

 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.

**Request from:** Forest and Bird

**Information requested:** Fast Track Bill applications

**Response by:** 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 <a href="https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses">https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/lgoima-responses</a>. 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 <a href="here">here</a>

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Mary-anne Bell, Business Analyst at <a href="mailto:LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz">LGOIMA@westlanddc.govt.nz</a>, 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; 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 | 😮 🚮 💽 🥠

L +64 3 756 9038 | ☐ +64 27 503 9111 | ✓ diane.maitland@.vestlanddc.govt.nz

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File Reference: CCL 10



15 February 2024

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

Phone 03 756 9010 mail council@westlanddc.govt.nz

We land, strict Council

36 Weld Street Private Bag 704 Hokitika 7842

Email: 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

#### 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 raused 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 form 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 infrascucture and ecological values.

The West Coast Regional Council has receively completed a technical report which has identified that the WWTP needed to be relocated in the short of 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 fourist season accommodates over 3,000 people per night. The WWTP is constructed west of the Franz Josef Towr skip (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 environn ental and ecological disaster, having serious impacts on the tourist town and our reputation internationary.

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 northwest1.

# **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 bought 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 year to lesign 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 Waine 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 recourse 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 has naturally 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 placess.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Helen Laut Mayo 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

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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 of 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

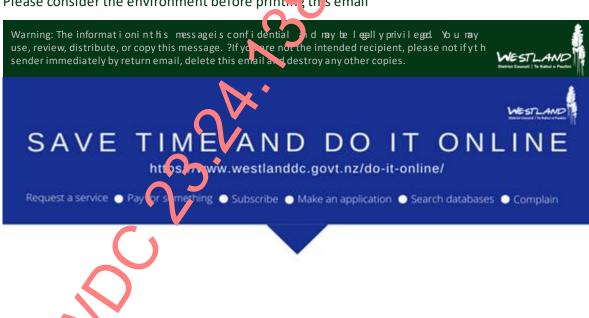
Regards

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

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From: Scott Baxendale

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 8:50 AM

To: Simon Bastion <simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz> **Subject:** RE: Fast Track Consenting Bill Letter v3 - Simon Review

Thanks Simon

**Scott Baxendale** | Grow Manager District Assets Te Kahui o Poutini | Westling District Council

36 Weld Street, Prizate Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 | 😯 📊 💽

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From: Simon Bastion < <a href="mailto:simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz">simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz</a>>

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

**To:** Diane Maitland < <u>diane.maitland@westlanddc.govt.nz</u>>

Cc: Alicia Paulsen <Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz>; Scott Baxendale <Scott Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz>; Helen Lash

<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

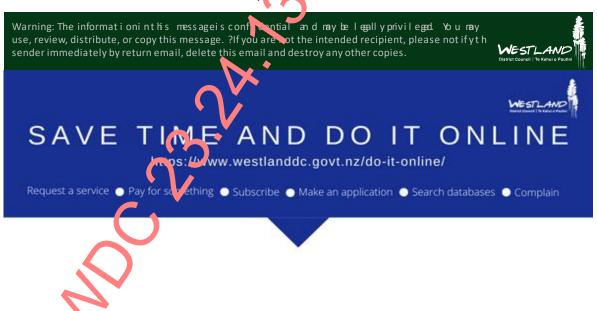
Simon Bastion | Chief Executive

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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

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From: Helen Lash <mayor.lash@westlan dc.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: Fas Track Consenting Bill.

Request: Please include the Franz WWTP project in Schedule 2

**Content:** expire date of current consent V timeframe to remove & build new

isks 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 process timeframes are process. 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

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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;

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>

Sent: Thursday, 15 February 2024 2:46 pm

To: Simon Bastion <simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz>; Scott Laxe dale <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



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From: Simon Bastion <simon.bastion@westlanddc.govt.nz>

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

To: Scott Baxendale <<u>Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz</u>>; Alicia Paulsen <<u>Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz</u>>;

Subject: RE: Franz Josef Documents from Simon

Some further info at the following:

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



From: Scott Baxendale < Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz >

Sent: Thursday, 15 February 2024 8:10 am

To: Alicia Paulsen < Alicia. Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz > Cc: Simon Bastion <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 | 🚷 📊 🖸



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From: Alicia Paulsen <Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 11:56 AM

To: Scott Baxendale < Scott.Baxendale@westlanddc.govt.nz >

Subject: RE: Franz Josef Documents from Simon

Hi Scott,

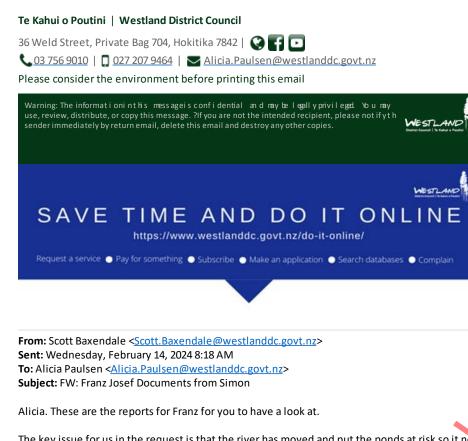
Draft attached.

And the limit of my knowledge about Franz!

Let me know if you need anything further.

Kind Regards,

Alicia Paulsen | Asset Strategy and Developmen Manager



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 | 🔇 🚮 💽

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From: Diane Maitland < diane.maitland@westlanddc.govt.nz>

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

To: Scott Baxendale < 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

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