

05 February 2025

New representative for Buller constituency

West Coast regional councillors have chosen Chris Coll to fill the vacant seat for the Buller Constituency on Council.

He will replace the late Frank Dooley.

Chair Peter Haddock says the final evaluation was by full Council yesterday.

“A shortlist was presented to Council and the decision to appoint Mr Coll was made. Councillors were resolved that continuity was vital for the flood protection work being done through Resilient Westport.

“Chris and his wife have run their Coast wide surveying and resource management consultancy out of Westport since 1981. He has extensive experience of the issues confronting Westport and very valuable knowledge of West Coast rivers from Karamea through to Haast.”

The appointment followed an expressions of interest process which attracted five candidates. All five were interviewed by a panel comprising Chair Peter Haddock and Councillors Mark McIntyre and Brett Cummings.

“We had some very high calibre candidates and really hope the interest they demonstrated in the vacancy translates into standing in the local government elections in October,” says Peter Haddock.

As the vacancy fell within 12 months of the next local government elections a by-election was not required.

Cr Dooley chaired several Council committees and decisions about which councillors will take over the running of the committees were also made at the meeting, he says.

“Mark McIntyre will now chair the Corporate Services Committee; Brett Cummings the Operations Committee and I will take on the Remuneration and Employment chair.

“In addition, Council approved Graeme McGlenn as independent chair of the Risk & Assurance Committee. We had already begun this process prior to Frank’s passing.

“Graeme is a Fellow Chartered Accountant with extensive experience in audit, and risk management and serves or has served as an independent chair with several councils across the country.”

Mr McGlenn is based in Christchurch. His term with Council will be for three years.

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