

# **Karamea Consultation Group An Urban Design for Karamea Part I**

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose and format of this document**

This document is intended for a wide audience - ranging from community members in Karamea through to outside stakeholders some of which are recorded in paragraph 3.3 below. Its purpose is to summarise and record all of the activity to date relating to the work of the Karamea Community Consultation Group and to document the specific proposals emerging from the processes involved in that activity.

This is the base document from which a number of separate initiatives will flow, including a submission on the Buller District Council (BDC) Long Term Plan (LTP).

The document is in two parts -Part I includes an introduction, proposals which are not included in the urban design analysis and responses (which are covered in Part II), matters specific to the Buller District Council Long Term Plan submission and areas such as identification of future issues needing to be taken into account by the community.

Part II is in A3 format and covers two stages - An Urban Analysis: A Community Consultation, and An Urban Design: A Concept Masterplan for Karamea

### **1.2 Our origin and who we are**

In 2006 funding for an urban design community project was offered to the Karamea district as a result of an initiative by the BDC. That initiative was called Vision 2010. Since that time community consensus for a project has not been achieved and no funding has been authorised by the Council.

This led to an initiative by two local residents, Carrynne Scarlett and Clive Hellyar, aimed at starting a community consultation process with the objective of developing a community led plan which among other things would form a submission to the BDC for the LTP which is due for review by the Council in 2015.

A group representing a cross section of different interests across the community was formed in June 2014. The members of that Group are:

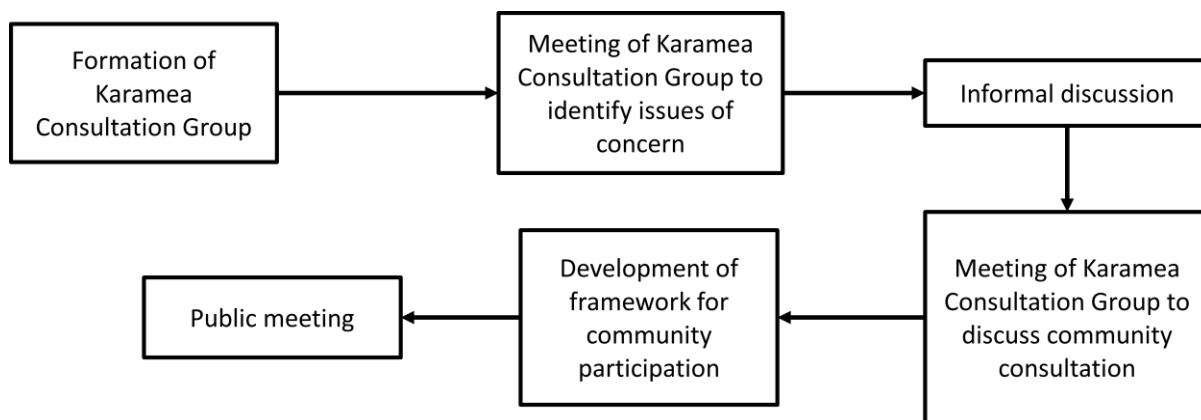
- Brian Jones
- Johnny Exton
- Sheryl Rhind
- Steve Miller
- Peter Currie
- Cathy Sampson
- Britney Heal
- Paul Murray
- Hamish Macbeth
- Margaret Mackley
- Hanne Nielsen

The Group has met six times and has held two public meetings. All participants have willingly volunteered time and resources.

### 1.3 Our process

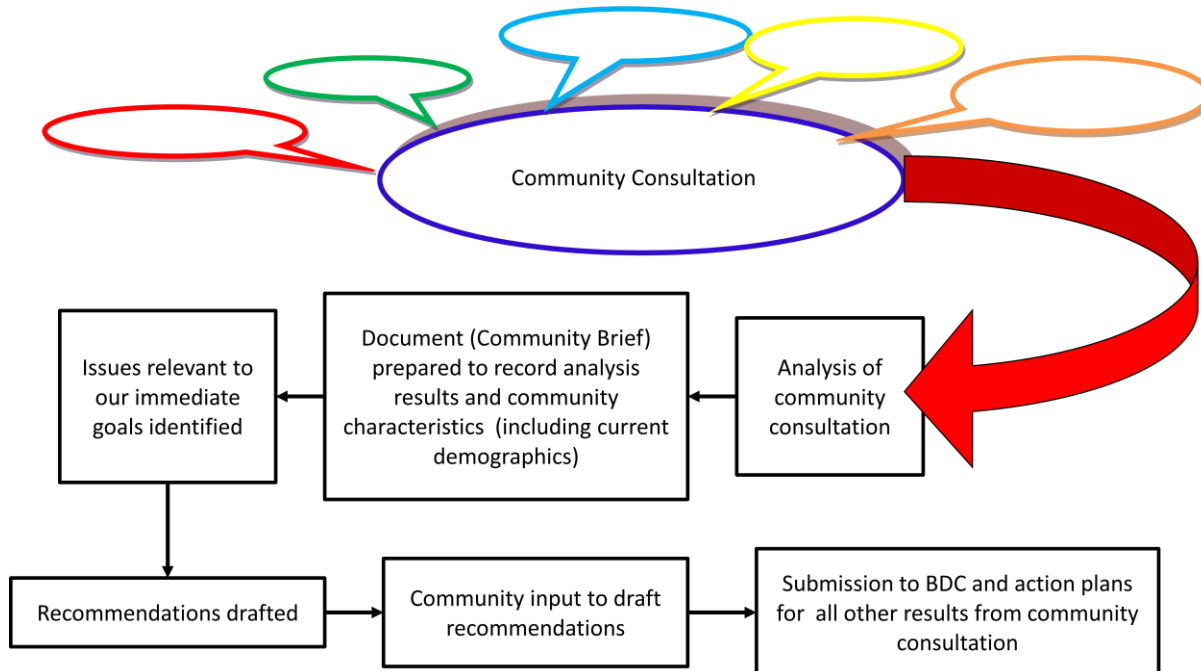
The process followed by the Group has two stages:

#### Stage 1



This stage has been completed.

#### Stage 2



We are now at the final action in the process - making a submission to BDC and developing action plans for other results from the community consultation.

### 1.4 Our aims

These have been developed and published as part of the above Stage 1 - They are:

#### What is our vision for Karamea?

(Vision statement)

To be a place for people that is hospitable, safe, and productive – a place that is distinctly Karamea, where we can live, share, play, celebrate, prosper and welcome others.

## **What values are important to us?**

(Values)

1. To be a leading example of a small cohesive and remote rural community
2. To acknowledge the environment and our relationship with it
3. For Karamea to be connected with the world
4. For Karamea to be an attractive place for families to live
5. For Karamea to be resilient and adaptive
6. For any projects undertaken to be financially prudent.

## **What are our main immediate goals?**

(Strategic goals)

- Be seen by the community, agencies and other stakeholders as representing community consensus.
- To successfully integrate a community-supported input into the Buller District Council Long Term Plan.
- To support a significant improvement in internet and cellphone connectivity by the end of 2014.
- Enhance the existing community communications methods (print, noticeboard and internet) to embrace all community members and other stakeholders in our region (e.g. non resident ratepayers).

### **1.5 Community engagement**

This is perhaps the most essential element of this project and also the most challenging - and that challenge accounts for the last of the goals identified above (community communication). A great deal of time and effort went into ensuring that all members of the community had an opportunity to participate in the consultation process resulting in a total of 275 submissions.

While this was an encouraging level of community engagement which has enabled the development of a broad based set of proposals we also note that there are opportunities to improve communication and participation in democratic processes of this nature - particularly in the area of electronic media. There will some specific recommendations on this.

## **2. The community consultation**

### **2.1 The process**

Full details of the process are documented in Part II.

### **2.2 Analysis**

Analysis of the 275 responses resulted in 5 main overriding themes:

1. Improve walking, cycling and swimming opportunities
2. Enhance Market Cross as the community hub
3. Make the most of our nature, solitude and being a special destination
4. Improve our communication and connectivity
5. Economic development

## **2.3 Segmentation and treatment of responses**

Broad segments identified from the consultation process:

- Community
- DHB
- Energy
- Education
- Regional Council
- Major road projects
- Private enterprise (e.g. dairy factory)

Some of the items within these segments are probably not appropriate for LTP submission but will need ongoing action plans e.g.:

- Continue liaison on internet and cellular improvements
- Working group on internal comms improvement
- Economic Development working group
- Karamea Brand Design with values and protocols
- Items for Kahurangi National Park Management Plan Review (DOC)

Example of taking non LTP suggestions forward:

- Regional Council is coordinating a Regional Economic Plan with 3 Councils and Development West Coast. We are now included as a stakeholder and will be included in this initiative

Items not taken forward but to be referred to appropriate agencies or individuals:

- Major road projects
- Suggestion involving private enterprise (e.g. dairy factory)

## **3. Buller District Council Long Term Plan submission**

### **3.1 Alignment with Council process**

The production of this document is timed to enable inclusion of our submissions in the LTP draft currently due for finalising in March 2015. It is also understood that workshops for Councillors are planned for mid February 2015 and it is our wish that the community submission is made available for those workshops. The objective is to have an early engagement with the Council process so that the Karamea input is included in the draft LTP and will therefore be available for another round of community engagement when the draft is released in March 2015.

### **3.2 Priorities and timelines**

The following priorities have been identified.

Based on the concept master plan for Karamea included in 'An Urban Design: A Town and Country Plan for Our Community' (Part II of this document):

- Establishment of a walking and cycling strategy and plan for the district (including mountain biking opportunities in Kahurangi National Park and other hinterland areas, local cycle/walkways and cycle ways integrated with existing roads)
- A community heart/hub development plan focussed on Market Cross as the centre
- Establishment of a Little Wanganui plan
- Establishment of a landscape strategy and design plan for the Karamea area (including issues such as appropriate plantings for particular ecosystems)

Also:

- Free WIFI for the proposed Market Cross heart/hub extending through to the Karamea Village Hotel
- Investigation of swimming opportunities (including the existing swimming baths)

Many of the documents associated with the work of the group and the sub groups will be "works in progress" with continuous refinements and improvements going forward.

Approximate costings, timings and the like will be developed through the period leading up to the final version of the LTP.

Briefs will be developed for each of these - and subgroups established to do the work and consult with professional advisors where necessary. It was noted that there will probably be costs associated with this and a request for funding assistance to the Council may have to be made. It is important that the work of the sub groups be coordinated through the Consultation Group. Each sub group should include others in the community and would also include at least one member of the Consultation Group.

Timelines will to some extent be driven by the timetable for the LTP consultation and sign off process but there may be some items which will go beyond those dates. The objective is to complete all of the requirements of each of these priorities by the end of 2015.

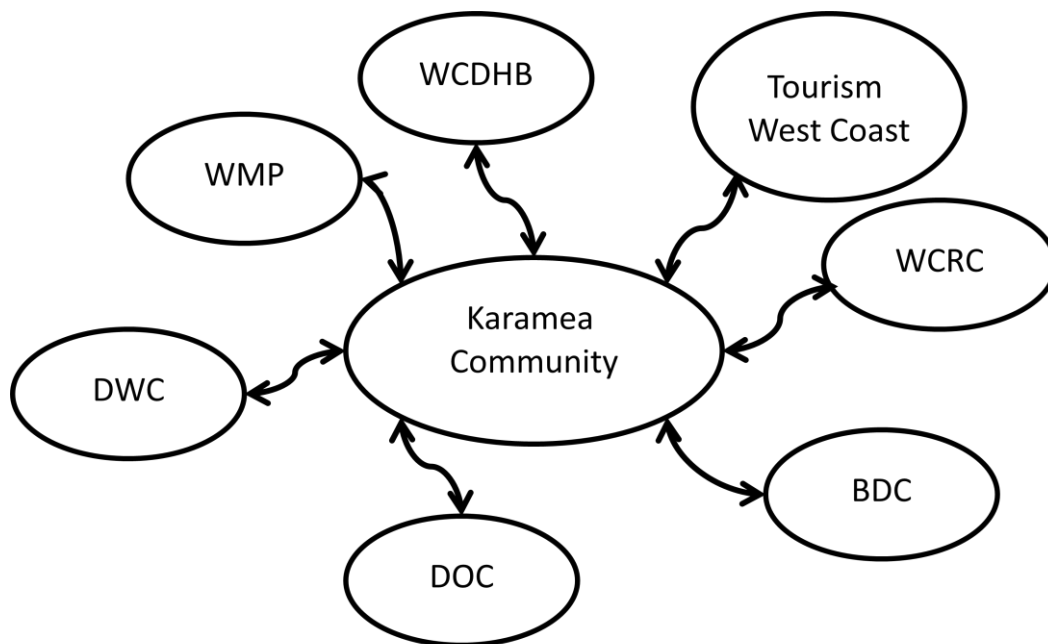
### **3.3 Funding and partnerships**

The ideas that have emerged from this process need to be considered in the context of a long term timeframe - even beyond the 10 year period of the Council LTP. Different groups within the community, many of which have been in existence for generations have relationships with outside agencies. While much has been achieved by these initiatives it is noted that developments by volunteer groups have not always been coordinated and integrated together as part of a total plan for the whole district.

Examples are of existing and ongoing initiatives are:

- The activity currently underway to develop a recycling arrangement for the Karamea area which has its own momentum and will continue independently - it is noted that there is interdependence between this project and the proposals contained in this document.
- The work done by the Karamea Estuary Enhancement Project (KEEP) with planting, walkways and information boards in the Karamea estuary area.

Our project aims to achieve coordination and to ensure that communication with outside agencies is integrated and representative of all within the community. The following relationships are indicative of Karamea external stakeholder but are not exclusive e.g. Buller Electricity is a key supplier of energy for the district:



- BDC - Buller District Council
- DOC - Department of Conservation
- DWC - Development West Coast
- WCDHB - West Coast District Health Board
- WCRC - West Coast Regional Council
- WMP - Westland Milk Products

Funding and resources for projects suggested in this document is seen as being provided from a number of sources and it is acknowledged that the community must make its contribution as well. While the current income profile for the community shows that the community is below the Buller average which is in turn below the national average and there are restraints on the availability of local capital there is a great deal of time and energy already donated through community volunteer activity and we see that continuing in the future.

The development of strategically aligned partnerships is the trend in business and government relationships and we wish to play an active part in that.

## 4. Future issues

The following items are identified as issues for ongoing consideration - these are not developed in this document but do need to be taken into account as the work flowing from this initiative goes forward.

- Future role of the Consultation Group and its governance
- Climate change
- Demographic trends
- Future economic developments - particularly taking into account the potential benefits arising from the broadband and cellular connectivity improvements projected for the area.

## 5. Specific proposals not included in Part II

The following table records items which require ongoing action but which do not feature in the Urban Design document (Part II). These should all be completed within twelve months.

<b>Proposal</b>
Establish a community communication strategy with specific proposals to enhance and add to existing communication methods
Continue close liaison with external communication providers to achieve significant improvement to broadband and cellular connectivity.
Develop a set of proposals to carry forward the work of the Consultation Group with an emphasis of integrating and coordinating all community related activity in the district
Arrange discussions with stakeholders identified in paragraph 3.3 to communicate community initiatives
Investigate swimming opportunities

## 6. Conclusion

Considerable time and effort have been put into this exercise by local community members and the value of this is duly acknowledged. This is a community driven initiative which establishes a template for the future development of Karamea. It is now a matter for the community and all of the stakeholders and organisations associated with this part of the West Coast to take it forward and to build it into their own strategic and operational planning - in the first instance through the review process of the Buller District Council Long Term Plan.

We are all strongly committed to a vibrant future for our part of the world and believe that it has characteristics which mean that is achievable. We see this initiative as helping to make this happen.

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**January 2015**

**Karamea Consultation Group  
An Urban Design for Karamea  
Part II**

**Urban Analysis: A Community Consultation  
An Urban Design: A Concept Masterplan for Karamea**

**See separate document in A3 format**