Business assistance just a call away

Representatives from Callaghan Innovation and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) visited the West Coast this month as part of the Regional Business Partner (RBP) network. The group visited Westland Milk Products and WestTrak Equipment with DWC’s Nelia Heersink. Both companies have used the RBP network to obtain help with capability building or R & D assistance.

NZTE’s Euan Purdie says visiting businesses using the RBP network’s services is an opportunity to understand the issues they are coping with.

“It’s good for us to talk to people on the coast. There’s nothing like getting out there and seeing what value the RBP network is providing or how it can help further,” he says.

As a Regional Business Partner DWC helps local businesses with advice and training needs, and puts businesses in touch with Callaghan Innovation for help with research and development. The network is administered by NZTE and Callaghan Innovation and managed by DWC on the West Coast.

“Local companies are not always aware what assistance is available and DWC is there to provide guidance and referrals and West Coast businesses should take advantage of that,” says Mr Purdie.

For assistance through the RBP network contact DWC’s Business Support Manager Nelia Heersink at nelia@dwc.org.nz or 03 768 1076.

Help building resilience available

Coasters may have a reputation as some of the most resilient people in New Zealand but they have been doing it extremely tough lately. The recent storms have affected farmers and tourism operators throughout the coast. Businesses in Buller are also having to cope with redundancies at Solid Energy, the impending closure of Holcim’s Westport cement plant and the uncertainty about Buller Coal’s Escarpment Mine on the Denniston Plateau. Both companies have used the RBP network to obtain help with capability building or R & D assistance.

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