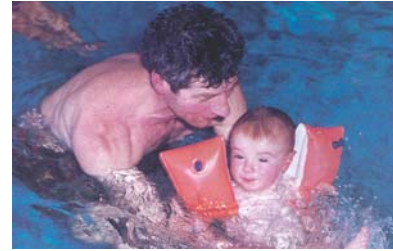


4.11 Best new service



We asked participants what they would consider to be the most important new service or opportunity that could be implemented in the region. We also asked them to think about what this service would achieve for the community.

Feedback for this question was unique and individual, from no response at all, to suggestions for new walkways (with maps and routes attached) to ideas for youth clubs, creation of a surf reef, establishment of a hemp production facility and proposed locations for speed cameras. The top 10 collective responses from participants are represented on the graph below.

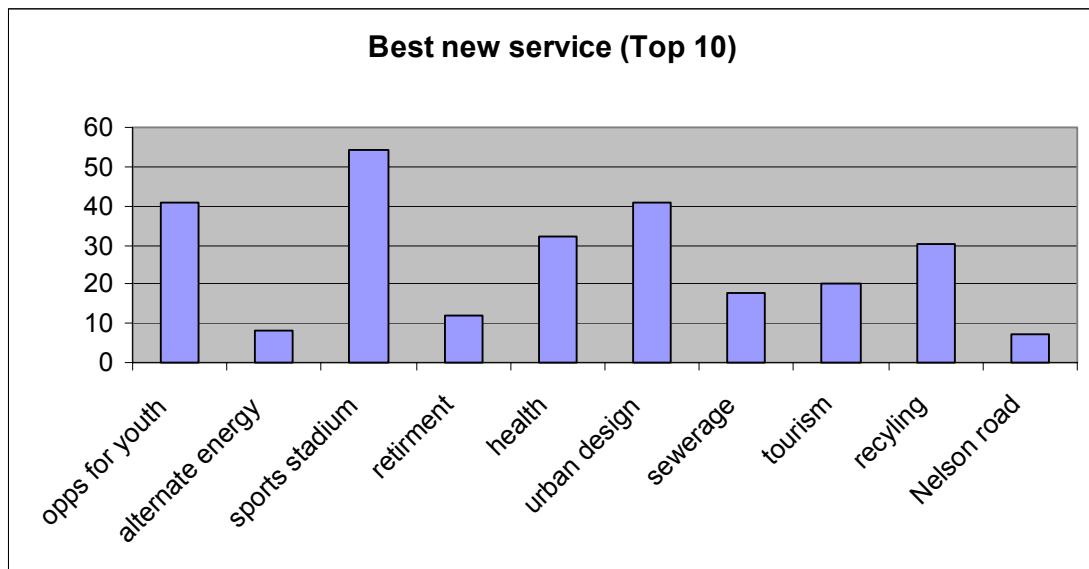
A large percentage of respondents indicated a new sports facility/events venue was the new service they would most like to see implemented. Comments covered a new pool facility, to combined sporting facility, to combined sports facility and cultural and events venue. Participants saw the benefits of this service including; encouraging youth off the streets, replacement of old infrastructure, would have the potential to attract sport teams to Westport, community pride, ability to host events, access to swimming and other recreational activities year round, improvements to health and well-being, and that it would provide for family activities during inclement weather.

Buller residents wanted to see improvements to urban design and there was an emphasis on providing recreational, training and social opportunities for youth. Most residents agreed that the Buller region needs a positive image, and that upgrading Westport's main street and promoting an integrated plan for Westport that included infrastructure upgrade and more cohesive use of assets and attractions, were important to achieve that. Perceived benefits included attracting more tourists and having them stay longer, revive community pride by making places more attractive, counteract stereotypes, assist with fostering of more vibrant and well off businesses, more employment, providing a cultural heart for arts and history, opportunity to promote the unique attributes and history of the region, cohesion, new development placed in the most appropriate location, ensuring we can cater for increased tourism, lift morale, increase tourism revenue, and maintain our distinctive character.

Opportunities for youth were varied, but generally Buller people wanted to see more social programmes targeting youth issues and development, including assistance with training, apprenticeships and career options, emphasising to youth the benefits of education, providing for social activities, addressing teen health issues, and promoting positive attitudes. Perceived benefits included improving educational achievements, full employment, a broader perspective, a greater appreciation for the region and the support it offers, sustain and improve the community, a safer, happier and more confident community, and more pride.

Good quality, sustainable health services covered many topics, including maintenance of health services in the region, better access, more continuity, more cohesive approach to specialist treatment and access, scholarship schemes to encourage local youth to train, improving of complimentary services such as intuitionists, dieticians etc, more funding and better health education, incentive schemes for rural practitioners. Benefits included; making the region more attractive to prospective residents and professional people looking to transfer for work opportunities, relieve stress of those already ill, a healthier and more stable community, a better aging experience, peace of mind, and a possible boost to tourism.

New/updated refuse services and in particular, recycling, were highlighted as important. Comments covered promotion of recycling, waste minimisation, responsible rubbish disposal, environmental education, establishment of a recycling plant, adherence to a Zero waste scheme, establishment of a function dump site for the West Coast, establishment of resource recovery/exchange centres. Benefits included; a cleaner environment, healthier towns, reduced costs for rubbish disposal, a positive image for the region, people would take responsibility for rubbish, develop community involvement and awareness.



Regional tourism promotion included comments on eco friendly tourism, heritage tourism, working cohesively with other agencies to better promote the region. Ensuring that the infrastructure is in place to support tourism.

Seeing a sewerage scheme up and running in Westport. Benefits included a cleaner river, a better image for visitors, less pollution, healthier water systems, bring Westport up to standard.

Several respondents commented on retirement facilities in the region. Comments ranged from the need for a local retirement village to provide housing for the elderly living alone, to improved aged care facilities, and the promotion of the region as a good place to retire. Benefits included economic spin-offs, less stress on families, and provision for older people who wish to retain their independence but were looking for security and occasional assistance when needed.

Alternate energy covered coal/refuse fired power stations, micro energy, generating electricity from the sea, solar, and hydro. Benefits included assurance of local power supply, employment, cheaper power, and generation of income.

A road from Collingwood to Karamea was seen to have the potential to attract more tourists through the district, bringing increased jobs, income and opportunities for development.

Comments –

“It is difficult to provide the amenities of larger towns due to a small population and the previous depressed state of the area. Progress is good and new residents will bring different talents and skills. It can’t all be done quickly, but it can improve, and will in every way.”

“Indoor sport facility, a swimming pool that was open in winter. Sport inside when the weather was bloody awful – as it often is.”

“Ensure urban design projects are funded to ensure their ongoing viability, along with development of rest areas. And collaborate with community initiatives.”

“My biggest concern is the rising number of tourists in the region, and not enough services to cope. We need to ensure we can keep it ‘clean and green’.”

“Improve the attitudes of youth through an assessment of what may meet the unique needs of our community. The children of the district are a valuable resource. This would achieve promotion of their importance of place, promotion of their health issues and improve the education achievements of at risk groups.”

“Our doctors, nurses and hospital should have full government support. We need this support to encourage more qualified people to work and live and STAY in this area.”

“Better medical services and aged care facilities would ensure people had peace of mind.”

“We need unification in the district, so we can develop together. Communities see themselves as separate.”

“Clean up the dump sites – bring Buller into the 21st Century. We are so far behind the rest of NZ. There also needs to be education on the subject for the young.”

“There are many talented people here with vision and belief in the future of our district. We would be happy to join them. There are exciting times ahead.”