



Westport 2100

Hazard Planning for Future Generations

MEDIA RELEASE – Monday 11th November 2019

Westport 2100 recommendations

Thirty two recommendations have been drafted by the Westport 2100 Group to manage the hazard risk facing the wider Westport area. These recommendations will be presented to the Buller District Council meeting on 13 November and the West Coast Regional Council meeting on 10 December.

Over the past seven months the Westport 2100 Group has been meeting monthly to review the local hazardscape and identify short, medium and long term options.

Recommendations are proposed for the West Coast Regional Council, Buller District Council, West Coast Civil Defence, New Zealand Transport Agency, West Coast District Health Board and the community.

“We all have a role to play,” said Chris Coll, Chair of the Westport 2100 Group. “It’s a fact that our community will be more at risk from hazards in the future. We need to do the work now to prepare over time for that future.”

Mr Coll said that the Group is pushing forward with two phases of work recognising a need for further investigation to inform decision making around medium and long-term action for flood protection options and river management.

“However, there is a lot of work that can begin now and we want to see this happen while we get the information needed to make the other recommendations.”

The Westport 2100 Group is also recommending the West Coast Regional Council establish a special rating district for the wider Westport area to accelerate the work they have identified.

“In order to progress some of the short term actions we need funding”, said Mr Coll. “While some of this would become available in the future through the Regional Council’s Annual Plans and Long Term Plans we don’t want to wait.”

Recommendations proposed by the Group focus on evacuation planning and community preparedness, forecasting and modelling of rainfall and river flows, flood protection structures and infrastructure, river and gravel management, critical infrastructure, protection of transport routes, planning provisions, hazard information and relocation.

Mr Coll said that the Group had spent a lot of time discussing whether parts of Westport may need to relocate.

“It is possible that parts of Westport may not be able to remain in their current location in the future recognising the unpredictable effects of natural hazards, including climate change. While it is unlikely to be tomorrow, next year, 10, 20 or 50 years’ time, it makes sense that we take small steps now to help those to come with these issues.”

Following the submission of the report to the respective Councils, the Westport 2100 Group will be undergoing a refresh recognising changes as a result of local elections and the loss of a current group member.

A complete list of the recommendations, and the report to the Councils, is available at www.wcrc.govt.nz/westport2100

The public can also reach out to the elected and community members of the Westport 2100 Group for more information.

ENDS

Media contact

Chris Coll | Chair – Westport 2100 Working Group | 027 431 1002

Background

The purpose of the working group is to engage with the Westport community and work together, with the Councils, to identify a pathway forward for the town for the benefit of future generations. It will consider how to manage natural hazards and what the town needs to do as it looks towards the future. This project has a long term focus and will result in recommendations to both the Buller District Council and West Coast Regional Council for future work programmes for civil defence, hydrology and operations.

The Westport 2100 Working Group Members are:

Chris Coll (Chair)	Community Member
Clr Neal Clementson	West Coast Regional Council
Clr Terry Archer	West Coast Regional Council
Clr Phil Rutherford	Buller District Council (standing in for Clr Sharon Roche)
Clr Shayne Barry	Buller District Council
Phil Wheble	West Coast District Health Board
Ned Tauwhare	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae
Colin Hey	New Zealand Transport Agency
Grant Weston	Community Member
Jodi Murray	Community Member
Dan Moloney	Community Member
Simone Hoodhills	Community Member

Stood down due to relocation

Mark Stephens	Community Member
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Back row: Dan Moloney, Terry Archer, Phil Wheble, Mark Crowe (West Coast Civil Defence), Mark Stephens, Chris Coll (Chair), Shayne Barry

Front row: Jodi Murray, Simone Hoodhills, Sharon Roche, Neal Clementson, Grant Weston

Absent: Ned Tauwhare, Colin Hey