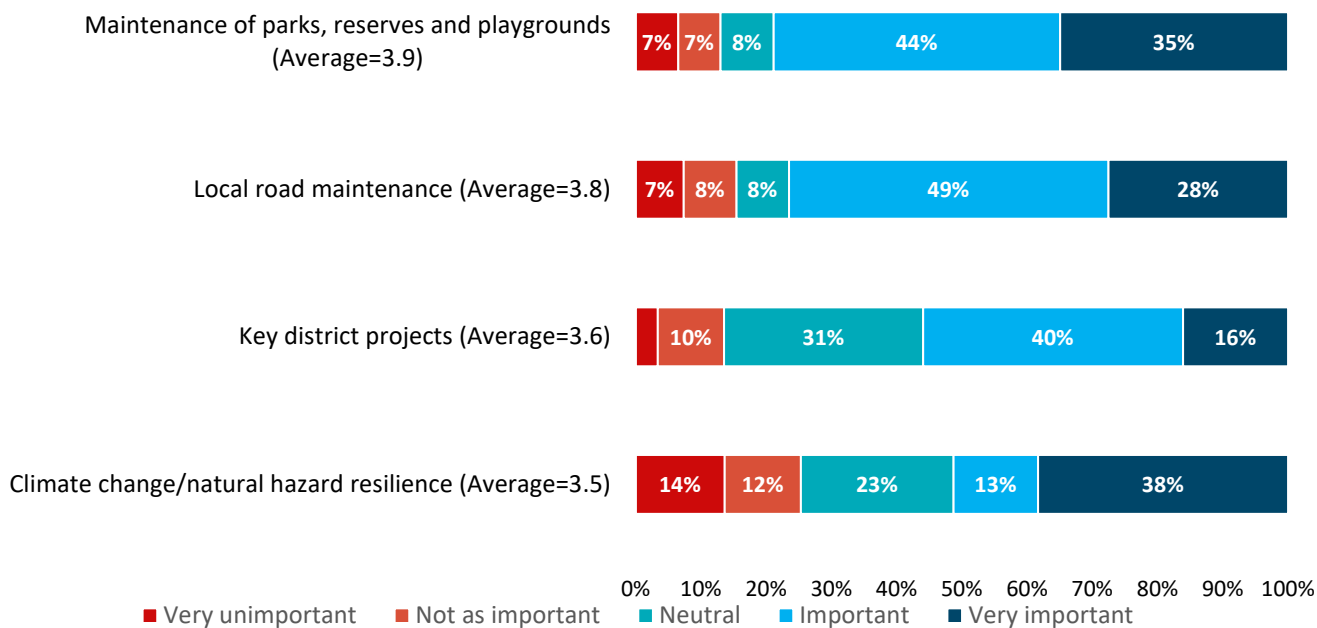


Figure 12: Quick polls - what's important to you?

| | Very unimportant | Not as important | Neutral | Important | Very important | Average |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------|----------------|---------|
| Maintenance of parks, reserves and playgrounds | 7% | 7% | 8% | 44% | 35% | 3.9 |
| Local road maintenance | 7% | 8% | 8% | 49% | 28% | 3.8 |
| Key district projects | 3% | 10% | 31% | 40% | 16% | 3.6 |
| Climate change/natural hazard resilience | 14% | 12% | 23% | 13% | 38% | 3.5 |

Table 6: Quick polls - what's important to you?

Community Facilities – Importance

Figure 13 indicates community priorities regarding the importance of various recreational facilities in Buller. Key findings include:

- **Parks and Green Spaces:** These are highly valued, with 74% (n=107) of respondents recognising their importance, making them the top priority.
- **Swimming Pools:** More than half of the participants, 54% (n=78), consider swimming pools important.
- **Playgrounds:** Close to half, at 49% (n=70), view playgrounds as important amenities.
- **Libraries:** A significant portion of respondents, 48% (n=69), affirm their value.
- **Community Halls:** This was reported to be important by 46% (n=66) of the survey participants.
- **Theatres:** A smaller proportion, 43% (n=62), consider theatres to be important.

This data suggests that the community prioritises natural spaces and facilities for physical activity, such as parks, pools, and playgrounds, with cultural facilities like theatres being less of a priority.

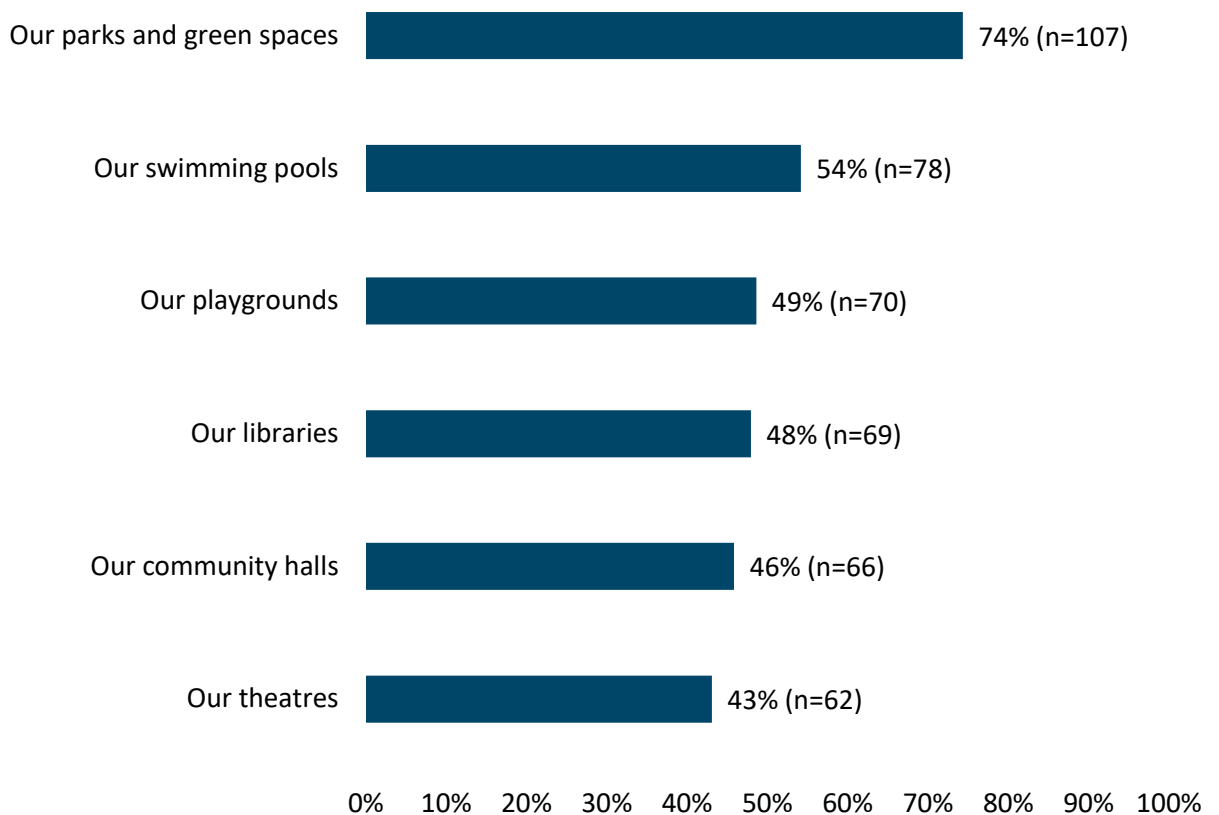


Figure 13: What types of recreational activities and amenities are important to you and your family?

Community Services – Usage

Figure 14 highlights that community facilities are utilised by a significant proportion of the population, with occasional use being the most common. Regular and constant use is less frequent, and very few participants report not using the services at all.

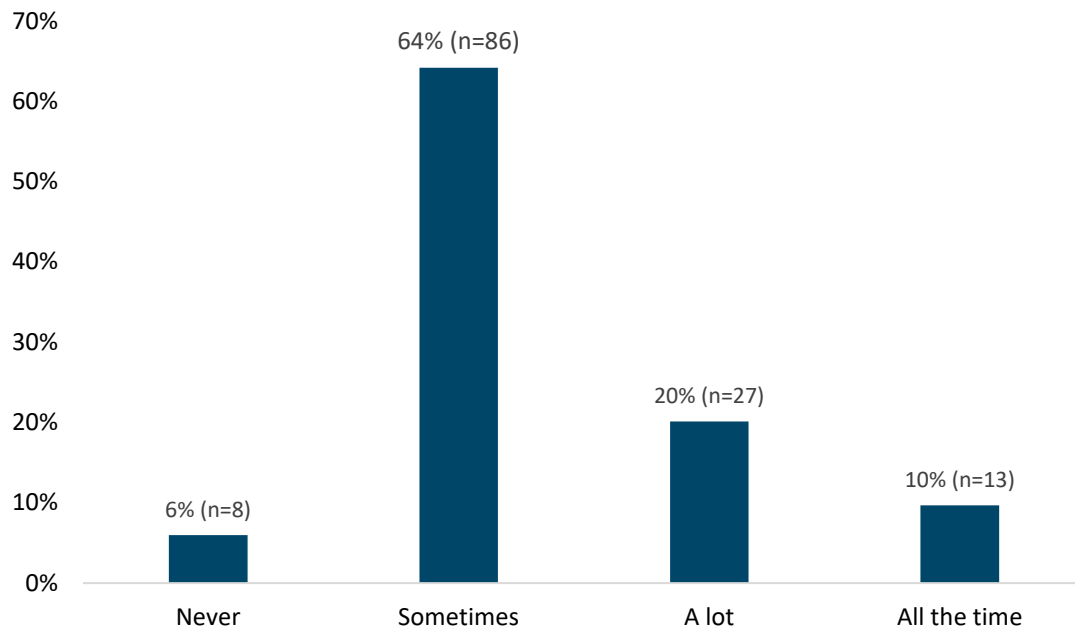


Figure 14: How often do you use our community facilities?

Sale of Properties

Figure 15 indicates most of the respondents, 65% (n=88), would support the sale of these assets if necessary. 35% (n=48) of respondents would not support the sale. These insights highlight a tendency among respondents to favour financial considerations, such as reduced rates, over the retention of certain council-owned assets, provided these assets are not critical.

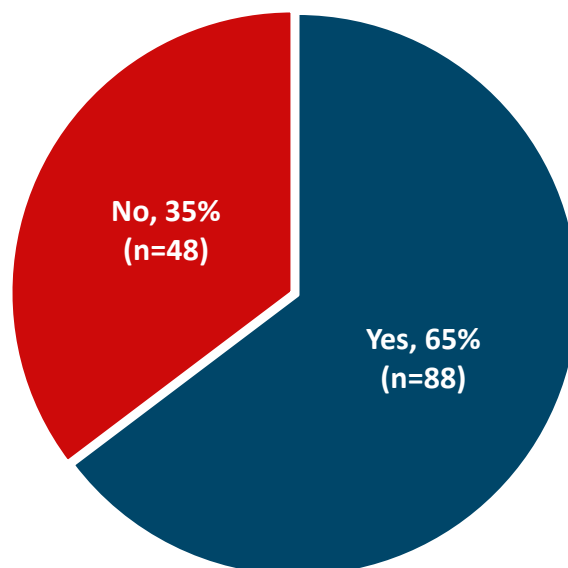


Figure 15: The council owns a range of properties and buildings (like community halls) If it were to reduce your rates and they weren't a critical asset, would you support the sale of these assets if necessary?

Would you support reducing or removing Council’s community grants and funding for museums and other community assets and groups if this were to reduce your rates?

Figure 16 shows the public opinion on the proposal to reduce or remove the council's community grants and funding for museums and other community assets and groups to reduce rates. The distribution of responses is as follows:

- 26% (n=32) of respondents strongly disagree with the proposal.
- 22% (n=27) disagree.
- 21% (n=26) neither agree nor disagree, indicating ambivalence or lack of a strong opinion on the matter.
- 20% (n=24) agree with the proposal.
- A smaller segment, 11% (n=14), strongly agree.

The data suggests a nearly even split in opinion, with a slight majority of respondents opposing the reduction or removal of funding for community assets and groups, while a significant minority supports the idea if it would lead to reduced rates. This reflects diverse perspectives on the value of community services versus financial savings in the community.

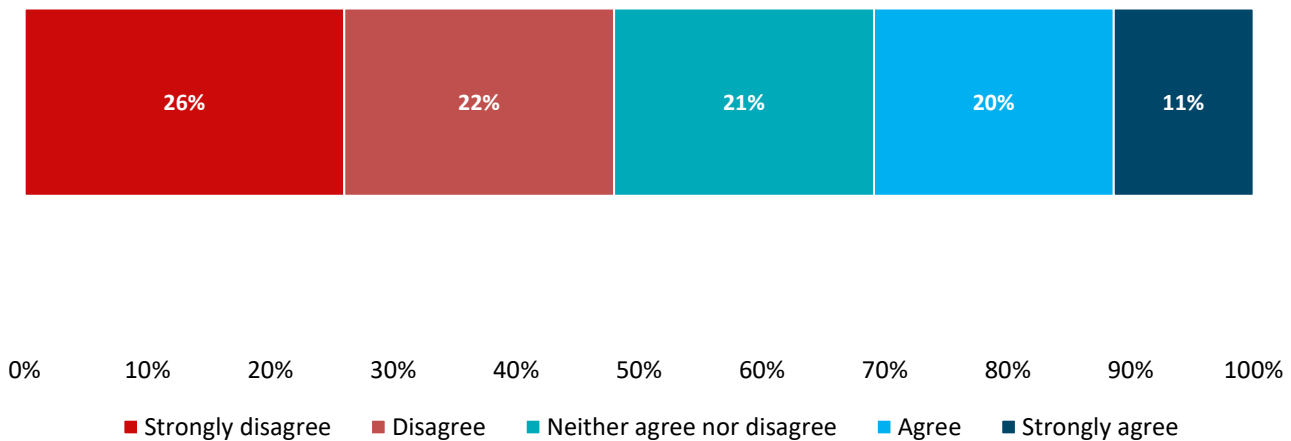


Figure 16: Would you support reducing or removing Council’s community grants and funding for museums and other community assets and groups if this were to reduce your rates?

| | % | n |
|----------------------------|-----|----|
| Strongly disagree | 26% | 32 |
| Disagree | 22% | 27 |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 21% | 26 |
| Agree | 20% | 24 |
| Strongly agree | 11% | 14 |

Table 7: Would you support reducing or removing Council’s community grants and funding for museums and other community assets and groups if this were to reduce your rates.

What is the most important thing to you Council should focus on over the next 10 years?

Quick poll respondents were asked to identify most important thing to you Council should focus on over the next 10 years. Figure 17 illustrates the outcomes of the thematic analysis derived from the quick poll feedback.

The top three areas to focus on were identified as

1. Infrastructure resilience
2. Affordability
3. 3 Waters

The top 5 subthemes are detailed below along with a detailed description.

1. Affordability - Affordability of rates: 34 mentions (20%)

Respondents emphasise the need to reduce waste and rates through measures such as changing rubbish collection practices. They also desire to reduce unnecessary expenses and lower rates to make them more affordable.

2. Infrastructure Resilience - Improve/maintain flood protection: 28 mentions (16%)

Respondents believe that improving and maintaining flood protection is crucial for their town's resilience to natural events such as flooding and earthquakes. They emphasise the need for clean drinking water and express concerns about the impact of flooding on property values and insurability. Additionally, they highlight the importance of efficient stormwater management and infrastructure maintenance to prevent flooding and ensure the safety of the community.

3. 3 Waters - Improve/maintain water infrastructure: 17 mentions (10%)

Respondents stated the importance of maintaining and improving existing water infrastructure, such as drinking water systems and stormwater drainage, to prevent flooding and ensure access to clean water for all. They also emphasised the need for ongoing maintenance and reducing wasteful spending.

4. Climate Change - Climate change adaptation: 17 mentions (10%)

Respondents emphasised the importance of resilience to climate change and natural events such as earthquakes, flooding, and tsunamis. They expressed the need for tackling climate change because Westport is vulnerable. Other aspects mentioned include community growth, protection of communities from climate change impacts, and resilience in infrastructure and buildings.

5. Social Well-being - Improve health services: 11 mentions (6%)

Respondents emphasised the importance of supporting the health system and local success through grants and scholarships. They also mentioned the need for health facilities, creating a safe community, and the necessity for more elderly housing. Criticism was directed at the lack of services in Reefton, with a plea for safe healthcare in the Buller area. Additionally, the feedback stressed the importance of community involvement, transparency, and communication in projects and plans related to health services improvement. It also highlighted a focus on resilience to climate change, promoting food growing and preparation, and improving infrastructure such as cycleways to enhance overall health and reduce emissions.

| Theme | Subtheme | Frequency | % |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|-----|
| Infrastructure resilience | | 45 | 26% |
| | Improve/maintain flood protection | 28 | 16% |
| | Improve resilience to natural disasters | 7 | 4% |
| | Improve food resilience | 5 | 3% |
| | Improve long-term resilience | 5 | 3% |
| Affordability | | 34 | 20% |
| | Affordability of rates | 18 | 11% |
| | Reduce council costs | 13 | 8% |
| | Encourage affordable housing | 3 | 2% |
| 3 waters | | 29 | 17% |
| | Improve/maintain water infrastructure | 17 | 10% |
| | Improve/maintain drinking water | 12 | 7% |
| Climate change | | 20 | 12% |
| | Climate change adaptation | 17 | 10% |
| | Climate change mitigation | 3 | 2% |
| Social well-being | | 19 | 11% |
| | Improve health services | 11 | 6% |
| | Support youth | 4 | 2% |
| | Work with community groups | 4 | 2% |
| Prosperity | | 17 | 10% |
| | Support business | 6 | 4% |
| | Encourage tourism | 4 | 2% |
| | Improve attractiveness of district/towns | 4 | 2% |
| | Encourage employment opportunities | 3 | 2% |
| Infrastrucure planning | | 14 | 8% |
| | Improve/maintain infrastructure | 14 | 8% |
| Roading and transport | | 14 | 8% |
| | Improve/maintain roading | 6 | 4% |
| | Improve/maintain footpaths | 5 | 3% |
| | Improve/maintain walking tracks | 3 | 2% |
| Refuse and recycling | | 13 | 8% |
| | Waste/recycling management | 13 | 8% |
| Governance | | 4 | 2% |
| | Good governance | 4 | 2% |
| Community services | | 3 | 2% |
| | Improve/maintain community facilities | 3 | 2% |
| Environment | | 3 | 2% |
| | Environmental protection | 3 | 2% |
| Regulatory services | | 2 | 1% |
| | Concerns regarding freedom camping | 1 | 1% |
| | Control use of pesticides e.g. 1080 | 1 | 1% |
| Property | | 2 | 1% |
| | Improve/maintain parks/reserves | 2 | 1% |
| Commercial infrastructure | | 1 | 1% |
| | Improve airport | 1 | 1% |

Figure 17: What is the most important thing to you Council should focus on over the next 10 years?

Infrastructure resilience

Respondents emphasise the importance of resilience to climate change and natural events such as earthquakes, flooding, and tsunamis. They highlight the need for improved stormwater and drinking water systems, access to clean drinking water, and protection against future flooding. They also mention the importance of community food gardens, maintenance of infrastructure, and the need to relocate the town away from flood-prone areas. The focus is on ensuring the safety and well-being of the community in the face of climate-related challenges.

Resilience to Climate change- moving people away from risky spots. Resilience to natural hazards by the people themselves- encourage food growing and prepping community to be resilient. Water tanks? Future focussed- cycleways i.e. Alma rd so kids/adults can walk/bike safely improving health, connection to others and reducing emissions. Encouraging good environmental practice.

Affordability

Respondents highlight the need for Council to use its employees rather than expensive consultants, reduce waste and rates, and prioritise affordable housing and reducing debt.

Dispensing with paying consultants and using the knowledge of very well informed locals

3 Waters

Respondents expressed the need to maintain and fix infrastructure, including drinking water and storm water systems, to prevent flooding and ensure access to clean drinking water. Infrastructure, flood protection, and clean drinking water are important.

Fixing our storm water and drinking water, we need to know our town isn't going to flood every time we get heavy rain, and every human should have access to clean drinking water

Social well-being

Respondents emphasise the importance of providing services to support social well-being. They also mention the need for elderly homes, staying safe in the Buller area, and increased visibility for mana whenua. Additionally, there is a focus on community health and well-being, resilience against climate change, and creating a safe and engaged community through various initiatives such as supporting events, improving infrastructure, and promoting environmental education.

Re-invigorating smaller communities, their halls/domains. Community involvement in projects, plans, uses of these assets, not being left to small groups to control the narrative but true transparency and communication to the community. Council to be more proactive on what goes on, especially the mayor with funding, whose gaining from these projects, conflicts of interest, due process etc? Also keeping medical services operating in the smaller rural communities.

Climate change

Respondents highlight the importance of resilience to climate change and natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and tsunamis. They emphasise the need for mitigation and adaptation strategies to tackle climate change, particularly in vulnerable areas like Westport. Additionally, there is a focus on protecting communities by building river and sea walls and promoting resilience in infrastructure and buildings.

Protection of communities from the effect of climate change... especially building more river and sea walls

Infrastructure planning

Respondents emphasise the importance of maintaining and improving existing infrastructure, with concerns about the age of water pipes and the need for ongoing maintenance. They also highlight the need to focus on basic infrastructure and community well-being before embarking on other projects. Additionally, there is a call for infrastructure that supports a growing population and addresses the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Infrastructure to support a growing population and the impacts on climate change

Refuse and recycling

Respondents express various sentiments regarding refuse and recycling. Some suggest that waste management should be overhauled and collection and disposal should be efficient and affordable, while others criticise the government for not doing enough. There are also calls for reducing rates and rubbish costs. Additionally, respondents highlight the need for fixed rubbish bins at beaches and addressing other issues such as lack of services in certain areas.

Council doing their part to reduce rates and all rubbish fees. Keeping the beaches rubbish free with summer on its way with more fixed rubbish bins.

Roading and transport

Respondents mention various aspects related to roading and transport. Some important points include the need for maintenance of footpaths, drains, and parks, making the town more wheelchair friendly, upgrading infrastructure such as footpaths and drains, and providing essential services like a medical centre and public transport. Resilience to climate change and natural hazards, as well as promoting environmental practices and improving cycling infrastructure for better health and reduced emissions, are also highlighted.

Roading, drinking water, and maintaining parks an green spaces an roadside berms there a representation of the town

Prosperity

Respondents mention the importance of creating tourist attractions such as murals and gardens, improving flood resilience and maintaining infrastructure, encouraging new businesses and industries, increasing airport services and shopping options, and promoting the district for tourism and job growth. They also emphasise the significance of resilience against climate change, supporting events and community engagement, managing stormwater, protecting the environment, and providing affordable rental accommodation for young professionals.

Encouraging new business and industry to Westport to help the transition to a post-mining economy as we know mining (particularly at Stockton) has a finite life and approvals for new mining projects are only getting harder to obtain.

Governance

Respondents mentioned the need for Westport to become more independent from central government. Other important aspects mentioned include earning back trust, loyalty, honesty, and involving communities in decision-making processes. There is also a desire for Council to stop borrowing money, represent ratepayers' interests, be fair about rates, reduce staff, and facilitate a ratepayers association. Additionally, respondents highlight the importance of re-invigorating smaller communities, involving them in projects and plans, and ensuring transparency and communication from Council.

Keep trucking on, stay as honest as possible, care for our communities, involve communities as much as possible, keep the grassroots activities to the fore

Environment

Respondents expressed concerns about the potential health risks of fluoride in public water supply and the use of poisons in roadside spraying. They propose initiatives such as planting community food gardens and fruit trees, replacing old water pipes, and ceasing the dumping of 1080 to improve quality of life for citizens. There is also a call for controlling invasive plants and increasing alternative energy in order to protect and celebrate the environment.

Protecting and celebrating the environment we live in through education and engagement (employed team). It is the foundation of everything else.

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