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30 June 2022

Hon. Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Local Government
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Tēnā koe Minister

FLOOD RESILIENCE - WESTPORT

On 17th February this year, following a series of flood events in Buller, you wrote to the West Coast Regional Council and the Buller District Council offering support for the resilience work underway.

Expectations were outlined as to how Government might consider co-investment in flood protection. You requested that this should be part of a set of solutions to enhance the flood resilience of the Buller District. It was suggested that the co-investment would need to be described in a proposal that was an integrated package focussed on longer term flood resilience. You asked us to describe the different contributions that the two Councils could contribute to this work, as well as meeting several other criteria.

We have spent the time since receiving your letter developing a proposal that we believe meets your expectations. Through this process, we have found that the climate related aspects of the proposal are a real challenge to our existing governance and regulatory frameworks. In that regard, we believe that there are real opportunities to test the proposals we have recommended and share the lessons and outcomes we learn along the way.

Our community's situation is urgent. For us, the need for climate adaptation is here and now, and the hard defences, in particular, cannot come soon enough.

We realise that you have a very demanding schedule, however, we are very keen to meet with you to talk through our proposal. Alternatively, you would be most welcome in Westport to visit the various sites first hand.

On behalf of the West Coast Regional Council, the Buller District Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, we are very pleased to submit our joint proposal for co-investment to you and look forward to securing Westport's future together.

Allan Birchfield
Chair
West Coast Regional Council

Jamie Cleine
Mayor
Buller District Council

Francois Tumahai
Chair
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae

Copies to:

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