



# OUR FRAMING FUTURE

LONG TERM PLAN 2021-31

*Tirohanga Whakamua - Look to the future*

***Kōrero mai***

Have your say  
on the future of  
the Rangitīkei  
District by **5pm**  
**Monday 10 May**

OUR **FRAMING  
FUTURE**

LONG TERM PLAN 2021-31

*Tirohanga Whakamua - Look to the future*


Visit [www.framingourfuture.nz](http://www.framingourfuture.nz) to make a submission online or go to page 27


## He aha tō tirohanga whakamua mō Rangitīkei?

Have your say on the future of Rangitīkei


**Everyone within the Rangitīkei District is invited and welcome to participate in Framing Our Future and provide feedback on the Long Term Plan through mail, online, in person or verbal submissions.**


The Council wants to hear feedback from all ages and ethnicities, from townships and rural communities, right across the District. **To find more information on any part of this process, the LTP or this document, you can:**

 **Visit** our website  
[www.framingourfuture.nz](http://www.framingourfuture.nz)

 **Contact** our Council staff by calling 0800 422 522 or contact an Elected Member (contact details on page 54)

 **Email** us at [ltp@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:ltp@rangitikei.govt.nz)

 **Tune** into one of our live discussions on our Facebook - [facebook.com/RangitikeiDC](https://facebook.com/RangitikeiDC)

 **Attend** one of our Community Meetings or Hui-a-Marae throughout the District.

### It's easy to make a submission

Anyone can make a submission on this Consultation Document by filling out the form online at [www.framingourfuture.nz](http://www.framingourfuture.nz) or by completing the submission form on page 27.

**Your submission can be delivered to:**

**Email:** [ltp@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:ltp@rangitikei.govt.nz)

**Deliver to:**

**Marton Head Office**

46 High Street, Marton, 4710

**Bulls Information Centre**

Te Matapihi, 4 Criterion Street, Bulls, 4818

**Taihape Information Centre**

Taihape Town Hall,

90 Hautapu Street (SH1), Taihape, 4720

**Freepost to:**

Rangitikei District Council - 172050

Private Bag 1102, Marton, 4741

When you spot a QR code in this document, just open your camera and hold it over the QR code, a link will pop up, click on it and it will take you to supporting information on our website.



We need to receive your feedback by 5pm on Monday 10 May, 2021

## Rārangi take


### Contents

- 6 Mihi
- 6 Message from your Mayor
- 10 What are we doing?  
*Our achievements, challenges and vision.*

#### Let's decide on...

- 20 Wifi in our towns
- 22 Taihape Grandstand
- 24 Economic development
- 26 Event sponsorship funding
- 31 Local Government Funding Agency membership

- 32 What else are we planning?  
*Our infrastructure plans, projects and timeline.*
- 40 Crunching the numbers  
*Our income, debt, spending, fees and rates.*

- 52 Auditor's Report
- 54 Who is your Council?
- 27  Make a submission

## Pēwhea te tukanga?

How does the Long Term Plan process work?

### What's this all about?

Haere mai and welcome to Framing Our Future, the Consultation Document for the Rangitīkei District Council's 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

This booklet is a summary of several longer documents that make up our proposed Long Term Plan for the next 10 years.

It tells you about what the Council does and what services it provides, where your rates are spent, what our big plans are for the future and the issues and challenges we face as a District.

**It's also an invitation for you to work together with us to frame our future.**

We are committed to the future of our District and creating a plan that best serves the communities who live here. To achieve this we need to hear from you - our people - about what you want and need to make this District home.

Help us make our big decisions to tackle the challenges we need to work through.

### What happens next?

**12 April to 10 May 2021 - Consultation**  
We need to hear your feedback by 5pm, Monday 10 May 2021.

### May to June 2021 - Hearings and Deliberations

We'll hear from you and what you think of our plans, then our Councillors will make their deliberations and decisions.

### June 2021 - Adoption


Our Mayor and Councillors will vote to adopt the Long Term Plan.

### July 2021 - Action

Our team will get on to putting the Long Term Plan into action.

#### What is a Long Term Plan?

The Long Term Plan (LTP) is a large and important document that sets out the Council's plans and budget for the next 10 years. Every three years, the LTP is reviewed and refreshed to make sure we're still heading in the right direction for our District's future.

 **Supporting Information is available to explain our policies, plans and strategies in greater detail, than what is in this document.** We'll let you know on each page of this book what's available and relevant.

## Mihi

### Acknowledgment

**E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā rau rangatira mā o te rohe nei o Rangitikei, tēnā koutou katoa.**

**Mihi mahana tēnei o te Kaunihera o Rangitikei kia tātou katoa e noho ana ki roto i te rohe nei, nau mai, whakatau mai rā**

**Whakataka te hau ki te uru,  
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga,  
Kia mākinakina ki uta,  
Kia mātaratara ki tai,  
E hī ake ana te atakura,  
He tio, he huka, he hau hū,  
Tihei Mauriora!**

*The Rangitikei District Council acknowledges all those who live within our District.*

*We send a warm welcome to you all.*

*Cease the winds from the west  
Cease the winds from the south  
Let the breeze blow over the land  
Let the breeze blow over the ocean  
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air  
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day!*

## Nā te koromatua Mayor's Message

**E ngā tāngata katoa o te rohe nei, piki mai kake mai.**

**W**elcome to our Consultation Document for the Long Term Plan (LTP) for the Rangitikei District for 2021-2031.

The Consultation Document gives an overview of the LTP, which is the Council's vision of the direction for our District over the next 10 years, with a strong focus on the first three years. Your view may differ to Council's vision, and this consultation process is to provide the information and opportunity for you to submit your views on the Plan.

This Document will provide information on our preferred options for some key challenges we are facing, it will also show you some alternative options and the cost/rate implications of both.

This Plan has been the most difficult one to put together that I have been involved with. We are challenged by the changes in Government

direction and regulation, dealing with aged infrastructure, potential water management changes, earthquake-prone buildings and property revaluations in a year impacted by a global pandemic.

While we've been lucky in our District and in New Zealand, to not be impacted too significantly by COVID-19, we are operating in a very different environment.

We know we're faced with many obstacles and tough decisions in our District over the next 10 years, but we feel optimistic about our future and the achievements we've made to date.

The Government is proposing that Three Waters, the provision of wastewater (sewerage), drinking water and stormwater, be delivered by another entity. There is a lot more to understand about this before any final decisions are made, but we will be asking for your views on this when we have more information.

Council was tasked by the District in the last LTP to focus on economic growth. To survive and prosper we needed more people and more businesses.

I'm pleased to say, we have since experienced dramatic increases in the number of new houses and industry wanting to come to Rangitikei. We have partnered with Government and iwi on the Marton Rail Hub project, and we continue to focus on rebuilding core assets, such as the water strategy and sewerage supply. Council is also developing a spatial plan, looking at social services, including health and housing, and climate change is at the forefront of our minds.

The Marton Rail Hub, which is a partnership with the Government, local iwi Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa and Rangitikei Forestry Holdings, is an exciting project that will create jobs, boost the economy and support community and iwi. We are now looking at the best way to manage it when it's completed, and this could be by setting up a Council Controlled Trading Organisation (CCTO), which would open up other potential commercial opportunities, as well. If Council decides to go ahead with this, they will consult as per the special consultative process. There is still a lot of work and information needed before we decide to go down this track.



We have also promised to "tell the story of both cultures". This is the Māori and Pākehā history of our District. We will honour that pledge.

My thanks go to my fellow Councillors and staff. I appreciate the effort that has gone into this document.

Finally, please have your say, there will be many public meetings and chances for this.

Ngā mihi,  
Andy Watson, **Mayor of Rangitikei.**

## *Kei te aha mātou o te Kaunihera?*

*What is the  
Council doing?*

*“We’re thinking  
about the kind  
of place we want  
to grow up in.”*

*- Troydon-Neihana and Manaia*



### *Kōrero mai*

Have your say  
on the future of  
the Rangitīkei  
District by **5pm**  
**Monday 10 May**

## Kua tutuki | 2018-2021

### What we've achieved | 2018-2021

**W**e refreshed our Long Term Plan in 2018, and since then, while we've faced the challenges of COVID-19, we've achieved a lot. Here's some of the highlights from across the District in the past three years.

We installed new toilets at Centennial Park, Marton, in Follett Street, Marton and in Mangaweka village.

**We successfully made repairs to the Marton Dam B face at Tūtaenui Reservoir and opened the area up as an official public reserve.**

2018



We completed the construction of Te Matapihi, the new Bulls Community Centre, and continue to progress work on the Town Square and Bus Lane. Stage 2 of this project is the commissioning and construction of the bus lane and town square, which will include local art work.

**We've started construction on the new Mangaweka bridge.**

**We've committed to the Marton Rail Hub project and put resources and actions in place to move the project forward. The Government's Provincial Development Unit is also funding the project with a grant of \$9.1 million. We are now thinking about the best way to manage it, one option is to set up a Council Controlled Trading Organisation (CCTO) which could manage the operations and open up other potential commercial opportunities. If Council decides it does want to set up a CCTO this would be publicly consulted on.**

We've kicked off the upgrade of the Marton Memorial Hall, with the removal of asbestos completed, and further work continuing on electrical



and heating, creating an additional emergency exit, installing a fire alarm, painting and improving accessibility. These works are supported by the Provincial Growth Fund.

We reviewed our representation on Council and reduced the wards to three - Northern, Southern and Central.

**We elected a new council in 2019 across the three new wards, which resulted in six first-time councillors (meet them on page 54).**

Our Council has been working closely with other councils and groups around the region on an approach to the management of Three Waters.



We have also been a participant in regional discussions on how to approach the challenge of climate change and in developing a high-level regional spatial plan.

**We've started work on the remediation of the historic landfill on Pūtōrino Road.**

We've put a plan in place for Bulls water. We've committed to keeping the landmark Bulls water tower 'Mushroom' and improving seismic strengthening of the structure, and work has started on building a new reservoir below the tower.

**A Strategy to address the long-standing odour and taste challenges with the Marton Water Supply was initiated in 2019.**



2021



**Work has progressed well and soon Council will be in a position to decide on the future of the water supply.**

We've committed to building an amenities block at the Taihape Memorial Park. We're now deciding what to do with the Grandstand, which you can read more about on page 22.

**We've upgraded the majority of street lights, with the only non-LED lights remaining in a handful of parks and reserves, pedestrian crossing lights and some decorative lights.**

The Marton Skate Park at Centennial Park was completed.





Supporting Information  
Council Website  
Annual Plans



## Ngā hua hāpori Community Outcomes

Our Community Outcomes are a set of goals that guide the Council's work and planning and help to set our priorities for the District.

The Community Outcomes we seek for our District aim to improve the wellbeing of our communities in four key areas:

-  **Social**
-  **Environmental**
-  **Cultural**
-  **Economic**

## He aha ngā moemoeā? What's our vision for the District?

The Community Outcomes we're working towards are:

### Healthy and resilient communities

- We advocate for the wellbeing of our communities.
- We ensure our infrastructure services are appropriate and affordable and we aim to reduce the risk from earthquake-prone buildings.
- We support and manage events, activities and facilities that meet the needs of our community and make people proud to live here.
- We work with cultural groups and new residents to ensure they are welcomed and we aim to keep communities well-informed and engaged in decision-making.

### Healthy and improving environment

- We are proud of our natural environments and work towards more sustainable use of resources.
- We aim to reduce our carbon footprints, reduce waste to landfill and plan for the projected impacts of climate change.

### Prosperous economy

- We facilitate growth and support commercial and industrial investments, and the visitor sector.
- We value the rural economy and support primary sector productivity.
- We aim to ensure rate levels are prudent and we seek housing solutions that support the community.

### Partnership with iwi

- We work with iwi on projects and plans that are important to them before carrying out public engagement.
- We work with tangata whenua to identify and protect areas of cultural importance and we help tangata whenua tell their stories of the land and history.

## The Council is working towards a Strategic Vision for 2050 in which the Rangitikei District will...



Have a population of 25,000.



Focus on sustainability and the environment.



Diversify the horticultural and agricultural sector



Have a smoother age demographic.



Increase our skilled workforce.



Accommodate for greater boutique tourism.



Be a trusted partner with iwi



Increase numbers of community spaces, meeting hubs and places for communities to connect.



Include greater levels of horticultural and agricultural automation, technology and artificial intelligence.



Have increased ethnic diversity.



Redevelop town centres in Marton, Hunterville, Bulls and Taihape.



We've marked each important part of our plans in this document with a wellbeing icon to highlight how our plans will improve the community's wellbeing.

Supporting Information  
Strategic Vision 2050



## Ngā whakataurite

*What are the challenges we are facing?*

**P**lanning for a better future in the Rangitikei District will always involve challenges. A key part of our Long Term Plan process is assessing how to best address and balance the challenges we face with what we are focused on achieving for our communities.

We are expecting significant growth in our District over the next 10 years, and we want to be prepared with the right infrastructure and facilities, services, land availability, and economic development.

But we also need to make sure that our decisions are financially sustainable now and into the future and that they will set up our younger generation for a healthy, fair and equitable community wherever they are in our vast District.

This means we need to ensure our rates are affordable and fair across the varying types of property and areas of our District, that our debt levels are

maintainable and that we invest wisely, while also ensuring we can pay for what our District needs and wants.

We need to take action to address climate change, the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and we need to be planning for the future of our drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.



### Development Agreements

**C**ouncils must consider development contributions to show how they recover costs to expand and promote growth.

Our Council has made the decision to assess these situations case by case, and enter into individual agreements with developers. This allows us to work with each developer to meet their needs, along with those of the Council and Community.

## Ka taea e mātou te whakatutuki?

*Can we do it all?*

**O**ne of our challenges is whether we'll be able to complete all the capital work we've planned to do. Not completing our programme presents some risks. Our planned Capital Works programme for the 10 years is \$227 million.

Delays could potentially result in increased costs or assets could fail before they are upgraded or replaced, risking continuity and delivery of services. There is also the risk that we charge rates to fund programmes that we then can't deliver in the proposed timeframe.

We have already taken steps to ensure we can complete our capital works programme, including employing more dedicated project managers and seeking early external expertise for major projects.

We are also planning to complete an extensive asset condition assessment over the next three years. We will continue to maintain our critical infrastructure to meet our existing levels of service.

There are some things we can't control, like the increased demand for skilled construction workers and materials, but we don't believe these risks to be significant and we are confident we can deliver our programme.



Rangitikei District Council



#### Supporting Information

Financial and Infrastructure Strategy  
Three Waters Review and Three Waters Reform



## Kei te āta whakaaro mātou... We're thinking about...

### Three Waters

Work on our District's Three Waters - drinking water, stormwater and wastewater - has been under way for some time, but there's still a lot to do to ensure we maintain safety and compliance and the infrastructure is up to standard.

We are working on plans for wastewater disposal and treatment, water supply and drainage systems across the District.

Along with many Councils in New Zealand, we are faced with issues around ageing infrastructure for water, and challenged by funding deficits, regulatory standards, the potential impacts of climate change and supporting growth.

Last year the Government announced the Three Waters Reform, which was based on the Three Waters Review, and we agreed to work alongside them to explore future service delivery options. This could see local government's Three Waters services moved into Water Services Entities (WSE), which will be under public ownership. The new entity would be operational from 1 July 2024.

The details of the timing and direction of this new framework are still being worked through.

Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Government and received \$4.82 million in funding for water infrastructure.

Councils can choose to opt out of this framework. When we have more information on the Three Waters

Reform we will begin consultation with the community.

It's important to note that the plans set out in this Consultation Document and our Long Term Plan 2021-2031 do take into account that the communities across the Rangitikei District will need Three Waters services whether it is our Council that delivers them or not.

These activities and services are reflected in our Financial Strategy with financial assumptions.

**There's more information here: [www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme](http://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme)**

Read more about Three Waters on page 36.

### Growth in our region

We know that our region is growing and we need to be prepared.

The population in our District has historically been in decline, however, projections show that there could be more than 20,000 residents in our District within the next 20 to 30 years.

The expansion of the Air Force Base at Ōhakea is set to bring hundreds of people to our District, as will the investment in rail, forestry, farming and horticulture in Rangitikei. It's a key focus for us to ensure that we have the most appropriate land available for housing and for business development.

We will start work this year on developing a Spatial Plan to assess where the District is likely to grow or decline in residential and rural areas so we can plan appropriately.

We will consult with the community where necessary, and any suggested changes to the District Plan will go through the Plan Change process.

### Climate change

Climate change is already affecting our weather, health and wellbeing, environment, agriculture, infrastructure, and the economy. An example of this is increased frequency of severe storms, which can result in additional costs (for example major slips from pro-longed heavy rainfall). Given Council's current

levels of debt and insurance cover, Council considers that it would have the ability to respond to severe weather events.

We are committed to climate action and exploring opportunities to mitigate and respond in our journey towards becoming a more sustainable district.

We are thinking about the impacts sea level rises could have on our seaside settlements, the effects that extreme weather events could have on our stormwater drainage systems and roads, and the toll that drought can take on our water supply. The work on our Spatial Plan, which is set to begin this year, will also address climate change and its effects.

### COVID-19 recovery and economic development

Council has been an ongoing contributor to Accelerate 25, as well as Te Pai Tawhiti and the Manawatū-Whanganui Economic Action Plan. We also have our own Economic Development Strategy 2020-2050.

These are a focus for us in the next few years, especially as we work to diversify our District and ensure our community is not too heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# He aha ngā whakataunga a te Kaunihera?

What are the big decisions we need to make?

“We’re thinking about the best ways to use our land.”

- James and Ginny



**Kōrero mai**  
Have your say on the future of the Rangitikei District by **5pm Monday 10 May**

## Whiringa Tuatahi | Key Choice 1

### Should we set up free Wifi zones in our townships?



**We know how important communication and connectivity is to those who live in and visit our District, so the Council is considering setting up free Wifi zones in the townships of the Rangitikei District.**

Free Wifi is currently available at visitor information centres and libraries in Taihape, Marton and Bulls, but is limited to the interior of each venue.

We are proposing to roll out free Wifi to the main centres of our towns, with the goal of providing a reliable connection to visitors where there is often limited internet availability.

The Wifi would be available in the area around the venues, and in the main

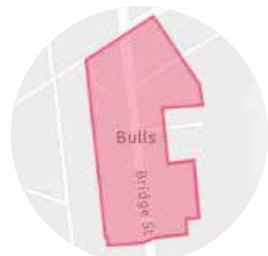
street nearby. We will install signage throughout each town to advise on how to get connected. Check out the maps below to see the possible options.

There would also be limitations on Wifi use (eg. 1GB per day), to ensure it's used responsibly.

**The main goal would be to allow a passing tourist to quickly log on and look up resources, or share a quick post on social media.**

It would also give us the opportunity and ability to promote our District to visitors who use the service and support our work to attract tourism in the area. There would be a one-off investment to install the routers and equipment to set up the service with reliable wireless coverage and secure network access, and there would also be ongoing monthly maintenance costs.

#### Proposed Wifi Zones



Bulls



Marton



Marton-Memorial Hall



Taihape



Hunterville

By leveraging the Wifi at each information centre, we know we will be able to provide Wifi zones in Marton, Taihape and Bulls. We also have the option of looking at the possibility of rolling out a Wifi zone in Hunterville, too.

We would need to undertake a review of existing internet availability to determine the requirements of doing this.

We think that free Wifi in townships throughout our District would positively impact our businesses and tourism,

encouraging more people to stop in our towns as they pass through, and bringing our residents out to use and enjoy our public spaces.

Supporting Information  
Strategic Vision 2050



### What do you think we should do?

#### Option 1

We roll out free Wifi zones to our townships of Marton, Taihape and Bulls across 2021 and 2022.

OUR  
PREFERRED  
OPTION

We prefer this option because it would provide more connectivity in these towns and support businesses and the community in attracting people to our public spaces, without costing too much.

We estimate the one-off installation costs would be \$64,000. It would cost the Council \$2,635 per month to maintain the service.

#### Likely consequences

Impact on rates: Increase of **\$4.25** per year  
Impact on debt: **\$64,000** debt-funded capital investment  
Impact on levels of service: **Increase**

#### Option 2

We roll out free Wifi zones to Marton, Taihape, Bulls, as well as Hunterville, across 2021 to 2023.

This option would provide further connectivity across more townships in our District, including a key tourist spot, but it would cost a bit more to implement and take a little longer to put in place.

We estimate the one-off installation costs for this option would be \$80,000. It would cost the Council \$3,255 per month to maintain the service.

#### Likely consequences

Impact on rates: Increase of **\$5.20** per year  
Impact on debt: **\$80,000** debt-funded capital investment  
Impact on levels of service: **Increase**

#### Option 3

The Council does not introduce free Wifi zones in our main streets and townships, and maintains the status quo.

The Council will still continue to provide free Wifi at the iSite visitor information centres and libraries in Taihape, Marton and Bulls.

#### Likely consequences

Impact on rates: **nil**  
Impact on debt: **nil**  
Impact on levels of service: **nil**

## Whiringa Tuarua | Key Choice 2

### Should we invest in restoring the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand?

**The Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand is an icon and we know the community wants to preserve and restore this historically significant structure.**

Its future has been in the balance for some time, as we've worked through how best to provide facilities for the community and sports clubs in Taihape, and how to protect the heritage of the Grandstand itself.

Alongside consideration for the Grandstand, Memorial Park needs upgraded amenities to cater for all of the sports teams, community activities and events hosted at the venue.

In August 2020, a concept design for a new amenities building, separate to the Grandstand structure, was presented.

While Council also considered the possibility of installing new amenities inside the Grandstand building, Council made the decision in December 2020 to proceed with the construction of a separate amenities block.

The amenities block is set to be located at the end of the tennis and netball courts, near the centre of the

park, and will house changing rooms, public toilets, a physiotherapy room, a shop and office space. The design reflects space standards comparable with recent similar amenity buildings constructed elsewhere in New Zealand and is set to cost \$2.9 million.

**It will significantly improve the Memorial Park as a venue for sport and community events.**

The location, layout and size of these facilities have been discussed over many years, and through the extensive consultation on this issue we also heard the community and have agreed to investigate the Grandstand's physical condition for future restoration and refurbishment.

The Taihape Grandstand was built in 1924 and is considered to be one of the few remaining wooden structures of its type in rural New Zealand. The Taihape Heritage Trust's recent application to



Heritage New Zealand for a listing as a category 2 historic place has been accepted for further consideration.

From assessments completed in 2009, we believe the Grandstand needs structural strengthening and it's likely it will need seismic support, as well.



We are working our way through various new assessments of the building and the work required to restore and maintain it so we have a solid understanding of the investment we need to make. We plan to undertake a geotechnical investigation, structural and seismic assessments and conservation report, and work on some of these has already been completed.

While we don't yet know how much the refurbishment of the Taihape Grandstand could cost, we have made a provision in our Draft Long Term Plan budget of \$1 million to contribute towards the project. This expenditure will only be committed once Council makes a decision based on final costing and the feedback from this consultation.



**Supporting Information**  
Taihape Grandstand  
Council Report



#### Option 1

**We continue to investigate the refurbishment and restoration of the Grandstand and how this could be funded in collaboration with our community.**

This is our preferred option because we know our community cares about this building and its historical significance. Upgrading the Grandstand will ensure this is a sound structure that can be used by our community, sports teams and visitors to our District.

This option could mean we seek options for funding within the community, if we ultimately decide to proceed with the refurbishment. We have included a \$1 million provision (funded from cash reserves) in the draft LTP to contribute towards the project, and while this is reflected in the rates impact figures, it's possible we will also need to seek additional funds through other avenues should the cost of the project exceed \$1 million.

#### Likely consequences

Impact on rates: Increase of **\$2.56** per year  
Impact on debt: **None**  
Impact on levels of service: **Increase**

#### Option 2

**We do not invest in the restoration of the Taihape Memorial Park Grandstand within this planned period.**

This will mean the Council will still invest in the new amenities block at Memorial Park but the Grandstand will remain as it is for the foreseeable future.

It is possible that this project could be considered again in the future but delaying it could result in further deterioration.

#### Likely consequences

Impact on rates: **nil**  
Impact on debt: **nil**  
Impact on levels of service: **nil**

## Whiringa Tuatoru | Key Choice 3

### How should we fund our economic development?

**Economic development is a key focus for the Rangitikei District Council, as our District's growth continues and we look to improve the economic wellbeing and quality of life in our community.**

We have prioritised five key areas in our Economic Development Strategy 2020-2050 that we believe will help to propel our District forward.

#### Let's look at those key priorities in a bit more detail:

##### Expand and diversify housing stock

We know that our District needs more housing to promote the wellbeing of our communities and support expansion and growth of businesses in the area. We want to facilitate and promote the increase of housing stock however we can.

##### Partner with hapū, iwi and the Rātana community

We are committed to ensuring that Māori contribute to decision-making opportunities, especially as it relates to hapū and iwi communities, to ensure that we are meeting the needs and specific interests of Māori when it

comes to economic development. We want to work with iwi, hapū and the Rātana community to support their development and implementation of their economic development plans, recognising the contribution of the "Māori Economy" to our District's wellbeing.

##### Visitor and new resident attraction and promotion

We know our District has a lot to offer to both visitors and residents, current and new. We want to develop a District Management Plan to identify growth areas, to better represent our diverse community and promote Rangitikei as a great place to live, shop and play, while encouraging investment, employment and sustainable business growth.

##### District information gathering and analysis

We want to survey and analyse information about our District's



businesses, town centres and primary producers, to better support their growth and viability. It's important that we build on our strengths to create a stronger economy that benefits everyone.



#### Leverage the expansion of Ōhakea Air Force Base and other large investments

We know that the Air Force Base at Ōhakea is expanding and bringing many more workers and families to our District, and that there will be large commercial and industrial investments in the southern part of the District. We want to be prepared for this growth and support it to benefit all residents.

**We are proposing that we boost investment in our economic development delivery so we can achieve greater outcomes within these priorities and push hard to achieve our goals.**

For further information on how we plan to achieve these five priorities, please see the supporting information on our website.



**Supporting Information**  
Economic Development Strategy  
Housing Strategy

## What do you think we should do?

### Option 1

We increase funding for economic development, allowing us to make greater strides in achieving our economic goals.

This would be an additional investment of \$122,500 per year (\$172,500 in year one) above the current budget, bringing the budget to \$372,500 in the first year of this plan allowing us to increase District promotion, start surveying our businesses, assist new investments, and business transformation.

This is our preferred option, as it will allow us to achieve more to benefit our economy and community.

#### Likely consequences

Impact on rates: Increase of **\$22.12** in year one (this decreases to \$15.70 in years 2 to 10). The existing \$200,000 that is allocated to economic development has a current impact on rates of **\$25.64**. This option would therefore mean that economic development has an overall impact on rates of \$47.76 in year one (\$41.34 in years 2 to 10).  
Impact on debt: **None**  
Impact on levels of service: **Increase**

OUR  
PREFERRED  
OPTION

### Option 2

We continue with the current budget and maintain the status quo for economic development.

This means we will invest \$200,000 in the first year of this plan, and we will:

- Partner with Māori
- Develop housing sectors
- Manage Visit Rangitikei website, promote our District online and support Shop Local campaign
- Lobby for better internet access in rural areas
- Contribute to a regional growth plan, and strengthen food and transport sectors

This option will continue to support our skilled economic development staff and the work they do in promoting and growing our District.

#### Likely consequences

Impact on rates: currently rated at **\$25.64** (per year)  
Impact on debt: **nil**  
Impact on levels of service: **Status quo**

## Whiringa Tuawha | Key Choice 4

### Should the Council increase Event Sponsorship?



**The Rangitikei District Council offers an annual event sponsorship fund, which supports several events throughout the District that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth.**

The event sponsorship scheme is currently funded for \$25,000, which has previously been used to support events like the Hunterville Huntaway Festival, the Taihape A&P Show and Gumboot Day, the Turakina Highland Games, the Marton Country Music Festival, Rangitikei Shearing Sports, the Tough Kid Challenge and Christmas parades across the District.

**These events have been considered to showcase the region well, draw visitors to the area and bring the community together.**

The fund is awarded by the Community Grants Sub-Committee and there are two funding rounds per year.

We are considering increasing our event sponsorship scheme so we can boost economic growth, draw more visitors to our stunning District, and further support our community to become a place we can call home.

### What do you think we should do?

#### Option 1

**Rangitikei District Council increases the annual Event Sponsorship Fund from \$25,000 to \$50,000. This would be an extra investment of \$25,000 per year above the current fund.**

We prefer this option because it would provide a strong boost to the support we can provide to events in our District, without having a significant impact on the rates we pay. It will also address rising costs in the event industry.

#### Likely consequences

Impact on rates: Increase of **\$3.21** per year  
Impact on debt: **None**  
Impact on levels of service: **Increase**

**OUR PREFERRED OPTION**

#### Option 2

**The Council does not increase the Event Sponsorship Fund and we maintain the status quo.**

The Event Sponsorship Fund would remain at \$25,000 per year and we would continue to support events in the way that we do now.

#### Likely consequences

Impact on rates: **nil**  
Impact on debt: **nil**  
Impact on levels of service: **nil**

**Supporting Information**  
Grants & Funding



## Long Term Plan 2021-31 Consultation Document

# Puka Tāpaetanga Submission Form



**He aha tō tirohanga whakamua mō Rangitikei?** Have your say on our Long Term Plan

Submissions close at 5pm Monday 10 May, 2021.

### Your Details

Ingoa/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tōpūtanga/Organisation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Kāinga noho/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Īmēra/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Waea/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick this box if you would like to speak to your submission at the Council Hearings on 12 and 13 May. Someone will contact you to confirm this.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

Submissions on this LTP are public information and your information and submission will be made available to the public as part of deliberations. Your submission will only be used for the purpose of the LTP process and will be held by Rangitikei District Council at 46 High St, Marton 4710. You may access the information and request its correction, if required.

PULL-OUT SUBMISSION FORM

### Optional Demographic Information *This is kept confidential for analysis only.*

#### Age:

- <24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65>

#### Gender:

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

#### Ethnicity:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Do you live in Rangitikei?

- Yes - where? \_\_\_\_\_
- No - where? \_\_\_\_\_

#### How did you hear about this LTP consultation?

- Newspaper
- Mail
- Website
- Meeting
- Facebook
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Tope edge together before free posting

**Long Term Plan 2021-31 Consultation Document**  
**Do you agree with our preferred options?**



**☛ Should we set up free Wifi zones? (see page 20)**

**☛ Should we invest in the Taihape Grandstand? (see page 22)**

**☛ How should we fund Economic Development? (see page 24)**

**☛ Should we increase Event Sponsorship? (see page 26)**

**☛ Should we join the LGFA as a guaranteeing member? (see page 31)**

*I prefer...*

- Option 1\*
- Option 2
- Option 3
- Something else

**Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*I prefer...*

- Option 1\*
- Option 2
- Something else

**Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*I prefer...*

- Option 1\*
- Option 2
- Something else

**Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

*I prefer...*

- Option 1\*
- Option 2
- Something else

**Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

*I prefer...*

- Option 1\*
- Option 2
- Something else

**Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Anything else?**

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**Privacy Act 2020**

Please note that submissions are public information. The content on this form including your personal information and submission will be made available to the media and public as part of the decision making process.

Please tick here if you want your details to remain private.

**☛ We've proposed a change to our rating system. (page 47)**

Let us know what you think: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please include more pages if required.

FreePost Authority Number 172050



Rangitikei District Council  
Long Term Plan Submissions  
Att: Planning and Democracy  
Private Bag 1102  
Marton 4741

**Tirohanga Whakamua - Look to the future**



## Whiringa Tuarima | Key Choice 5

### Should the Council join the Local Government Funding Agency as a guaranteeing member?



**Rangitikei District Council is considering joining the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) as a guaranteeing member and we'd like to know what you think.**

The LGFA is an organisation set up to lend money to councils and council companies.

Joining the LGFA as a Guarantor would give Rangitikei District Council more borrowing options, which could mean being able to access better borrowing terms, such as lower interest rates.

Council's current borrowing arrangements enable Council to borrow up to \$20 million from LGFA. Council is required to become a guaranteeing member of LGFA to borrow more than \$20 million from them. As such, we would become one of 60 other New Zealand councils that would have to cover the debts of LGFA. However this is generally not perceived as a concern. Council intends to increase its borrowings over \$20 million during this LTP so becoming a guaranteeing

member would provide greater choice, and potentially more favourable interest rates, for Council when raising these borrowings in excess of \$20m.

You can read more about the Council's current and planned debt over the next

10 years of this Long Term Plan on page 43.

Joining the LGFA doesn't mean we have to use the agency for all of our borrowing, it would be just one of our funding sources.

### What do you think we should do?

**Option 1** **OUR PREFERRED OPTION**

Rangitikei District Council joins the LGFA as a guaranteeing local authority.

We prefer this option because it would give the Council more borrowing options to fund our projects in the future.

**Likely consequences**  
Impact on rates: **nil**  
Impact on debt: **nil**  
Impact on levels of service: **nil**

**Option 2**

The Council does not join the LGFA as a guaranteeing local authority, maintaining status quo.

This would mean that Council could not borrow more than \$20m from LGFA.

**Likely consequences**  
Impact on rates: **nil**  
Impact on debt: **nil**  
Impact on levels of service: **nil**



**Supporting Information**  
Treasury Management Policy



## He aha atu anō ngā mahi?

What else are  
we planning?

"We're  
thinking about  
supporting the  
growth in  
our District."

- Sean

### **Kōrero mai**

Have your say  
on the future of  
the Rangitīkei  
District by **5pm**  
**Monday 10 May**

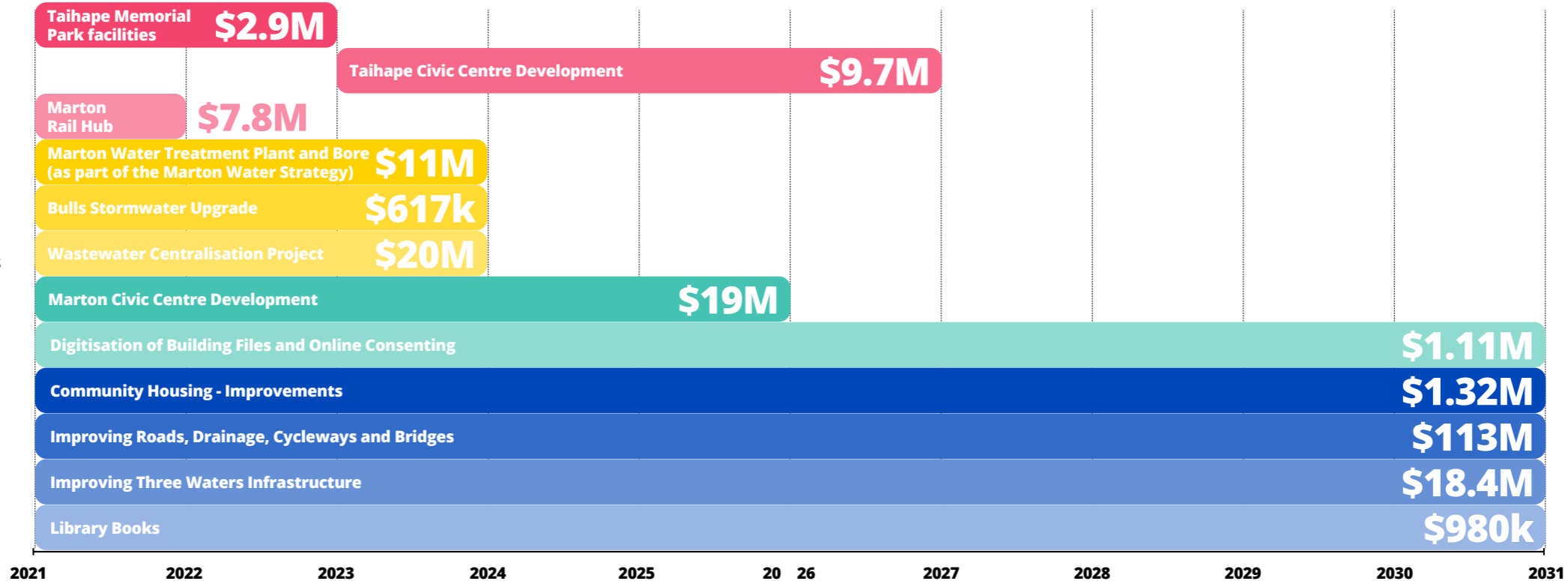
## He aha ngā whakakaupapa matua o te kaunihera? What are some key projects we are planning?

Infrastructure accounts for more than 80 per cent of the Council's operating expenditure and basically all of Council's capital expenditure.

To keep moving forward, we need to deliver a huge range of infrastructure projects. We need to do this while maintaining a balance between delivering our services, getting the best value, ensuring equity between generations and fairly sharing the costs of these services across different users and areas of our District.

Basically, we need to stay within our financial limits so we can afford what we have planned, and stick to the right path to ensure a great future for our communities.

In our 2021-2031 Long Term Plan we have set out some solid plans that we believe will make a big impact on your lives, and not your wallet.



Our full Financial and Infrastructure Strategy (which you can find online) details the key infrastructural issues we face over the next 30 years, the costs and service implications, and how we plan to manage them.

The next few pages of this Consultation Document outline some key information from the strategy.

Supporting Information  
Grants & Funding



These are some big projects and infrastructure investments that we have planned for in the next 10 years for our District.

The numbers in the graphic are rounded, and are not inclusive of everything we have planned in the LTP 2021-2031.

# Ngā ratonga wai Three Waters

**As we mentioned on page 16 of this Consultation Document, the provision of services for Three Waters (wastewater, stormwater, drinking water) is under review by the Government.**

This could mean changes to who looks after water infrastructure and who delivers these services.

This LTP includes the assumption that Council will continue to deliver Three Waters services. This is included in our infrastructure and service planning, and our financial forecasts.

We are putting money into the LTP for condition assessment studies over the next three years to improve our understanding of the condition of our water assets. This will provide more accurate knowledge and understanding of our assets conditions and performance to ensure it meets future needs of our Rangitikei people and environment.

**What does potable water mean?**

Potable water is simply another name for drinking water. It refers to water that is safe to drink and use in the preparation of food.

Underground assets are difficult and costly to inspect so we will work to get better understanding and information of our assets by undertaking condition assessments to help improve the reliability of future investment needs and decisions.


We also recognise that an important part of our strategy is to look after our existing infrastructure. We need to carry out renewals to replace network assets before they deteriorate to the point of failure. A traditional age based asset renewal approach will be followed for the next three years until such time as the new Asset Management Strategy work has been completed. By taking this approach we mitigate the risk of having unbudgeted expenditure and increased maintenance costs, and avoid an increased risk of disruption in services or any delays to anticipated service improvements.

**Drinking water** 

New Zealand Drinking Water Standards are set to change and we need to ensure our District's services are compliant.

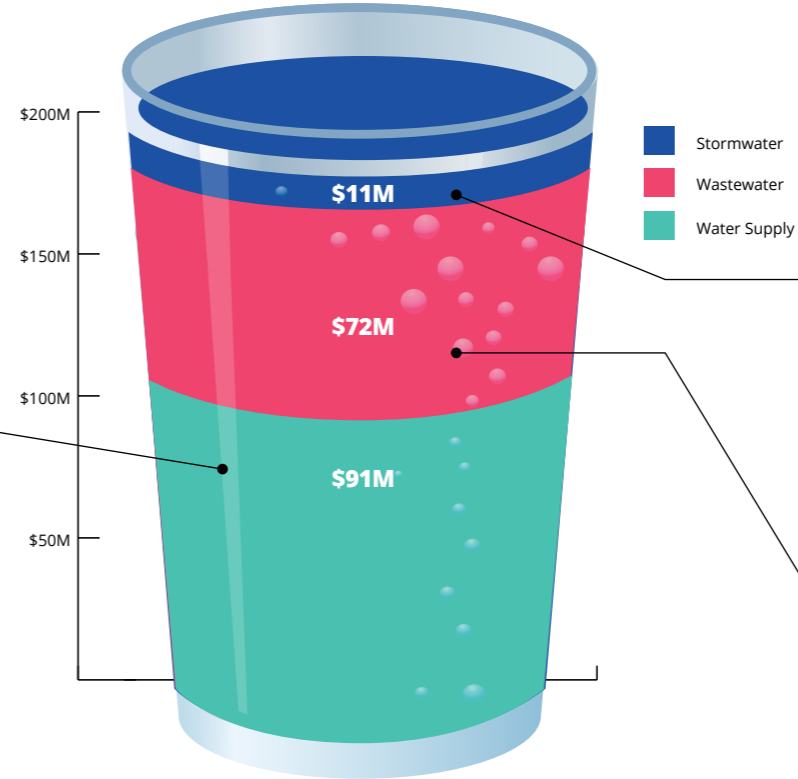
While the Standards are not yet known, we expect them to be more rigorous than the current standard, and we have planned for this and will work to meet the requirements.

In Rangitikei, all potable water supplies are chlorinated, regardless of their source.

**Rural water schemes** 

Along with the urban water supplies we manage, there are four rural water supplies within the Rangitikei District, at Hunterville, Erewhon, Omatane and Pūtōrino.

We have reviewed each of these schemes to ensure the most effective management model is in place, and to be sure that these water users understand this water is not potable.



These figures represent the total cost of operational and capital expenditure over the 10 years of this LTP.

**Stormwater** 

We are expecting new consent requirements to be introduced for stormwater run-off, and we are in support of this because of the potential damage that stormwater can cause to the water quality of our rivers and streams.

We are also planning to deal with problematic stormwater flows in our towns and villages. Years of neglect to these assets (because of ambiguity over ownership) means we will have to make a substantial investment to bring the network up to standard.

**Wastewater** 

The requirements for wastewater discharge are becoming more stringent to rightfully protect our waterways and environment.

This means we need to make some changes to the way we treat and discharge our wastewater. We are planning ahead to ensure our wastewater treatment plants have the upgrades they will require to meet the new resource consent requirements.

We plan to increase our land-based discharges.

# Ngā Rori Roothing

**R**oothing in our District is the Council's most valuable asset. It's important that we have a reliable and well-maintained road network so products and freight can continue to flow in and out of the District and support our economy and way of life.

However, the rural nature of Rangitikei means we have a vast roading network, which is large for the size of our population. We need to reseal our roads at least every 16.7 years and that includes resealing 45 to 55 kilometres of road each year.

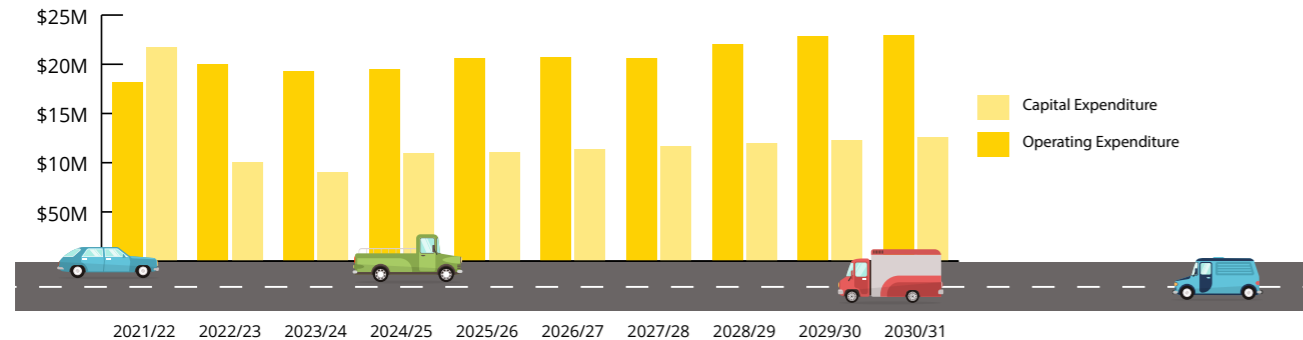
Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency provides funding assistance for roading in our District, but this is still

a large expense and Council allocates approximately 30 per cent of its rates to roading.

We also have several bridges that are nearing the end of their useful lives.

We have a plan that tells us when bridges need to be replaced or repaired, or if there are options to increase their lifespan.

**Supporting Information**  
 Roading Asset Management Plan  
 Roading Programme Business Case 2021-2024



# Ngā mahi a te rēhia Community & Leisure Facilities

**D**eveloping multi-functional civic and community facilities across the towns in our District continues as a key focus and project for Council.

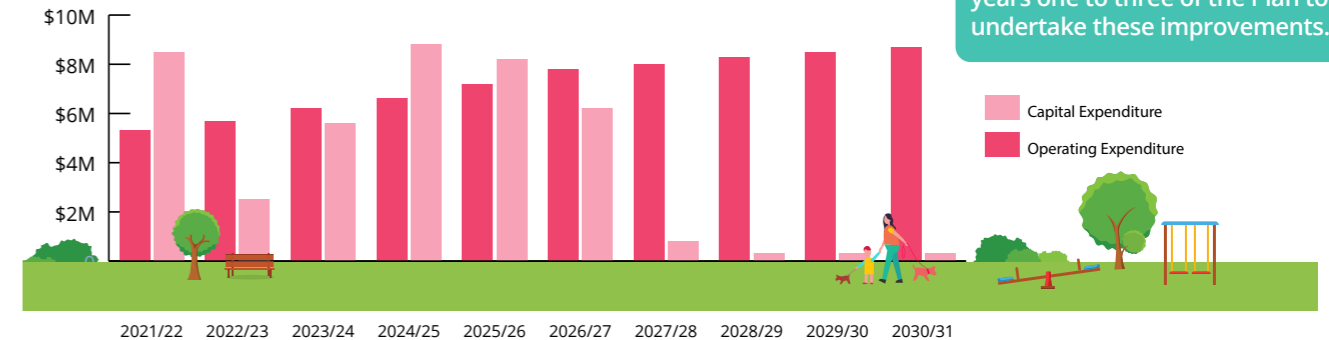
We completed Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre in 2020, and next we're looking at Marton and Taihape.

We plan on doing a separate targeted consultation in the first year of this LTP to gather feedback on the best way forward for redevelopment of the Marton Civic Centre. We have included funding of \$19 million in years one to five for this project, but the outcome and final costs will depend on

consultation. We'll let you know when we're ready to do that. We are also committed to developing an improved civic facility for Taihape, on the current Town Hall site.

We've planned funding for this in years one to five of this LTP.

**Supporting Information**  
 Community & Leisure Asset Management Plan 2021



We provide a range of other community and leisure facilities. Including:

- parks
- swimming pools
- public toilets
- community halls
- community housing
- camping grounds

During the first year of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan we intend to carry out comprehensive condition inspections to develop accurate renewal programmes for these facilities. A provision of about \$2 million has been included for years one to three of the Plan to undertake these improvements.

# Pārongo Ahumoni

Crunching  
the numbers

"We're thinking  
about the kind of  
community we  
want to live in."

- Sefo and Cloe



## Kōrero mai

Have your say  
on the future of  
the Rangitikei  
District by **5pm**  
**Monday 10 May**

## I ahu mai te pūtea moni i whea? Where do we get our money from?

**The Council is tasked with delivering a huge range of services to the community, as well as maintaining and delivering infrastructure projects.**

While we have big goals to achieve and a lot of work to do to ensure Rangitikei is a place people want to call home, we know how important it is to stick within our financial limits and ensure that what we do is affordable.

*We aim to get the best value we can for everything we do, to ensure we maintain equity between our communities and between current and future generations, and maintain a strong balance sheet without too much debt.*

This means keeping rates affordable, capping increases in our spending to a level our community can afford, and ensuring that we choose to fund the right projects at the right times.

### So, where does our money come from?

The Council's income is largely funded through rates, which are a form of taxation where anyone who owns property in Rangitikei must pay a set amount to the Council annually. There's more information about Rates on the next few pages.

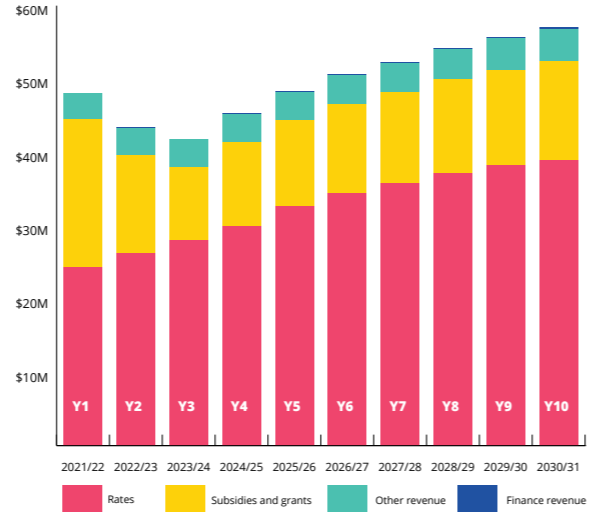
Fees, charges, grants and subsidies are also important sources of income for the Council, and these help us to keep our rates at an affordable level.

The most significant subsidy we receive is from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, which helps us to maintain our road network. We also receive grants and funding from the Government for specific projects.

As represented in this graph, we are set to receive some significant funds

from Government in years one and two of this LTP, and this is through the Government's Infrastructure Reference Group for the Marton Rail Hub.

We seek external funding, wherever we can, to assist in alleviating rates burden and work to achieve our goals for our community.



**Council is planning deficits for years three to five of the Long Term Plan.**

A key cause of these deficits is the increase to the depreciation cost that Council incurs – depreciation has increased from \$10.6 million in 2019 to a budgeted figure of \$14 million in 2022.

Council considers it prudent to rate for such cost increases over a number of years, thus avoiding unanticipated and large increases in any one year. Although this will result in Council having an unbalanced budget for some years of this LTP, it will result in an ongoing, sustainable balanced budget.



**Supporting Information**  
Draft Long Term Plan 2021-31

## Ngā nama pūtea What about debt?

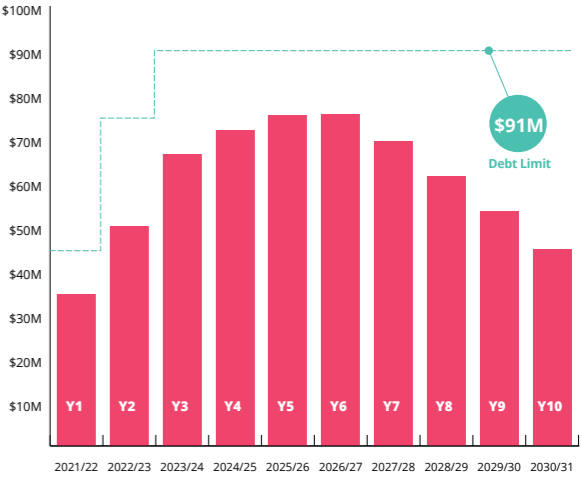
**While we do our best to maintain our District's growth, while living within our means, sometimes we need to utilise borrowed funds to support our projects.**

*Borrowing allows us to get the things we need now, and pay it off over time.*

Repaying loans over time also means that current and future ratepayers contribute to the cost of the asset that they are benefiting from.

This graph shows our projected levels of debt over the next 10 years of our LTP. We have capped our debt limit at \$91 million in years three to 10 (\$45 million in year one and \$75 million in year two).

It's important to note that this is based on an assumption that the Council will maintain a bank balance of \$9.2 million (minimum), in years three to 10 (\$4.8 million in year one and \$7.8 million in year two).



## Ngā whakapau pūtea What do we spend our money on?

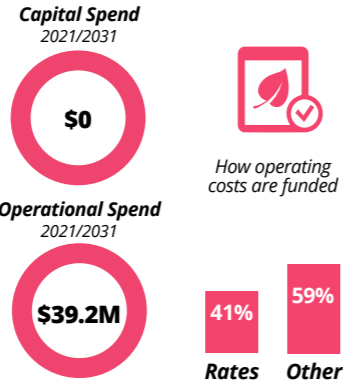
Council funds and looks after many assets and infrastructure in our District, such as roads, pipes, buildings, parks, town signage and rubbish bins.

The money we spend on developing, upgrading or maintaining physical assets is known as **capital expenditure**.

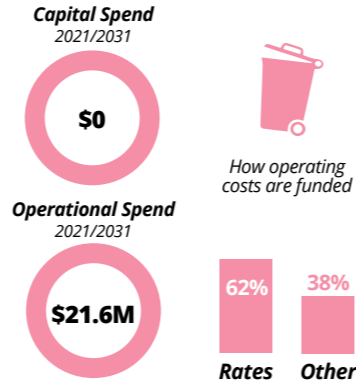
Council's capital expenditure is generally funded by debt, grants, subsidies and/or rates. Additional debt will be primarily in relation to the acquisition/construction of new assets/infrastructure, as opposed to being in relation to the replacement of existing assets/infrastructure.

We also fund and take care of many services in our District, including running, monitoring and regulating the goings-on in our communities. This is known as **operational expenditure**.

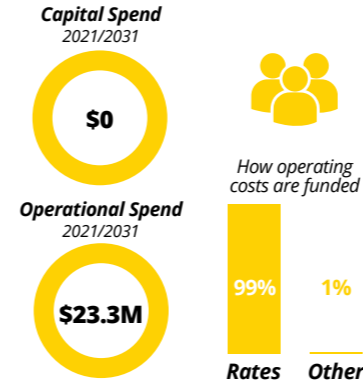
### Environmental & Regulatory



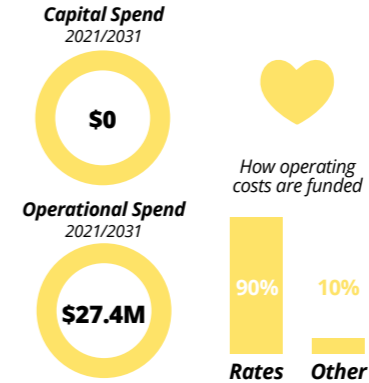
### Rubbish & Recycling



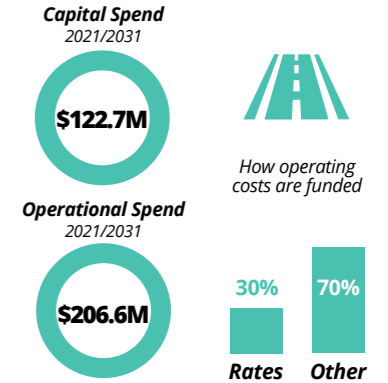
### Community Leadership



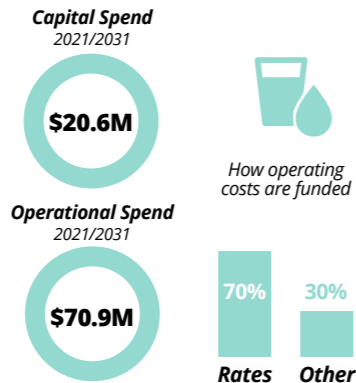
### Community Wellbeing



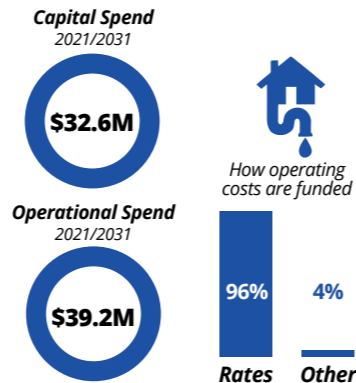
### Roading & Footpaths



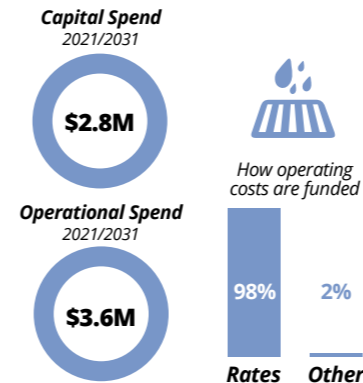
### Water Supply



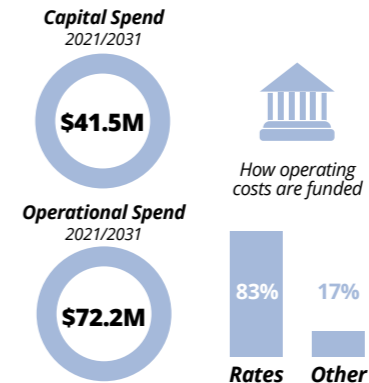
### Sewerage



### Stormwater



### Community & Leisure Assets



Council has committed to an ongoing programme of pursuing operational efficiencies and has incorporated savings in its operating budgets, where we have reduced operational budgets in year one of the LTP by about 2% and then included smaller efficiency gains to each subsequent year's budgets. As these savings are retained through the duration of this LTP this results in an approximate total cost saving of \$8 million. It is our intention that these savings can, and will, be achieved without impacting the quality or level of services the community receives. To the extent that such savings are not achieved this will impact on future debt levels, service levels and/or rate rises.

Supporting Information  
Draft Long Term Plan

\* These figures are subject to change. Capital Expenditure of around \$6.4 million in relation to our business units is not included in the figures above.

## Ngā tāke kaunihera What will our rates look like?

Every year, we collect rates from property owners in our District to cover the costs in our budget, pay back some debt (if we have any) and store some away for future renewals of our assets (depreciation).

In our District we have about 7,800 rateable properties and the amount of money needed to pay for Council services and facilities is divided between these properties.

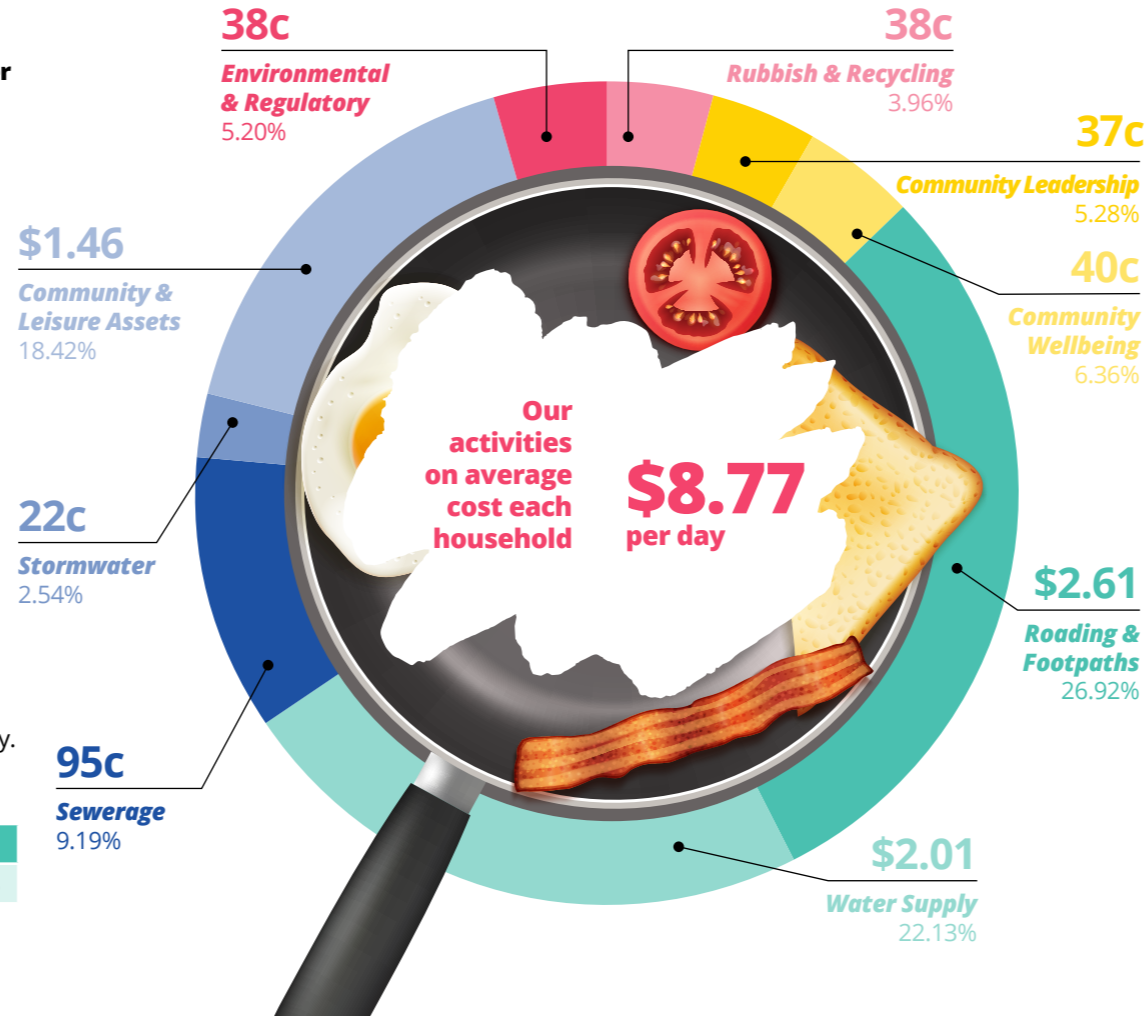
The amount charged is different for each property and how much you pay can depend on things like:

- The value of your property and whether it changes
- What services the property owners/occupiers receive or are likely to benefit from
- Changes to our rating charges

### Our proposed rates increases

The table below shows the proposed total rates increases (excluding penalties and remissions) for the next 10 years based on our draft budgets. These are the proposed total increases across the District and will vary from property to property. We have set a rates increase limit to an average of 7.5% across years one and two, and an average of 5% across years three to 10.

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
6.95%	7.25%	6.5%	6.5%	8.75%	5.5%	3.75%	3.75%	2.5%	2.0%



## Proposed changes to our rating system

We're reviewing the way our rates are distributed across different types of properties in all areas of our District.

In the Rangitikei District there are 10 different rating sectors: residential, commercial, farming, forestry, crop and specialist, industrial, lifestyle, utilities, mining and other.

Our District was revalued in 2020 and this resulted in a wide range of different revaluations across these rating sectors, with some significant increases, particularly for residential properties.

These revaluations will be used to determine how much you pay in rates from 1 July 2021 and, because of the value increases, it's likely that some ratepayers may notice their rates increase more than usual this year.

We are proposing to mitigate this by equalising the impacts from these increases by:

1. Introducing rating differentials from 1 July 2021 of 1.2 for the Commercial and Industrial sectors and 1.5 for the Utilities sector. This means the General Rate for these sectors will be higher than other

sectors by these factors, thereby reducing the rate increases on the other sectors.

2. Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) from \$610.13 to \$500, and increasing the General Rate. This means the burden on residential ratepayers will be eased, and more income will be collected from properties with higher valuations through the General Rate.

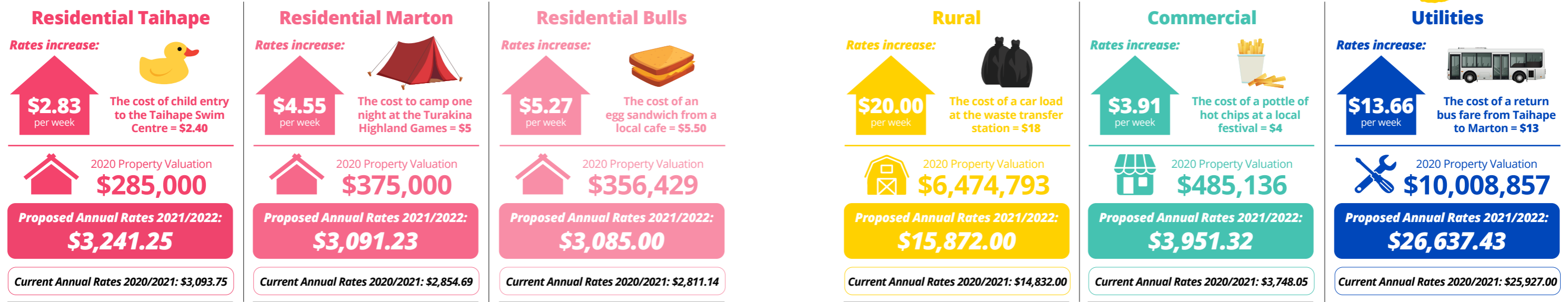
As disclosed in our Revenue and Financing Policy, Council may consider applying rating differentials where some land uses receive more benefit from, or place more demands on, Council services and/or may have a differing ability to pay rates. Where considered equitable, practicable and/or where this contributes to the predictability of rates, Council may look to use rating differentials.

Fundamentally Council believes that the rates burden should be spread equitably across all rateable properties.



For the 2021/2022 year we have proposed a rates increase of **6.95%**

## Ngā tāke kaunihera What will our rates look like?



Last year, properties in the Rangitikei District were revalued and we have used these new valuations to determine how much you will pay in rates for the 2021/2022 financial year. Properties right across our District have seen increases in their property values, and for some they have been significant. For this reason, you may see a slightly higher than usual increase in the rates you pay. We have worked to reduce this burden on residential ratepayers as much as we can, and you can read more about that on the previous page (page 47).

\* These examples are based on the proposed changes to the rating system as detailed on page 47. The calculations reflect the average across our sample properties in each of these towns, including the average valuation, rates increase and actual rates. We have included these six rateable property types as an example. To see further information on our sample properties, please check out the Supporting Information on our website.

We have proposed to introduce a rates differential to Commercial, Industrial and Utilities rateable properties from 2021/2022. This means that the General Rate, which is based on the Capital Value of a property, will vary slightly from other sectors. We believe this will provide a more equitable spread of the rates burden across our District's ratepayers.

**Supporting Information**  
Draft Long Term Plan 2021-31



## He aha atu anō ngā momo uiuinga? What else are we consulting on?

### Fees and charges

Fees and charges allow us to pass on some costs directly to those who use particular services and facilities, like using the transfer station or hiring a hall. This reduces the amount of funding that needs to be collected through rates.

The Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2021/2022 has been reviewed and we have plans to increase some fees and charges. The draft schedule is being consulted on separately.

### Draft Significance and Engagement Policy

The Significance and Engagement Policy is the document that Council uses to determine the significance of decisions and what community engagement will occur for different issues. The existing Policy has been reviewed, with minor changes made to reflect recent legislative changes. The draft Significance and Engagement Policy is being consulted on separately.

### Draft Revenue and Financing Policy

The Revenue and Financing Policy sets out Council's approach to, and sources of, funding operational and capital expenses. The existing Policy has been reviewed, with changes made to introduce the ability for Council to apply rating differentials and to make the document more concise and easier to read and understand. The draft Revenue and Financing Policy is being consulted on separately.

You can find more information and the Proposed Fees and Charges and these Draft Policies at [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz)

### What else is coming up?

In the first year of this Long Term Plan, we intend to consult on some more key topics on which we need your feedback and views. Keep an eye out for consultation on:

- Three Waters Reform
- Taihape Grandstand restoration
- Marton Civic Centre development
- Annual Plan 2021-2022

**Supporting Information**  
Proposed Fees and Charges  
Draft Significance & Engagement Policy  
Draft Revenue & Financing Policy



“We’re thinking about the community and the District we want to grow up in”

- Lisa and Makayla



### Kōrero mai

Have your say on the future of the Rangitikei District by 5pm  
Monday 10 May

## Pūrongo tātari kaute Auditor's report

### To the reader:

#### Independent auditor's report on Rangitikei District Council's consultation document for its proposed 2021-31 long-term plan

I am the Auditor General's appointed auditor for Rangitikei District Council (the Council). The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires the Council to prepare a consultation document when developing its Long-term Plan. Section 93C of the Act sets out the content requirements of the consultation document and requires an audit report on the consultation document. I have done the work for this report using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand. We completed our report on 12 April 2021.

#### Opinion

In our opinion:

- the consultation document provides an effective basis for public participation in the Council's decisions about the proposed content of its 2021-31 Long-term Plan, because it:
  - fairly represents the matters proposed for inclusion in the Long-term Plan; and

- identifies and explains the main issues and choices facing the Council and district, and the consequences of those choices; and
- the information and assumptions underlying the information in the consultation document are reasonable.

#### Emphasis of Matters

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the following disclosures.

#### Uncertainty over three waters reforms

Page 16 outlines the Government's intention to make three waters reform decisions during 2021. The effect that the reforms may have on three waters services provided is currently uncertain because no decisions have been made. The consultation document was prepared as if these services will continue to be provided by the Council, but future decisions may result in significant changes, which would affect the information on which the consultation document has been based.

#### Uncertainty over three waters forecasts



Page 36 outlines that the Council's forecasting for its three waters assets is based on age. Using only aged based information for the next three years, until the Council's asset management strategy work is completed, creates uncertainty over the reliability of future investment needs and decisions. The Council's forecasts include investment in understanding the condition of its underground assets, which will reduce this uncertainty.

#### Uncertainty over the delivery of the capital works programme

Page 15 outlines Council's planned capital expenditure of \$227 million, over the next 10 years. While the Council has taken steps to complete its capital works programme, there remains an inherent risk that the Council will not be able to deliver on the programme. This includes an increased demand for skilled construction workers and materials. If the Council is not able to deliver its capital programme, these delays could potentially result in increased costs or asset failure, risking the continuity and delivery of services.

#### Cost savings

Page 45 outlines that the Council is pursuing operational efficiencies and has assumed a total cost saving of \$8 million by reducing the operational budget over the next 10 years. To the extent that the Council does not achieve the planned savings there could be an impact on future debt levels, service levels and/or rate rises.

#### Basis of opinion

We carried out our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised): Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information. In meeting the requirements of this standard, we took into account particular elements of the Auditor General's Auditing Standards and the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400: The Examination of Prospective Financial Information that were consistent with those requirements.

We assessed the evidence the Council has to support the information and disclosures in the consultation document. To select appropriate procedures, we assessed the risk of material misstatement and the Council's systems and processes applying to the preparation of the consultation document.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the publication of the consultation document.

#### Responsibilities of the Council and auditor

The Council is responsible for:

- meeting all legal requirements relating to its procedures, decisions, consultation, disclosures, and other actions associated with preparing and publishing the consultation document and Long-term Plan, whether in printed or electronic form;
- having systems and processes in place to provide the supporting information and analysis the Council needs to be able to prepare a consultation document and Long-term Plan that meet the purposes set out in the Act; and
- ensuring that any forecast financial information being presented has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

We are responsible for reporting on the consultation document, as required by section 93C of the Act. We do not express an opinion on the merits of any policy content of the consultation document.

#### Independence and quality control

We have complied with the Auditor General's:

- independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the independence and ethical requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board; and
- quality control requirements, which incorporate the quality control requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 3 (Amended) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to this report on the Council's consultation document and all legally required external audits, we provide an assurance report on certain matters in respect of the Council's Debenture Trust Deed. These assignments are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these assignments, we have no relationship with or interests in the Council.

**Chris Webby**, Audit New Zealand  
On behalf of the Auditor General,  
Palmerston North, New Zealand

## Ngā kaikaunihera Meet your Council

**This is your Council. You've elected representatives from across the Rangitīkei District to work alongside our community as we move towards making this place home.**

We want to hear from you through this Long Term Plan process, so get in touch with a Councillor from your ward if you would like to have a chat about this Consultation Document, or about the Long Term Plan.

- Central Ward
- Northern Ward
- Southern Ward



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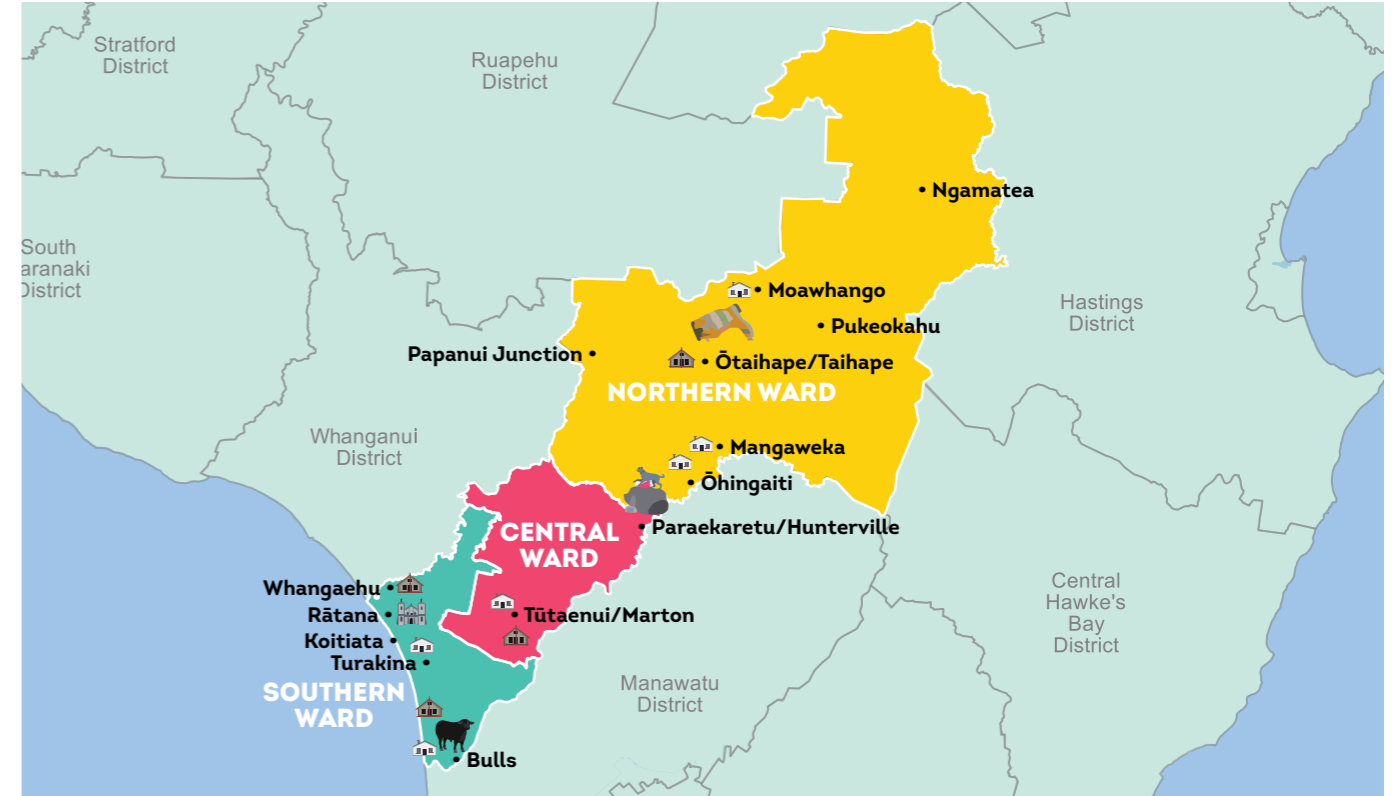
**Councillor Brian Carter** ●  
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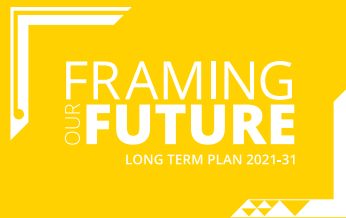


**Councillor Waru Panapa** ●  
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We need to receive  
your feedback by 5pm on  
Monday 10 May 2021

## Te rohe o Rangitīkei Our District of Rangitīkei





***Tirohanga Whakamua  
Look to the future***

***[ltp@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:ltp@rangitikei.govt.nz)  
[www.framingourfuture.nz](http://www.framingourfuture.nz)***