

# Connect

October 2021 • Issue 115

Keeping you up to date with news from your Buller District Council

**Welcome to the spring edition of Connect.** There has been a lot of work going on over the past few months, in spite of the Covid level impositions steady progress is being made on all fronts.

We have a very dedicated team working hard to deliver the flood recovery plan that was approved by council. I encourage anyone that has concerns or issues to raise in relation to the flood to make contact via the recovery hub, you are not alone in working through your situation, there is great advice and assistance available.

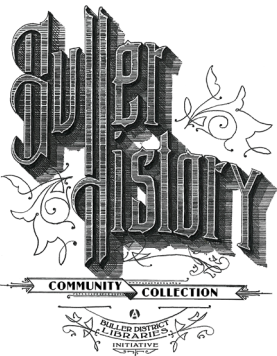
Council is also navigating the various government reforms that will have major implications for local government. The next steps in the Three Waters Reform will be considered by cabinet in October. We will know more about how these may move forward and what options council should take later this year.

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is leading an all-of-government programme that partners with local government to reduce the risks and impacts of natural hazards and climate change. The DIA continues to work with council to help with operational and risk management options responding to the recent flood event, alongside other central government agencies.

The Future for Local Government is another review programme to identify how our system of local democracy needs to evolve over the next 30- years, to improve the wellbeing of our communities and environment. I always welcome feedback and am happy to provide additional information on any of the reforms currently underway.

Meanwhile locally we continue to make good progress on projects already underway and maintaining our business as usual work. Pre-flood we were in a very sound economic position compared to many districts so I'm hopeful that those underlying fundamentals will be a good basis on which to stage our recovery. Take Care. **Mayor Jamie Cleine**

## Buller history project at the library



**Every little piece of history has a story and every story matters.**

If you have a piece of history you can help build Buller's History Community Collection.

The Sue Thompson Casey Memorial Library in Westport is launching the Buller History Community Collection project.

The project aims to connect the Buller District community with the district's past, as well as preserve

and celebrate the district's cultural heritage.

The library is calling for the Buller District community to submit their pieces of history for digitalization.

Examples include original photographs, documents, memorabilia, and other material of historic value.

In June 2022 this collection of local heritage and stories, will be made accessible to the community via eHive, a web-based collection management system.

For more information and to submit your pieces of history go to <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/a-z-services/library-2/buller-history-community-collection/>



## Progress at the Toki bridge

**Westport Waterfront's the Riverbank project has returned to full speed after recent flood and lockdown levels.**



Key milestones have included installation of embankment concrete, piers and trestles in readiness for the Toki Poutangata bridge arrival. With the steel fabrication and painting completed, the bridge will soon leave the workshop and rail to its final location.

Lifting the bridge truss onto its supporting structure is scheduled within the next four weeks. This will be the first reveal of Westport's new iconic landmark "in situ".



Read more in our media release at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/riverbank-project-returns-to-full-speed/>



**There is a lot happening. Here are just some of the amazing initiatives, people, & organisations that council supports to create a thriving, inclusive, healthy, and vibrant community.**

## Youth Voice attends Festival for the Future in Wellington

**12 youth (ages 14-18) from Youth Voice Kawatiri and three adults attend the Festival for the Future in Wellington in July.**

The Festival for the Future was about hearing a hugely diverse range of incredibly inspiring stories from brave people.

During workshop sessions participants talked about and nussed out issues in New Zealand and around the world.

Some of Buller's youth attended the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development workshop discussing oceanic issues in New Zealand and put forward ideas on how to solve them.

The best part was that the festival was totally youth focussed, therefore fresh ideas and approaches were put forward in all the presentations.

Youth Voice Kawatiri attended a special lunch for Youth Councils from around New Zealand where they mixed and mingled.

The majority of youth said their favourite part of the conference was meeting other youth from around New Zealand.

Getting to know each other, having fun, while discussing important issues in a safe and extremely diverse environment was a powerful and magic component of the festival.

Keana Anderson said: "My favourite part of the festival was meeting new friends, making connections between the

different youth groups and councils because I think it's really important to share ideas.

I really want to do some sort of mental health advocacy, I liked listening to Jazz Thornton talk and she talked about surviving suicide, depression and her life, and how she's helping other people now."



## Mayors Task Force for Jobs (MTFJ) in Buller

MTFJ is a nationwide network of Mayors, working together on the vision of all young people under 25 being engaged in appropriate education, training, work, or other positive activity in their communities.

MTFJ has partnered with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and developed the Community Recovery Programme to get young people or Covid displaced persons engaged in a sustainable employment pathway.

### How the programme works

Julie Moore is Buller District's MTFJ co-ordinator. Julie is part of the team based at Buller REAP in Westport. Julie matches job seekers and people who have lost work as a result of Covid with training, and or jobs.

Through MTFJ Julie can allocate wage subsidies, money for tools, and training. Each job seeker's situation is unique so Julie uses a tailored approach to suit their needs.



MBC Environmental MTFJ employees

If you or someone you know wants to find out more about MTFJ Community Recovery Programme please contact:

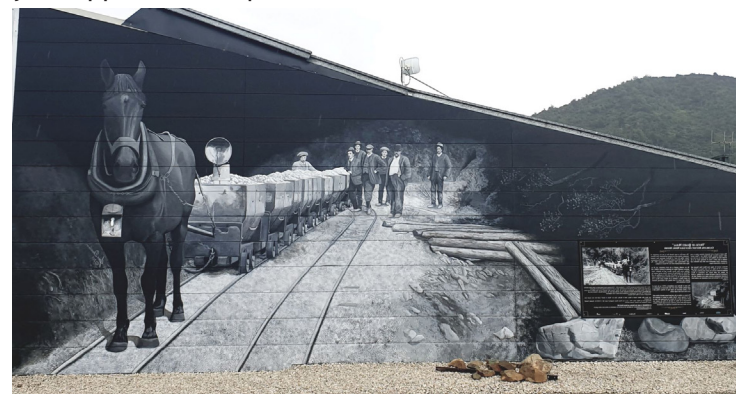
Julie Moore phone 021 354 658 email: [mtfj@bullerreap.co.nz](mailto:mtfj@bullerreap.co.nz)

## Creative Communities funding OPEN

**Buller District Council is calling for applications to the Creative Communities Funding Scheme.**

This funding scheme supports community groups and individuals, to create opportunities for the local community to access and participate in arts activities.

Find out if your project fits the criteria, get in touch and get your application in quick.



Trucks of Quartz Mural by Rachel Fifield and Jean Davidson

Information and application forms are available on Council's website or can be collected from Council offices in Westport and Reefton.

Applications close 4:30pm Monday 1 November 2021.



**Council has partnered over the last three-years with community groups through the Community-Led Revitalisation Fund.**

**This fund supports community groups to transform our public spaces, bring new life to our communities, and grow community ownership of our places through the contribution of volunteers. We hope you enjoy these places.**



Derby Street Spider Park, Westport, Love Kawatiri



Cherry blossom trees, Reefton, Reefton Garden Club



Sue Thomson Casey Mēmorial Library, Love Kawatiri



The Floating Basin boatshed area, Westport, Buller Cycling Club



Domain disk golf course, Westport, Westport Disc Club



The Ōpārara Reserve, Karamea, Karamea Community Incorporated



The Lyric Theatre, Granity, Northern Buller Community Society Incorporated



Mural on the Kawatiri Coastal Trail, Westport, Kawatiri Coastal Trail



The Strand, Reefton, Strands Project Group



# Local Government is facing a wave of reforms that will significantly affect their traditional roles and functions.

## Three Waters Reform

Government is proposing changes to the way our drinking-water, storm-water, and waste-water services are delivered through a Three Waters Reform.

The government is proposing that three water services move from the 67 councils into four large entities.

The proposed reform would see Buller District become part of an entity that covers most of the South Island with a governance arrangement.

Council has provided feedback to the Minister for Local Government, Hon Nanaia Mahuta.

The Minister will consider feedback from local councils and will determine if any changes are required to the proposal and decide what next steps the reform will take, including things like public consultation.

Only then will council be in an informed position to seek community feedback.

**More information, including council's feedback to the Minister, is available on council's website.**



## Resource Management Act

The Government is repealing the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and replacing it with new legislation.

The three proposed new pieces of legislation are the Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA), Climate Adaption Act (CAA), and the Strategic Planning Act, and the (SPA).

The way forward for reform:

- The proposed Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA) is the primary piece of legislation in the reform package and initially was presented through an exposure draft. An exposure draft refers to legislation that has not yet formally been introduced into Parliament.
- The exposure draft of the NBA included the most important sections of the Bill such as the overall purpose of the Bill and what it aims to achieve, the Treaty clause, the National Planning Framework, and region-wide plans.
- The exposure draft and submissions were considered by a select committee and will be presented to Parliament on 2021 October.
- The select committee will report its findings to Parliament and any changes will be made before the full Bill is formally introduced. Other components of the full bill that were not developed in time for the exposure draft will be decided by Cabinet before being included in the full Bill.
- The Natural and Built Environments Act and the Strategic Planning Act will be formally introduced in 2022.
- A standard legislative and select committee process will follow with the aim of the NBA being passed into law in this parliamentary term. The CAA will be progressed in this time too.

**More information can be found on the Ministry for the Environment's website.**

## Climate Adaptation Act (CAA)

This Act will support New Zealand's response to the effects of climate change. It will address the complex legal and technical issues associated with managed retreat and funding and financing adaptation.

The adaption fund proposed in the CCA will be geared to support local efforts to respond to climate change, possibly including local research, land acquisition, compensation, liability, insurance, securing key infrastructure and resources (for example Three Waters and flood protection).

The extent to which it will assist local authorities in implementing managed retreat and to what degree local authorities will be left to manage these funds remains unclear.

## Local government reform

Local Government Minister Hon Nanaia Mahuta has set up an independent review of local government. The review will focus on how our system of local democracy needs to evolve over the next 30 years.

The review panel will consider what local government does, how it does it, and how it pays for it. From there, they will explore what local government's future looks like, including:

- roles, functions and partnerships
- representation and governance
- funding and financing.

The review panel is currently engaging with the sector and will issue an interim report on the probable direction of the review late in the year.

This will be followed by a draft report for public consultation in September 2022, and a final report in April 2023.

**For more information go to [www.dia.govt.nz/Future-for-Local-Government-Review](http://www.dia.govt.nz/Future-for-Local-Government-Review).**



**We live in a stunning place so let's care about the magnificent environment we call home. Key to improving Buller's waste and recycling footprint is to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Explore how you can help minimize our footprint.**

## St Canice's school kids find solutions to minimize waste in everyday life

As part of being an Enviroschool, each school conducts a waste review each year to look at their waste systems and to find ways to minimise waste going to landfill.

Recently the students at St Canice's School ran the review. "Our job was to check if all the classrooms had the right bins for recycling, scrap paper and food scraps" said Mitchell Hateley (age 11).

"Another of our jobs was to sort through the rubbish bins and see what children and teachers had put in. We found that in every classroom, the bins contained



at least three chippie bags, other plastic bags, gladwrap and yoghurt containers. And this was only after morning tea!" added Kyle Craddock (age 11).

Their solution was to run Nude Food days on Fridays, awarding prizes for the best litterless lunchboxes to reduce these single-use plastics.

Students suggested using reusable containers and beeswax wraps as simple changes to reduce waste.

Layken Kennard (age 7) said they were doing nude food, "to look after the environment" and Robbie Cave (age 6) loves kahawai and looking after animals so she wants to stop plastic getting into the ocean.

Other actions to reduce waste include collecting all food scraps for the compost, which the students put on their garden.

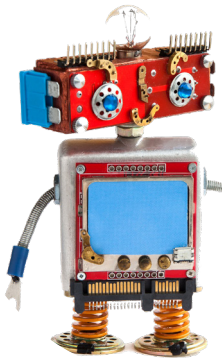


## E-waste recycling available in Buller

**Be a tidy Kiwi and drop off your e-waste at the new e-waste recycling service.**

Buller District Council, Smart Environmental Ltd, and TechCollect NZ Limited have joined forces to enable residents and small businesses to responsibly recycle their e-waste in Buller.

If you have an old computer, laptop, tablet, notebook, monitor, printer, scanner, camera, mouse, keyboard, or adaptor that you want to get rid of, use the free e-waste recycling service to prevent your e-waste going to landfill and recover valuable materials.



Households and small businesses can drop off accepted e-waste items at the Westport and Reefton Transfer Stations during opening hours.

For more information go to [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/a-z-services/recycling-refuse-in-buller/e-waste-collection/](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/a-z-services/recycling-refuse-in-buller/e-waste-collection/)

**Recycling will be collected over Christmas as usual. The Westport Transfer Station will close on 25- 26 December and 1 - 2 January. The Reefton Transfer Station will close 25 December and 1 January only. It will reopen 2 January.**

## All you need to know about recycling and refuse in Buller

**The Buller District is divided into three zones. Each of these zones has specific refuse and recycling guidelines which you will find on council's website.**

Council provides recycling kerbside collection only in zone one. You can find the recycling map and instructions how to determine your collection day online at <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/a-z-services/recycling-refuse-in-buller/recycling-collection-map/>

If you live in zone one, place your wheelie bin and glass crate as close to the kerb as possible and clear of the footpath by 7:30am on your collection day.

Overfull glass crates are a safety hazard. You must ensure the glass is level with the top of the crate or it may not be picked up. Extra bottles can be taken to the transfer station for FREE.

In all zones you must follow the local recycling rules. If you do not follow these rules, Smart Environmental Ltd can refuse to collect your bin.

It's important we all manage our waste correctly to improve the district's recycling footprint and to minimise waste going into landfills.

For more information go to [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/recycling-refuse-in-buller](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/recycling-refuse-in-buller)



**Reduce Reuse Recycle**  
**BULLER**  
*Shaping our district*



# Information for Flood Affected Residents

## The Community Hub

175 Palmerston Street, Westport  
Phone 0800 768 348



The Community Hub is a free one-stop-shop for flood affected residents. Community Hub staff can assist residents and their set of unique needs that have arisen because of the flooding. The Community Hub works with relevant agencies, providing a single point of assistance and vital connections to information on temporary accommodation, financial assistance, insurance and legal advice, wellness and psychosocial support, and community events and initiatives.

If you are feeling a little isolated or overwhelmed and just want to call in and have a cuppa and a chat, our Community Hub team are a friendly and welcoming bunch!

**Opening Hours** Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4pm  
Saturday 12 noon to 2pm

## Community Connectors

We know asking for help is hard, but Community Connectors are here to support you. They will help you access information and services across multiple agencies in your flood recovery journey.

Community Connectors provide an individualised, relationship-based service that supports you and your whanau. A Community Connector will help you to navigate through terminology and processes you don't understand or are struggling to deal with. Individuals, families, elderly and those with high health needs will benefit from someone walking alongside to clarify matters and support them in their decision making.

Head into the Community Hub and staff can connect you to a local Community Connector.

## Mayoral Relief Fund

The Buller Mayoral Relief Fund is making grants to individuals, families and organisations affected by the floods. Pick up an application form from the Community Hub or the Council office or download the Mayoral Relief Fund application form via Council's website. Staff at the Community Hub can help you fill in the form if you need assistance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**I've been staying in some temporary accommodation and for now I'm fine. What about in 3-6 months' time?**

Register your situation with Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS). TAS provides support to help anyone displaced by natural disasters by helping to find suitable temporary accommodation while their home is repaired or rebuilt. Temporary accommodation differs from 'shelter' and 'emergency accommodation' which is provided for a short time. Temporary accommodation is used for short to medium term. If you expect your situation to change in the future, register your needs with TAS now.

**I am staying with friends and family and can stay as long as I need to. Do I still need to register with TAS?**

**All residents who have a red or yellow stickered home need to make sure they have registered with TAS regardless of current living arrangements.**

Even if you think you won't need assistance with temporary accommodation, it is important to register with TAS, just to cover you should the need arise. There is the real possibility that some home rebuilds will take longer than homeowners may anticipate. Staying with friends or family for extended periods of time can become challenging, especially if timeframes continue to be moved out.

**I am living with my family and friends and it is becoming difficult for us all, is there anyone who can help?**

Yes, register with TAS. If you are displaced from your home due to the floods, get in touch and register your situation with them. By having your information now, they can have a better understanding of the needs of our community for the future.

**I've been put into temporary accommodation and my needs have changed. Is there anywhere else I can go?**

If you're registered with TAS let your matching and placement coordinator know your situation has changed. They will work with you to find a solution.

**My insurance money is going to run out eventually, what will I do after that?**

Register with TAS. They have a skilled team who can help with accommodation needs, however, there is generally a cost. If you are uninsured, or your insurance policy doesn't cover temporary accommodation, you may be eligible for financial assistance. TAS coordinators can direct you to agencies providing financial assistance for the event that has damaged your home.



### Someone I care about is struggling, where can they get support?

Pop along to the Community Hub if you want to talk to someone, they can also refer you on to other support services. You can free call or text 1737 if you want to get in touch with a qualified counsellor/peer support person.

### My children are not coping, where can families get support?

Get in touch with your children's school for some helpful resources. Plunket also has a freephone – 0800 933 922. There are some great online resources/activities for children at [kidshealth.govt.co.nz](http://kidshealth.govt.co.nz). Keep an eye out in the community for upcoming events that could help alleviate that stress.

### Are there free GP visits now? How can I access this?

Yes. If you are a registered patient of Coast Medical or Buller Health who has been affected by the floods, there are free GP and nurse visits until early November.

### I just want to talk to someone, where can I go?

To the Community Hub! They invite anyone to come and have a cuppa and a chat. They can also connect you to a Community Connector who can walk alongside you and connect you to other support services.

### I'm having trouble understanding my insurance, who can help?

Head to your insurance provider. They'll be happy to explain your insurance and help you lodge claims. Or go to the Community Hub and they can connect you with Residential Advisory Service (RAS) who will be able to help you.

### I'm having issues with my insurance company, what can I do?

Residential Advisory Service (RAS) is a free service for property owners facing challenges with homes being rebuilt or repaired following a natural disaster. There's access to skilled brokers, legal and technical expertise as well as help working with insurers to progress your claim.

### I don't have insurance, or I'm underinsured, where can I go for help?

MSD can offer some financial advice around your house and contents. Residential Advisory Service (RAS) may also be able to assist for those houses that have been underinsured. Community Connectors or staff at the Community Hub can help connect you to organisations providing donated goods.

### I have been offered a full and final cash payout from my insurance company. What should I do?

It is vital to seek qualified independent advice if you are offered a payout. Contact the Community Hub who will be able to put you in touch with Residential Advisory Service (RAS).



The Community Hub on Palmerston Street, Westport.

## Support Agency Details

### Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS)

Phone 0508 754 163, 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday  
Or register online at <https://tas.mbie.govt.nz/west-coast-flooding/>

Temporary Accommodation Service assists households affected by a natural disaster to find safe, secure and accessible temporary accommodation while their home is repaired or rebuilt.

### Residential Advisory Service (RAS)

Phone 0800 777 299  
Email [info@advisory.org.nz](mailto:info@advisory.org.nz)  
[www.advisory.org.nz](http://www.advisory.org.nz)

RAS is a free, independent and easy to use service for residential property owners who are facing challenges in getting their home repaired or rebuilt after it has been damaged in a natural disaster. RAS gives you access to a skilled broker, legal and technical expertise, and helps you work with your private insurer to progress your claim.

### Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

Phone 0800 559 009  
[www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) helps New Zealanders to be safe, strong and independent. MSD works to provide employment, income support and superannuation services. There is a range of ongoing and one-off financial assistance with different conditions and requirements that people need to meet first.

The Service Centre is located at 212 Palmerston Street, Westport. If you have any queries or would like to chat with a Case Manager around what assistance MSD could possibly provide, please phone 0800 559 009 to make an appointment.

There's also more information on MSD's website where you can find out what you may be eligible for.



## Community and council notices

### NBS Theatre program rocks this summer

The NBS Theatre has an exciting program for October and November with some hot new releases.

Grab the family for a good night out watching Boss Baby: Family Business, Paw Patrol: The Movie, or Ron's Gone Wrong.

If you want a bit more action and drama Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten, the Ice Road, Ride the Eagle, No Time to Die, or The Last Duel are not to be missed.

There are some great shows coming to Buller:

20 October HOTEL CALIFORNIA THE EAGLES EXPERIENCE

30/31 October LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS with the WESTPORT MUNICIPAL BAND AND FRIENDS

9 November THE BEE GEES NIGHT FEVER.

Get your tickets NOW at [www.nbstheatre.co.nz](http://www.nbstheatre.co.nz)

### Buildit tool

From 31 August 2020, some building projects no longer need a building consent. This is great news – there will be lower costs and it will be much easier to get started on those smaller building projects you've been dreaming about.

Take a look at [www.building.govt.nz/buildit](http://www.building.govt.nz/buildit) to find out which building projects don't need building consent, and the details for each type of non-consented building project.

Check it out and get started on turning your dream into reality.



### Drinking water notices

#### Water supplies

To ensure continued public health it is recommended to flush two cups full of water from your taps each morning prior to first use.

This is because all drinking water is plumbosolvent, which means it can dissolve very small amounts of metals if water comes into contact with these. In New Zealand, the plumbing materials/fittings (i.e. your taps) can be a source of heavy metals, such as lead, nickel, cadmium, copper and antimony.

Residents are reminded that the Cape Foulwind Water supply (Wilson's Lead Road and Bulls Road) is a stock supply not intended for human use.

A permanent boil water notice is in place for the untreated water supplies at Little Wanganui Subdivision, Mokihinui, Ngakawau/Hector, South Granity and Waimangaroa. Reefton is currently on a precautionary boil water notice. For more details refer to <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/water/>

#### Sewer systems

Please don't flush any wet wipes, including those labelled as flushable, or paper towels into the sewer.

Residents connected to the Orowaiti Sewerage scheme are reminded that they should no longer be using septic tanks. It is a requirement for these properties to be connected to the waste water reticulation. For details contact council or refer to <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/sewerage/>

Like what you see – sign up to receive an electronic version of this newsletter at [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/community-newsletters](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/community-newsletters)

6-8 Brougham St, PO Box 21, Westport 7866  
Ph 03 788 9111 or 0800 807 239

66 Broadway, PO Box 75, Reefton 7851  
Ph 03 732 8821 or 0800 808 821

[www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz)

24 hr Noise and Animal Control Services  
Ph 03 788 9115

After hours Operations emergencies  
Ph 03 788 9119 Westport, or 03 732 8092 Reefton

### Opening hours over Christmas

Council's offices in Westport and Reefton will close its doors over the Christmas break.

	Westport	Reefton
24-Dec	8:30am - 12pm	9am-1pm
25-Dec	Closed	Closed
26-Dec	Closed	Closed
27-Dec	Closed	Closed
28-Dec	Closed	10am-2pm
29-Dec	Closed	10am-2pm
30-Dec	Closed	10am-2pm
31-Dec	Closed	9am-1pm
1-Jan	Closed	Closed
2-Jan	Closed	Closed
3-Jan	Closed	Closed
4-Jan	Closed	Closed
5-Jan	8:30-4:30pm	9am-4:30pm

### Meetings November to December

Meetings are held at the Council Chambers, Palmerston Street, Westport unless otherwise stated.

The 2021 meeting calendar can be found at [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/meetings](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/meetings).

#### ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

24 November, 3pm

15 December, 4pm, St John's Hall, Reefton

#### COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE

10 November, 3 pm

#### INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY COMMITTEE

10 November, 1pm

#### REGULATORY & HEARINGS COMMITTEE

13 October, 3pm

#### FINANCE, RISK AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

17 November, 3pm

15 December, 3pm, St John's Hall, Reefton

#### CREATIVE NZ SUBCOMMITTEE

17 November, 11am, Brougham House

Any persons wanting to address council during the public forum section of the meetings should contact Governance Assistant, email [governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz)

or phone 0800 807 239.

