

11 May 2009

Landfill, cultural hub and infrastructure among draft Long Term Plan proposals

Construction of a district landfill, development of a cultural hub and upgrades to water, roads and stormwater are among the projects proposed in the Buller District Council draft Long Term Plan 2009-2019 which is currently open for consultation.

The draft plan is put together every three years. It outlines projects and services Council intends to deliver over a 10-year period and how these will be funded.

The plan also includes proposals to change the fees and charges structure for dog owners. The Council is proposing to introduce a lesser fee for responsible dog owners and a higher fee for those owners with a history of complaints or breaches of dog ownership laws.

A new targeted rate to assist in funding district promotion is also being proposed. District promotion would continue to be part funded 40% from general rates, with a targeted rate for commercial/tourism operators who advertise or who belong to a registered tourism association. A presentation explaining the rationale behind the proposed rate will be held in the Holcim Room of the Solid Energy Centre at 7.30pm tonite. This will also explain what the additional funding will be used for.

“We have ticked off a number of large projects over the last six years, including the sewerage treatment plants for Reefton and Westport, the construction of the Solid Energy Centre, introduction of recycling services, Streetscape upgrades, and a range of rural projects,” says Mayor Pat McManus. “By continuing investment into our facilities and infrastructure, we show we have confidence in the district and our future, and a committed to improving services while being mindful of costs.”

A 4.43% general rate increase is proposed for 2009/2010, with decreases in sewerage targeted rates due to drop in Westport and Carters Beach as a result of the receipt of the sewerage subsidy.

The plan outlines several other key issues for the public to consider and make comment on. These include;

- Buller 2050 – a 50 year strategic plan for the Buller District Council
- Upgrades to water treatment plans to comply with new government standards
- Bridge and street upgrades
- Development of the Westport Performing Arts Centre
- Replacement of Reefton swimming pool
- Separation of sewer and stormwater to reduce sewerage overflows
- Upgrading of playgrounds and equipment
- Additional pensioner housing units for Karamea and Westport
- Urban development – footpaths and banners

Copies of the full draft plan and the submission form are available from the Council office, service centers and libraries. It can also be viewed and downloaded from the council website at www.bullerdc.govt.nz. A summary of the plan was delivered to mail boxes in the Buller district on 6 May and can be viewed on the Council website.

Submissions are open until 4.30pm on Monday 18 May 2009.

ENDS



**Further information; Gary Murphy (Chief Executive)
Angela Oosthuizen (Manager – Corporate Services)
Buller District Council (03) 788 9111**