

From: [BDC Lgoima](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Official Information Request for Climate Change Queries Ref: 055/23
Date: Tuesday, 20 June 2023 11:36:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

We refer to your official information request dated 17 May 2023 for information related to climate change and impacts on the Buller District Council.

The information you have requested is provided via links to the information and marked in blue below. We hope this assists with your assignment.

Level 3 NCEA Assessment

Myself and two other year [REDACTED] students at Buller High School have an NCEA assessment in which we investigate the idea of Climate Change and its impacts on the Buller district.

We were wondering if you might be able to answer any of the following questions we have about the topic.

- What are some known economic consequences of climate change in the Buller District?
<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/media/00cdozin/climate-change-commission-submission.pdf>
- What are the risks and negative impacts of climate change on employment in the Buller district?
<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/media/00cdozin/climate-change-commission-submission.pdf>
- How are climate change impacts distributed across regions in New Zealand?
<https://environment.govt.nz/news/new-report-highlights-economic-impacts-challenges-and-choices-that-climate-change-poses-for-new-zealand/>
- What are the employment effects of transitioning to a low-carbon economy?
[The transition will impact jobs, such as creating well-paying jobs in new](#)

industries and a need to re-train people for low-emissions jobs.

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/economic-plan.pdf>

- What are the employment opportunities for mitigating climate change?
Same as above
- How have the floods affected the Buller District's economy so far?
<https://bullerrecovery.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Flood-Recovery-Action-Programme-V6-22-Final.pdf>
- Do you believe climate change will significantly impact the Buller district's financial growth?
No
- Is the Buller District facing hazards from climate change?
Yes, as is the rest of New Zealand.
- Has climate change affected the infrastructure of Westport?
Yes – examples included our waste and storm water network from the floods in July 2021; damage to the Westport Water supply intake, and our roading network from the storm event of February 2022. There was also significant damage to the Westport Wharf.
- What actions are being taken to maintain the infrastructure of Westport?
A significant Return to Service (RTS) Programme of repairs funded by Council, NEMA, Cabinet and Waka Kotahi.
- How has the recent floods impacted the infrastructure?
Aside from the Roding impact damage costs (\$13.2M + \$3.05M) \$17.1m costs for the infrastructure repair programme of 3 Waters, Westport Wharf, Tiphead revetment and Reefton historic landfill.
- What financial costs are the Buller District Council facing to maintain infrastructure?
This will be presented to Council as part of the 2024-2034 LTP (Long Term Planning).

LGNZ provide Councils with advice on future inflation trends. As I understand, these have not been provided to date. NZ Treasury - more recent indicators show inflation is likely to reduce in the short to medium term.

Table 1 – Key economic and fiscal indicators

| June years | 2022 Actual | 2023 Forecast | 2024 Forecast | 2025 Forecast | 2026 Forecast | 2027 Forecast |
|---|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Real production GDP (annual average % change) | 1.1 | 3.2 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 2.9 |
| Unemployment rate (June quarter) | 3.3 | 3.7 | 5.0 | 5.3 | 4.9 | 4.8 |
| CPI inflation (annual % change) | 7.3 | 6.2 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| Current account (annual, % of GDP) | (8.0) | (7.8) | (5.9) | (4.6) | (4.1) | (3.8) |
| Total Crown OBEGAL ¹ (\$ billion) | (9.7) | (7.0) | (7.6) | (3.6) | 0.6 | 3.2 |
| % of GDP | (2.7) | (1.8) | (1.8) | (0.8) | 0.1 | 0.7 |
| Net debt ² (\$ billion) | 61.9 | 71.0 | 91.2 | 94.7 | 95.3 | 89.2 |
| % of GDP | 17.0 | 18.0 | 22.0 | 21.7 | 20.7 | 18.4 |

Notes: 1 Operating balance before gains and losses.

2 A series of net core Crown debt (the previous headline net debt indicator) is on page 156.

Sources: Stats NZ, the Treasury

Source NZ Treasury report

- How is climate change affecting waterways around Westport?
<https://environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/stories/adapting-to-flood-risk-in-westport/>
- Do you think Westport contributes to global warming?
Yes. Every place around the world is contributing to global warming.
- Do you think we are taking enough actions in response to climate change in the Buller Districts?
Yes – please look at our Long-Term Plan, as well as what the West Coast Regional Council have in our action plans.

<https://bullerdc.govt.nz/media/ygmnd5ny/210416-draft-ltp-final-for-consultation-compressed.pdf>

<https://www.wcrc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2459ikxj617q9ser65rr/hierarchy/Documents/Publications/Corporate%20Plans%20and%20Reports/Long%20Term%20Plans/Current%20Plan/Long%20Term%20Plan%202021-2031.pdf>

For the below questions please research the NIWA website, and this will give you some up to date information around agriculture and climate change.

Also the Buller District Council Long Term Plan (above), and

- <https://niwa.co.nz/education-and-training/schools/students/climate-change/agriculture>
- <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/33747-climate-issues-facing-farmers-sustainable-land-management-and-climate-change-research-programme>
- How have the floods affected the Buller district's agriculture?
- How is the Buller District helping farming industries after the floods?
- Do you think climate change will significantly impact the Buller District's farming industries?

- Will climate change have an impact on our food production?

Yes

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/environment-and-natural-resources/climate-change-primary-industries/>

- Will food sources become more limited due to climate change?
Yes, we are seeing this now with the flooding in the Hawkes Bay, with crops been destroyed from flooding.

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.aaw9976>

- Will climate change affect the behaviours and patterns of farm animals?

Yes

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the Buller District Council by return email to lgoima@bdc.govt.nz.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/request-for-official-information/responses-to-lgoima-requests/> with your personal information removed.

Kind regards

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