

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 March 2017 9:42 p.m.
To: LGC
Subject: West Coast Alternative Submission for possible amalgamation etc. Due 15 March 2017

Name: Charlotte May
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Alternative Submission – West Coast of South Island.

Reasons why:

Due to the unusual behaviour of the West Coast District and Regional Council Mayors and CEO's in

- 'The News' (Westport) Editorials etc,
- the contempt shown toward small Inc Societies representing groups of ratepayers,
- and the 'moving' of a Point of Take for Water on a joint West Maps site by the Buller District Council – disregarding the permanent dispute on this Consent by a Society Inc,
- The BDC knowingly allowing incorrect information to be stated within the Westmaps site and also ignoring the WCRC's Consents wording.

('The News' states the BDC wants the West Coast Regional Council disbanded)

(NOTE: the WCRC put the Point of Take back to its legal position not the BDC who moved it)

(This leads me to believe that the next step is to physically move PoT's, alter information, without the appropriate procedures and lawfulness taking place)

- OIA's being ignored or 'delayed',
- massive misinformation, or incorrect statements; given in applications for funding, and to the Ministry of Health in particular, in order to manipulate the truth for reasons that place the ratepayers of the area without any clear or honest representation. Whether this is particular to our area or indicative of all NZ Council behaviour is concerning.

Either way this leads me to believe that the Governance of this area does indeed need to be looked into and re-established in a far more transparent manner.

My Submission/suggestions are:

- Put the Buller District under the Tasman Council. Disband the Buller District Council.
Whether the boundary is directly Northern Buller only; Or includes all or other parts of Buller - through Westport, Reefton and Inangahua (if they wish); or to Springs Junction; could be put out to community consultation/communication/voting by direct and individual mailing ... Not through the Councils.
- Disband the Westland District Council. (I have my reasons but it is too complex to go into here. The BDC and Westland DC together – possible interests in Okuru Enterprises could be at play here)
- Leave the West Coast Regional Council and Grey District Council to Govern from South of Westport (or where ever boundary is placed) to the bottom of the West Coast.

Give the Department of Conservation, Forest and Bird and Heritage NZ a major say and involvement in all decisions made within the West Coast area. (the five work together)

In its entirety it is a Major NZ attraction and is at clear risk of damage by Private Business and individual desires.

Central Government responsibility:

Divide up the \$120 million given to the West Coast (Development West Coast): between - a Tolled Road Entity (Northern Buller to Tasman), and; the West Coast Regional Council/DoC group.

(Not to the Tasman council as not allocated within the original payment) Also NO Council members or staff should be elected to the Tolled Road Entity.

A Special, unique Tolled Road is needed. Whether though from Seddonville, Little Wanganui or Karamea would need to be decided.

This would be a World Wide NZ Attraction. Make it a breath taking road. No camping .. no overnighting .. no tramping etc

The proviso being is that the portion to the Tasman/Northern Buller District (or group assigned the responsibility of Governance for the Tolled Road) is retained within its own group but audited separately by Audit NZ. It also should not be part of any Councils business at all.

The 'Tourist Toll' income and funding would be used ONLY for this Special Roads building, future development and its outgoings. All work would be done through a robust tender process and be very very transparent.

To that end the Buller (or Northern Buller) ratepayers/permanent residents should be provided with free passes for use of this road as the DWC income was intended to help this area with the ceasing of the Native Forest logging. At least for the initial years of use. (until the toll costs begin to drop away)

Tasman / Buller ratepayers would both benefit from the income generated by the additional Tourism. Tourists would be better able to access the 'Lost World' of Karamea and Ghost Road as well.

Although it won't happen overnight and a lot of funding will need to be raised; it would give it a start. Support from DoC and other Central Govt departments would be helpful.

This DWC money has been fought over for years and now looks to be possibly manipulated by the current Mayors of the District.

It needs to be completely removed from the Mayors/CEO's hands as they see it as a way out of the massive debt the Councils have incurred. They have developed strange (but obvious) ways of getting Govt funding/money back into the Councils pockets. (Not out to the communities)

To lose the DWC funding in this way (and the above extra funding given by Central Govt) will not 'give' a cure to bad management and Governance (nor improve work opportunities within the Districts). The bad management and Governance will carry on regardless - as it is now.

Future Management and Governance options – Also possible misuse of individual and collective Positions of Authority.

DoC could hold the West Coast Portion and Govern it themselves? They are the major land stewards of course... But held separately from other business within DoC.

Central Government needs to look into the high staffing levels of the West Coast Councils and require them to be far more responsible in managing that.

Also the personal interests of large groups seeking to export the best of our water. Central Govt is not addressing this and it causes concern amongst the ratepayers/residents who appear to be paying heavily for water because of the disastrous management of Councils (ie non involvement and then the over riding of the ratepayers aspirations for their own management of their water supplies which compound the problems).. and yet private business (for their shareholders alone) are gaining greatly from something that is supposed to be free.

Tonight's paper for example. The ratepayers will pay for the Mayor to go to China because China wants to invest in the West Coast? Why don't the Chinese visit us at their own cost? Please consider that the BDC Mayor is also a shareholder of Okuru Enterprises. One of those 'investments' may possibly turn out to be his own business interest.

The Okuru Enterprise needs \$100 million to get off the ground and possibly 5 billion to complete (depending if tankers are new or leased). Okuru is also seeking contentious Resource Consents. The ousting of the Development West Coast Chair by the majors has been stated by a prominent resident as "*He believed the mayors' motive was to manipulate the trust through a new appointee*" in our local paper page 3 – The News 23 Feb 2017. We also revisit the 'Reasons why' above re the manipulation of a Resource Consent (even just though the public mapping it shows a clear intent to mislead and leaves uncertainly as to its over all correctness via procedures; and, the possible future outcomes from being used this way)

There are serious issues to address here in the West Coast Districts and it is of great concern to many. The Councils as I've stated in 'Reasons why' may not be working in the way they should.

Thank you for your time with my submission.

I do not intend or wish to defame anyone or any organisation. I wish to try and show the reasons that serious consideration to the overall Governance of the West Coast is needed.

I have personal experience of this manipulation. It appears to be so very easy for the Council (and DHB's) to mislead Central Govt especially after they first disassociate the ratepayers from the issues they (BDC) wish to further for themselves .. thus disadvantaging those same ratepayers by denying them due process. I can now only believe that this behaviour is likely to be coast wide.

I hope I have made myself easy enough to follow. If not - I will clarify if wished. There is certainly a great deal more I could add.

Regards
Charlotte May