



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE – 17 March 2023

Westport Advanced Flood Forecasting Video Launched

NIWA, in conjunction with the West Coast Regional Council and Buller District Council have launched a new video highlighting the Westport Advanced Flood Forecasting Project and emergency advice for West Coast residents.

Several flood events have occurred in Westport over the last century, but the 2021 red alert event was the largest flood event for the town since 1926 and allowed little time to issue warnings and evacuate Westport residents.

Accurate and reliable flood forecasts have become a top priority for the Westport community and in 2021, the Regional Council and NIWA launched a five-year project to collect and analyse data from monitoring sites in the Buller River to create an improved forecasting computer model that will increase accuracy and lead time to increase warning time for the evacuation of Westport during flood events.

The flood forecasting information system will help Westport to better plan for future flood events and develop more robust systems for emergency management.

Fiona Thomson, Planning and Science Manager said the flood forecasting system will improve planning and coordination of evacuation measures for the Westport area in times of emergency.

“The flood warning system is critical to help with flood response procedures and will provide greater security for the Westport community around long-term flood management.”

Check out this link to the video here: <https://vimeo.com/738788189/edd991c4b9>

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