

COVER SHEET

1. Upgrade and Development of Westport Port Project PGF Application	For: Approval
Background & context:	Recommendation:
<p>Organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buller District Council <p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Coast <p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade and Development of Westport Port (business case/ feasibility) <p>Funding Sought:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total project value: \$ <small>Commercial Form</small> PGF Funding: \$75,000 <p>Background: The Westport Port is a vital transport link for the West Coast. Increasingly, the West Coast is finding that weather events are limiting the ability of businesses to conduct commerce reliably. At times the tenuous nature of transport links from the Coast, especially following significant adverse weather, is stifling productivity as well as acting as a limiting factor in attracting new commercial opportunities to the wider region. Companies are sometimes unwilling to take advantage of the Coast's other assets for fear of not being able to reliably place product into the market.</p> <p>As such, it is vital for commerce on the West Coast to have a resilient transport network that can rely on continued market access in the event of road and rail closure to the East Coast. Additional resilience in the form of an easily accessible port is vital for the West Coast, and the Westport Port, with both road and rail connections, provides such an option.</p> <p>It is important to note that additional transport</p>	<p>We recommend that SROs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the Upgrade and Development of Westport Port Project PGF application Note this application has been submitted by Buller District Council and as such, due Diligence on the applicant is not required Note the application is seeking funding for feasibility with an additional funding application to the PGF likely for upgrade work following analysis of the study Approve \$75,000 from the PGF to be allocated towards the The Upgrade and Development of Westport Port (business case/ feasibility) Project subject to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PDU and partner agencies consultation with the applicant relating to contracting of a consultant to undertake the feasibility study; A detailed project plan being submitted including milestones and KPIs for the study; and A financial costings sheet for the feasibility study

options on the West Coast are being explored including an upgrading of rail to Westport which provides further impetus to ensure the port can be brought into an integrated West Coast transport network.

To maximise and diversify the Port's opportunities, additional factors will be assessed in the feasibility study including which tourism based upgrades can be developed to attract more visitors to Westport and the Coast, as well as how the port might act as a catalyst for both district and regional aquaculture and fisheries businesses.

In summary, the feasibility study will seek to address:

- Resilience in the West Coast's transport network
- How the port might attract tourism to the district and region; and
- What could be developed within the port to further develop aquaculture and fisheries

It is important to note, the PGF is looking at a wider national coastal policy for regional ports in conjunction with MOT and NZTA. The Westport Port will be a part of this, as will the Greymouth Port.

The purpose of this briefing is to consider recommending PGF funds to the Westport Port feasibility

Alignment to PGF criteria:

Increased Economic Benefit

The feasibility study will seek to identify how best the port can be used to leverage existing opportunities as well as how the port can be used to ensure an integrated transport network for the benefit of the district and region.

Additionality

The port has been in existence for over 100 years and has shown its ability to adapt to new opportunities that have included logging, mining, point of exit for Holcim's concrete and fisheries & aquaculture. The ability of a functioning port as a catalyst for commerce is well understood and the Westport Port has identified in its application strong potential uses for the facility.

Alignment with regional plans/ Stakeholder support

The project has strong district and regional support

Management and Governance

The study will be undertaken using the Buller District Council's management and Governance structures

Risks Issues:*Cost escalation*

The Council will work with the successful consultant to develop a project plan and monitor its implementation.

The feasibility will not address the Port's needs

A well-developed project plan will ensure a clearly defined scope of work, complete with KPIs

Eligibility points of note:

- *Due diligence*:- The PDU will work with the applicant to ensure due diligence is undertaken on the successful applicant consultant.
- *Conflict(s) of interest*:- Based on the information provided no conflict of interest is evident.
- *Illegal Activity*:- Based on the application information provided there is no indication that the applicant or project has been involved in, or associated with illegal activity
- *Alignment with Regional development plans*:- Project aligns with district and regional action plans
- *Commercial funding availability*:- Given the nature of the project which is to undertake feasibility, access to commercial funding is not considered a feasible option.

Consultation undertaken or implications:

Legal	N/A	HR	N/A	Finance	N/A	MBIE policy	N/A	Other	
Supporting proposal:									
Yes									
Appendices:									
Yes - Application									
Sponsor(s):									
N/A									
Manager/Author of paper:									
ELH Investment Team									