

## **PROJECT: MASTER PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF PUNAKAIKI**

### **Lead agency, key person and contact details**

Buller District Council: Garry Howard, Mayor of Buller District, [garry@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:garry@bdc.govt.nz), Privacy of natural persons

### **Project description – what is the project, how will it be carried out and who will benefit?**

One of the initiatives in the West Coast Economic Development Action Plan is the future-proofing of Punakaiki, one the region's premier visitor attractions. As stated in the Action Plan, Punakaiki faces several major challenges due to the growth in tourism. There is the obvious challenge of the pressure on current visitor infrastructure and relatively few experiences and accommodation options that would encourage visitors to stay longer the area. Commercial Information is contributing Commercial Information to this work and seeking private sector investment, with Commercial Information reportedly interested.

A meeting in mid-December 2017 between West Coast representatives and key government agencies to discuss problems with Punakaiki's potable water supply (currently under a boil water notice) agreed that Punakaiki faces complex issues beyond the scope of the Action Plan initiative and there is a need for a long-term strategy and plan to secure its status as a premier visitor attraction and address a wide range of infrastructure issues. The small local community cannot afford the capital and operating costs of providing the infrastructure needed to support both the number of visitors and its own needs.

### **Objectives – what's this project seeking to achieve in the short/medium term?**

Consensus between Punakaiki residents and business owners, local iwi and central and local government on a long term development plan for Punakaiki that takes account of economic, social, environmental and cultural considerations.

### **Outcomes – what's this project seeking to achieve in the long term?**

The sustainable development of Punakaiki in a way that makes it a premiere visitor attraction, while meeting the needs of its residents and businesses.

### **Budgets**

The work on the proposed master plan has an overall budget of up to Commercial Information, with suggested contributions of: MBIE - Commercial Information; Commercial Information; Commercial Information; Commercial Information; Commercial Information.

### **Assessment**

Fit with PGF criteria

#### **Strength and sense of project, including why now?**

There is widespread agreement that the problems facing Punakaiki need to be addressed in a coherent and sustainable way. Futureproofing Punakaiki is already a priority under the Action Plan. The proposed master plan extends the scope of that initiative to encompass wider concerns.

#### **Level of priority for the region**

This is a high priority for the West coast as Punakaiki is one its two main visitor attractions and issues such as visitor parking and safety on State Highway 6 need addressing now.

### **Probity**

- Who will manage the project: Buller District Council
- Costs and benefits: Cost of up to Commercial Information with a central government contribution of up to Commercial Information. The benefits would accrue from the ability to attract more visitors and increase their expenditure in the area.
- Non-financial benefits: Will include increased visitor safety from improvements to parking and reducing the likelihood of accidents on State Highway 6 at Punakaiki, better environmental outcomes, a safe and reliable supply of drinking water and protecting cultural heritage.

### **Risks**

There is a risk that government funding of the master plan will create an expectation of government funding for infrastructure projects (e.g., three waters), particularly given that West Coast district councils have limited resources. This can be addressed by ensuring that the private sector has a major role in the development of Punakaiki (and makes a commensurate contribution to the cost of infrastructure) and working closely with Buller District Council on the implementation of a master plan.

### **Recommendation**

**Agree to fund** Commercial Information preparation of a master plan for the future of Punakaiki

#### **Rationale**

Punakaiki is a valuable visitor attraction asset and a master plan that addresses the issues facing Punakaiki in a coherent and sustainable way will provide a range of long term benefits.

### **Appendix - supporting documents**

24 January 2018 letter from Mayor Howard

West Coast Action Plan- Future-Proofing Punakaiki