



Compiled Date	21/06/2024
File Number	23.24.138

## LGOIMA

When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names and contact details of individual requestors will be withheld to protect their privacy.

Information requested by the media, lobby groups, public sector organisations and MPs will always be published, while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

<b>Request from:</b>	Forest and Bird
<b>Information requested:</b>	Fast Track Bill applications
<b>Response by:</b>	Scott Baxendale, Acting Chief Executive

Forest and Bird  
PO Box 2516  
Christchurch 8140

Via Email:

Dear Forest and Bird

**Official information request for Fast Track Bill information**

I refer to your official information request dated 21 May 2024 for Fast Track Bill information.

You have asked for the following information:

1. **A copy of any application for any project that the Council has submitted to the process to be considered for additional to Schedule 2 of the Fast Track Approvals Bill.**

An application was not submitted as it was not necessary as a letter of interest was supplied (enclosed).

2. **A copy of all correspondence between the council, councillors and staff in relation to the Fast Track Approval Bill (including, but not limited to, any application to be considered for addition to Schedule 2 of the Bill) and the following people or organisations:**

- a. **Any member of Parliament, whether in their capacity as a MP or as a Minister of the Crown**
- b. **Ministry for the Environment**
- c. **Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment**
- d. **Department of Conservation**
- e. **Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet**
- f. **Ministry of Primary Industries**

The information you have requested is enclosed.

There is no charge in supplying this information to you.

**Council has adopted a Proactive Release Policy and accordingly may publish LGOIMA responses on the Council Website at <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses>.** The collection and use of personal information by the Westland District Council is regulated by the Privacy Act 2020. Westland District Council's Privacy Statement is available on our website [here](#)

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Business Analyst at [LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz), 03 756 9091.

Sincerely,



**Scott Baxendale** | Acting Chief Executive

SB/MB

**Archived:** Friday, 21 June 2024 2:13:36 pm

**From:** [Diane Maitland](#)

**Mail received time:** Thu, 15 Feb 2024 04:05:45

**Sent:** Thu, 15 Feb 2024 04:05:34

**To:** [Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz); [Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz)

**Cc:** [Maureen Pugh - National List MP based in West Coast Tasman](#); [Helen Lash](#); [Simon Bastion](#)

**Subject:** 15.02.24 - Hon Chris Bishop (Fastracking the Consenting Bill)

**Importance:** High

**Sensitivity:** None

**Attachments:**

[15.02.24 - Hon Chris Bishop \(Fastracking the Consenting Bill\).pdf](#);

---

Good afternoon Minister Bishop,

Please find attached a letter from Mayor Helen Lash and CE Simon Bastion, Westland District Council.

Kind Regards

Diane

**Diane Maitland** | Executive Assistant

**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 +64 3 756 9038 |  +64 27 503 9111 |  [diane.maitland@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:diane.maitland@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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15 February 2024

Hon Chris Bishop, Minister of Infrastructure  
Freepost Parliament  
Private Bag 18 888  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Westland District Council  
36 Weld Street  
Private Bag 704  
Hokitika 7842  
Phone 03 756 9010  
Email [council@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:council@westlanddc.govt.nz)

Email: [Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Chris.Bishop@parliament.govt.nz)

Dear Minister,

**Reference:** Franz Josef Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) - Fast Tracking Consenting Bill

**Request:** Please include the Franz Josef WWTP project in **Schedule 2**

### Introduction

The Franz Josef oxidation ponds are under serious threat due to significant aggregation of the Waiho (Waiau) River bed to the true north. Westland District Council (Council) is currently undertaking emergency works to extend the river protection works which should temporarily protect the oxidation ponds.

The Waiho River is a dynamic river which has historically caused many flooding events over the years. IN recent times a flood event in 2019 destroyed the State Highway Bridge and in 2016 flooding of the Scenic Circle Hotel valued at \$30M.

Recently a significant weather event in January 2024 has accelerated the radical shift of the Waiho River at Franz Josef from the true left to the true right. 95% of the main channel of the Waiho River is now flowing on the true right and into Tatare Stream to the northwest. This fundamental change in the behaviour of the river will have serious consequences on surrounding infrastructure and ecological values.

The West Coast Regional Council has recently completed a technical report which has identified that the WWTP needed to be relocated in the short to medium term.

### Problem Definition

Franz Josef is a tourist town and contributes \$300m per annum to GDP. It has a population of approximately 400 people and through the tourist season accommodates over 3,000 people per night. The WWTP is constructed west of the Franz Josef Township (approximately 1.5km) on the true right bank of the Waiho River. The recent shift in the course of the river has put the oxidation ponds at risk from flood inundation. If this eventuates it would create an environmental and ecological disaster, having serious impacts on the tourist town and our reputation internationally.

Figure 1 below shows an aerial view of the Waiho River and surrounding infrastructure.



Figure 1. The Franz Josef sewerage ponds sit on the north bank of the Waiho River, as seen in this view looking to the northwest<sup>1</sup>.

### Proposal

Council propose to build a new treatment plant to ensure the compliance and continued treatment of wastewater in Franz Josef. This was originally planned within the next ten years due to the consent expiry in 2034. It is imperative that construction of the new plant is brought forward due to the river avulsion below the ponds and the risk of the ponds being flooded.

The existing treatment ponds are not a replacement feasible solution and will be replaced by a mechanical plant. This mechanical plant would be relocated to an area which services the current infrastructure and any expansion to the north of the township. It will likely take three to four years to design and build a new treatment plant. Two sites have been identified for the possible location of the new plant. Future designs will be based on considerations of land availability, likely construction constraints, capital cost, natural hazards risk and environmental performance. The chosen option is likely to provide the highest level of protection from the variable flooding and aggradation behaviour of the Waiho River and provide a high level of flexibility for managing future flow, load and discharge quality requirements.

### Risks from not Fast Tracking

Building a new WWTP involves a lengthy resource consent process due to the potential environmental and intrinsic impacts of wastewater discharges. A wastewater resource consent could take up to four years to be granted considering the Franz Josef township borders Westland Tai Poutini National Park. Also, Franz Josef has a significant number of natural hazards that need to be mitigated in the design. If the consent is required to go through environmental court hearings, then further delays are anticipated. Thus, compromising the existing site and oxidation ponds.

Council will continue to work collaboratively with its strategic partners, Iwi and Department of Conservation, throughout the consenting process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Helen Litch  
Mayor

Simon Bastion  
Chief Executive

<sup>1</sup> Source: [Waiho River shift: Protection wall proposed for Franz Josef sewerage ponds - NZ Herald](#)

**Archived:** Friday, 21 June 2024 2:14:53 pm  
**From:** [Simon Bastion](#)  
**Mail received time:** Thu, 15 Feb 2024 03:56:34  
**Sent:** Thu, 15 Feb 2024 03:56:25  
**To:** [Diane Maitland](#)  
**Cc:** [Alicia Paulsen](#); [Scott Baxendale](#); [Helen Lash](#)  
**Subject:** Fast Track Consenting Bill Letter v3 - Simon Review  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Sensitivity:** None  
**Attachments:**  
[Fast Track Consenting Bill Letter v3 - Simon Review.docx](#);

---







Hi Diane – this is all good to go. Can you also include Maureen on the list of recipients.

Scott – Helen is contacting Paul Madgwick to get him know

Regards

Simon

**Simon Bastion** | Chief Executive  
**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |     
 +64 3 756 9033 |  +64 27 838 5268 |  [simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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**Archived:** Friday, 21 June 2024 2:14:07 pm  
**From:** [Simon Bastion](#)  
**Mail received time:** Thu, 15 Feb 2024 03:14:50  
**Sent:** Thu, 15 Feb 2024 03:14:42  
**To:** [Helen Lash](#)  
**Cc:** [Scott Baxendale](#); [Alicia Paulsen](#); [Diane Maitland](#); [Te Arohanui Cook](#)  
**Subject:** Fast Track Consenting Bill Letter v3 - Simon Review  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Sensitivity:** None  
**Attachments:**  
[Fast Track Consenting Bill Letter v3 - Simon Review.docx](#);

Good afternoon Helen,


As indicated the DA team have pulled together a draft to include as a fast track NC process that is being proposed by Minister Chris Bishop. Can I ask that you review accordingly and confirm any changes.

I would also like to point out that we should advise Paul Madgwick (as Chair of Makaawhio) that we are seeking this fast-track option.

The target is to get this released by midday tomorrow

Regards

**Simon Bastion** | Chief Executive  
**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   
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**Archived:** Friday, 21 June 2024 2:17:25 pm  
**From:** [Scott Baxendale](#)  
**Mail received time:** Thu, 15 Feb 2024 19:52:26  
**Sent:** Thu, 15 Feb 2024 19:52:22  
**To:** [Alicia Paulsen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Fast Track Consenting Bill Letter v3 - Simon Review  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Sensitivity:** None

---

fyi

**Scott Baxendale** | Group Manager District Assets  
**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |     
 +64 3 756 9034 |  +64 27 362 0355 |  [Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Scott Baxendale  
**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2024 8:50 AM  
**To:** Simon Bastion <[simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fast Track Consenting Bill Letter v3 - Simon Review

Thanks Simon

**Scott Baxendale** | Group Manager District Assets  
**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |     
 +64 3 756 9034 |  +64 27 362 0355 |  [Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Simon Bastion <[simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 4:56 PM

**To:** Diane Maitland <[diane.maitland@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:diane.maitland@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Cc:** Alicia Paulsen <[Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)>; Scott Baxendale <[Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)>; Helen Lash <[mayor.lash@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor.lash@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Fast Track Consenting Bill Letter v3 - Simon Review

Hi Diane – this is all good to go. Can you also include Maureen on the list of recipients.

Scott – Helen is contacting Paul Madgwick to get him know

Regards

Simon

**Simon Bastion** | Chief Executive

**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

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**Archived:** Friday, 21 June 2024 2:17:43 pm  
**From:** [Scott Baxendale](#)  
**Mail received time:** Wed, 14 Feb 2024 03:37:08  
**Sent:** Wed, 14 Feb 2024 03:37:01  
**To:** [Alicia Paulsen](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Franz WWTP / Chris Bishop  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Sensitivity:** None

---

FYI

**Scott Baxendale** | Group Manager District Assets  
**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 +64 3 756 9034 |  +64 27 362 0355 |  [Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Helen Lash <mayor.lash@westlanddc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:34 PM  
**To:** Scott Baxendale <Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Franz WWTP / Chris Bishop

Hi Scott.

Below is the direction of content Maureen gave when contacting me about this opportunity yesterday. Needs to be on the Ministers desk by this Friday.

The letter to Min Chris Bishop should have:

**Reference:** Fast Track Consenting Bill.

**Request:** Please include the Franz WWTP project in **Schedule 2**

**Content:** expiry date of current consent V timeframe to remove & build new  
risks of current site – flood inundation to ponds - creating an environmental and ecological disaster and  
having serious impact on an international tourism town.

two sites available for new system council is currently investigating scale of new plant & what this will mean to the township of Franz.

**Risks from not fastracking:** resource consenting process timeframes and potential delays and risk of environment court hearings

**Helen Lash** | Mayor

**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 027 242 7484 |  [mayor.lash@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor.lash@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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Archived: Friday, 21 June 2024 12:51:07 pm

From: [Simon Bastion](#)

Mail received time: Thu, 15 Feb 2024 01:59:47

Sent: Thu, 15 Feb 2024 01:59:38

To: [Alicia Paulsen](#); [Scott Baxendale](#)

Subject: RE: Franz Josef Documents from Simon

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

Attachments:

[Fast Track Consenting Bill Letter v3 - Simon Review.docx](#);

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*Hi team – another edit. Check it out. If ok I will send through to Helen & TC for a final review*

*Cheers*

**Simon Bastion** | Chief Executive

**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

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**From:** Alicia Paulsen <[Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 15 February 2024 2:46 pm

**To:** Simon Bastion <[simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz)>; Scott Baxendale <[Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Franz Josef Documents from Simon

Version 3 attached.

Simon – just check I've got some of the wording correct.

Kind Regards,

**Alicia Paulsen** | Asset Strategy and Development Manager

**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 03 756 9010 |  027 207 9464 |  [Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Simon Bastion <[simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:24 AM

**To:** Scott Baxendale <[Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)>; Alicia Paulsen <[Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Franz Josef Documents from Simon

Some further info at the following:

<https://www.wcrc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:2459ikxj617q9ser65rr/hierarchy/Documents/Community/Consultation/Waiho%20River%20%E2%80%93%20Future%20Management%20Strategy/2023-10-11%20Waiho%20TAG%20Presentation%20Community.pdf>

**Simon Bastion** | Chief Executive

**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

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**From:** Scott Baxendale <[Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 15 February 2024 8:10 am

**To:** Alicia Paulsen <[Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** Simon Bastion <[simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Franz Josef Documents from Simon

Hi Alicia,

I have had a slight rework of your report. Could you please look at the e-mail I sent through to yesterday from Helen Lash and add what Helen has outlined. You may need to check on govt websites to see if there is a prescribed format.

I need to have the revised draft proposal through to Simon later today.

Kind Regards

Scott

**Scott Baxendale** | Group Manager District Assets  
**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 +64 3 756 9034 |  +64 27 362 0355 |  [Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Alicia Paulsen <[Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:56 AM  
**To:** Scott Baxendale <[Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Franz Josef Documents from Simon

Hi Scott,

Draft attached.

And the limit of my knowledge about Franz!

Let me know if you need anything further.

Kind Regards,

**Alicia Paulsen** | Asset Strategy and Development Manager

**Te Kahui o Poutini | Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 03 756 9010 |  027 207 9464 |  [Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Scott Baxendale <[Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:18 AM

**To:** Alicia Paulsen <[Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** FW: Franz Josef Documents from Simon

Alicia. These are the reports for Franz for you to have a look at.

The key issue for us in the request is that the river has moved and put the ponds at risk so it needs to be treated as an emergency situation. Franz tourism is worth \$300m per annum to GDP.

Any questions let me know.

Regards

Scott

**Scott Baxendale** | Group Manager District Assets

**Te Kahui o Poutini | Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 +64 3 756 9034 |  +64 27 362 0355 |  [Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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**From:** Diane Maitland <[diane.maitland@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:diane.maitland@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:03 AM

**To:** Scott Baxendale <[Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Franz Josef Documents from Simon

Morning Scott, please find attached.

Regards

Di

**Diane Maitland** | Executive Assistant

**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 +64 3 756 9038 |  +64 27 503 9111 |  [diane.maitland@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:diane.maitland@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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