

Annual Report Summary Pūrongo ā-Tau Whakarāpopoto 2019/20



making this place home

Contents	
Introduction	1
Council's Role	1
Council Operations.....	1
Highlights for 2019/20	2
Finance	4
Levels of Service	5
Audit opinion.....	9

Summary Annual Report 2019/20

Introduction

The Annual Report explains the Council's performance in 2019/20 against the second year of the Long Term Plan for 2018-28, and against the various legislative and accounting requirements under which the Council is required to operate.

The year's major achievements are:

- Responding to community needs, complying with Government directions and providing essential services during the COVID-19 lockdown period
- Completion of construction of Te Matapihi (the new Community Centre on Criterion Street, Bulls)
- Completion of procurement process for construction of the new Mangaweka bridge
- Successful repairs to Marton B dam face, Tutaenui Reservoir
- Provision of new toilets at Centennial Park and Follett Street, Marton
- District Plan Change to rezone 40 ha of rural land adjacent to the Main Trunk Rail to industrial.



For those interested in the full Annual Report, copies are available at:

- the Council Offices, 46 High Street, Marton
- the District Libraries or
- our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz



Andy Watson
Mayor



Peter Beggs
Chief Executive

Council's Role

The Rangitikei District Council undertakes services for the residents and ratepayers of the Rangitikei.

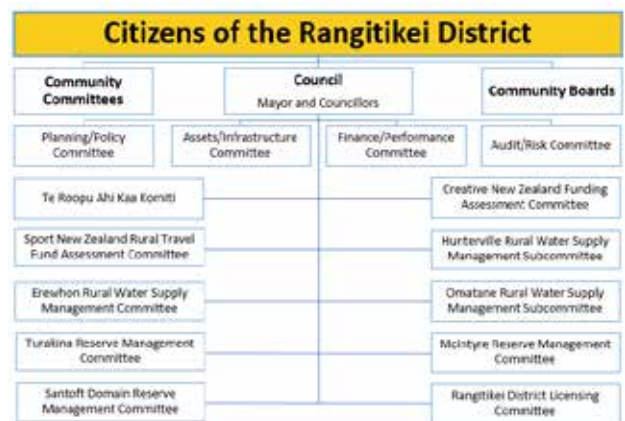
The Local Government Act 2002 defines the purpose of Local Government as to:

"... enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of communities and;

... promote promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Council Operations

The Council appoints a Chief Executive to be in charge of the Council operations and delegates certain powers of Management to him as required under Section 42 of the Local Government Act 2002. The Chief Executive appoints staff to carry out all of the Council's significant activities. The chart below shows the Council's governance structure.



Highlights for 2019/20

Achievements and issues

Community Leadership

- **Elections** - The October 2019 elections, conducted on the basis of three wards (Northern, Central and Southern), resulted in six first-time Councillors.
- **Inaugural meeting of Council** - This meeting, held in Marton's Centennial Park Pavilion was a bicultural celebration, which included the band from Rātana Pa. For the first time, elected members could choose to read their declarations in Māori or English.
- **Strategic Vision to 2050** - The newly elected Council had a strategic planning day on 20 November 2020. The outcome from this is a statement on Council's strategic vision to 2050. The Executive Leadership team has subsequently developed further detail based on the four wellbeings in the Local Government Act - social, economic, environmental and cultural.
- **Annual Plan 2020/21** - Council adopted the final Annual Plan 2020/21 on 24 June 2020. The 2018-28 Long Term Plan projected a rate increase of 6.27%. Having regard for the financial impact from COVID-19 on some ratepayers, this increase was reduced to 3.63%. Prior to the COVID lockdown being announced Council had decided not to consult on the 2020/21 Annual Plan as there were no new major decisions within it.
- **Regional collaboration** - Council has been a member of the working group in developing a regional approach to the management of three waters. Council has 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.
- **Preparation of Order Papers** - Order Papers for Council, Committees, Boards, Community Committees and other meetings have continued to be delivered to ensure that decision-making was compliant and useful.

Roading and Footpaths

- **COVID-19** – The alert level responses required closure of sites, thus delaying the scheduled work programme. However, the planned rehabilitation works on Pukepapa Road and Skerman Street (Marton) were completed.
- **Mangaweka Bridge** – Tenders were invited on 4 May 2020 and considered by Council at its meeting on 27 August 2020.

The New Zealand Transport Agency has provided guidance on how to prepare a memorandum of understanding between Manawatu District Council and Rangitikei District Council on the ongoing maintenance of the historic bridge. Legal advice is being sought.

- **Emergency works** 2019/20 saw delays to some work on Turakina Valley Road from land entry negotiations and

resource consent requirements. Funding was carried forward to 2020/21.

- **Taihape-Napier Road** – There has been discussion with Hastings District Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency about reviewing the case for the Taihape-Napier Road to be declared a state highway or a special purpose road. If successful, maintenance of the road would no longer be a cost to ratepayers.

Water Supply

- **Marton Dam repairs** – Repairs to the spillways of both dams have proved successful although the levels have to be kept lower than has previously been the case. This meant restrictions were put in place during summer on hosing to ensure adequate reserves
- **Marton Water Strategy** - Council has approved further work being done on exploring alternative sources for Marton's water supply. Suitable treatment options are available for the bore water quality, and it was agreed that a more detailed business case will be prepared to supply Council with more accurate information to consider making a change in raw water source from the Marton impoundment dams to groundwater.
- **Improved water supply resilience in Bulls**- The completed Bulls Water Strategy provides a plan for the route and size of the rising main and fire main on the State Highway between Holland Crescent and High Street. The best site for a reservoir is adjoining the water tower. Discussions will be had with the community about the future of that tower, which will require seismic strengthening if it remains.
- **Compliance improvement plan** - New equipment has been purchased and Council is in the process of installing it. A range of software changes has also been made to allow the operation of the plants to adapt to the new equipment and improve the compliance performance.
- **Watermain renewals** - watermain renewals included the Taihape falling main, Paradise Terrace (Taihape) and the Tutaenui (Marton) Trunk main.
- **Hunterville Exploratory Bore** –Drilling of the Hunterville exploratory bore found water which would require substantial treatment to be satisfactory. Council is looking at options.

Sewerage and the Treatment and Disposal of Sewage

- **Rātana Wastewater Treatment Plant** - Funding has been secured through the Freshwater Improvement Fund to enable the disposal of treated wastewater to go to land. However, this is dependent on suitable land being identified. Negotiations for this continue.
- **Bulls and Marton Wastewater Treatment Plants** - The current consent application for the Bulls Wastewater Treatment Plant lodged with Horizons Regional Council in

2015 was put on hold pending the outcome of a business case process for a combined wastewater discharge for Marton and Bulls. Council agreed to this recommendation in August 2018. Work is proceeding on the pipeline (initially from Marton to Bulls); discussions to secure the necessary land for effluent disposal have progressed – a Heads of Agreement has been signed with Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa regarding access to suitable land south of Bulls for the disposal of wastewater, although a specific site has yet to be identified.

New Zealand Defence Force has decided that Ohakea’s wastewater will not be included in the Bulls-Marton scheme.

Stormwater Drainage

- **Stormwater reticulation renewals and improvements** – scheduled works.
- **Scotts Ferry** – clarification of work needed to address an ongoing issue. Included in 2020/21 budget.
- **Wellington Road, Marton** – works delayed by COVID-19, included in 2020/21 budget.

Community and Leisure Assets

- **Te Matapihi: Bulls Community Centre** – Construction commenced in January 2019 but completion was delayed, primarily due to the COVID-19 alert responses at levels 4 and 3 which prevented site works. A cultural design for the interior and exterior of the building was produced by artist Len Hetet, in partnership with Iwi. The building had its formal opening on 25 September (at which the Minister of Local Government attended and spoke) and provided library and visitor information services from 28 September. Tenders for the town square and extended carpark (to allow for buses) have yet to be approved.
- **Community-led Projects** – There have been a range of on-going projects occurring throughout the District which have been led by the local community including, planting, playgrounds, halls and other initiatives.
- **Taihape Memorial Park Facilities** – A site for the new facility building has been finalised and plans prepared for a single-storey facility, following engagement with Park users and a decision not to proceed in a joint arrangement with Clubs Taihape. Council is currently considering the feasibility of upgrading the ground floor of the historic Grandstand as well its strengthening.
- **Tutaenui Reservoir: Marton B and C Dams** – Work is ongoing at the Dams with the management plan being implemented, weed control being undertaken across the site and number of planting has been completed. The formal opening to the public occurred on 10 October 2020.
- **Libraries** - During COVID-19 Level 3, a stock take and weeding of material was undertaken at all three libraries, with the older stock being sold and the rest rotated.
- **Public toilets** – New toilets have been installed at Centennial Park, Marton, and (on a 24/7 basis) at Follett Street, Marton.

- **Marton Memorial Hall upgrade** – Council’s application to the Provincial Growth Fund was successful. On 9 October 2020, the Minister of Regional Development announced 97 grants to town halls and war memorials halls, including \$500,000 for renovation works at the Marton Memorial Hall including the removal of asbestos, creating an additional emergency exit, electrical and heating works, installing a fire alarm, painting and enabling the ablution blocks to be wheel chair accessible.

Rubbish and Recycling

- **Waste Transfer Stations** - Council continued to operate its waste transfer stations in Rātana, Bulls, Marton, Hunterville, Mangaweka, and Taihape.
- **Historic landfills** – Council has continued to explore (in conjunction with Horizons Regional Council and relevant Iwi) options to address the closed landfill exposed in August 2018 by a substantial change of course by the Rangitikei River. There has been a review of Council files (including those in Archives Central) to identify other site which were operated by Council (or its predecessors).

Environmental and Regulatory

- **Planning for electronic consenting** – A budget allocation for this has been made in 2020/21, as part of the implementation of the Information Services Strategic Plan.
- **District Plan Change** – The process for a Council initiated District Plan Change to rezone rural land south of Marton to industrial was interrupted in March by the COVID-19 response alerts. The hearing was conducted by an independent commissioner who issued his report in August 2020, approving the rezoning of 40 ha. One appeal has been made to the Environment Court, which has outlined the approach it will take.
- **Implementation of the Building (earthquake-prone buildings) Amendment Act** – Officers have continued issuing notices for potentially earthquake-prone buildings. So far 171 inspections have been carried out. (60 were assessed during 2019/20.) There are 36 to be done.
- **Animal Control** – Council continued to provide animal control services for both Rangitikei and Manawatu districts under a shared services arrangement.
- **Food Act** – Council has continued to use Whanganui District Council to provide the inspections and verifications required under this legislation.

Community Well-being

- **Pandemic response** – Council developed a pandemic response plan and established an Internal Pandemic Management Group which functioned as an Emergency Operations Centre during the level 4 and 3 alert phases. There was a debrief once the country moved to level 1.
- **Marton Rail Hub** – Council’s application to the Provincial Growth Fund has been successful: in August, the Minister of Infrastructure announced that the facility, to be built at the key freight hub of Marton, will receive \$9.1 million from the \$3 billion set aside in the Government’s COVID-

19 Response and Recovery Fund. Council estimates that this build, which will include a debarker facility, will create up to 83 jobs. When up and running it will enable more efficient log transportation in the lower North Island, as well as creating 22 fulltime jobs.

- **Community Organisations** - Council has continued to work with the four local organisations with whom it has established Memorandum of Understanding which sets out the partnering arrangements.
- **Youth Development** – The Youth Council has continued to function, although proceedings were interrupted by the COVID-19 alert responses. Youth Awards were successfully conducted, with generous sponsorship from local businesses. Officers have continued with the ongoing facilitation of the youth zones in Taihape and Marton.
- **Mahi Tahi** – In May 2020 Rangitikei District Council was successful in securing funding for the Mayor’s Task Force for Jobs (MTJF) Community Recovery Pilot supported by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). Funding of \$100,000 was given to assist with the employment of 30

people into Small and Medium Enterprises (SME’s) either casual, part-time or full-time by 30 June 2020. The target group for this programme are New Zealanders displaced from their employment due to COVID-19, with a focus on youth not in education, employment, or training (NEETS). This pilot was successful and further funding was approved for 2020/21.

- **Town Signage** – Further work has been undertaken to finalise new signage with icons to reflect towns’ identity throughout the District.
- **www.rangitikei.com** – Council has continued to manage www.rangitikei.com; it now has a closer alignment in design with the Council site.
- **Economic development** – As part of adding detail to the Council’s strategic vision an outline economic development strategy was developed and there has been discussion with regional partners on the approach to be taken to assist with post-COVID recovery.
- **Emergency management** - A contract remains in place with Horizons Regional Council to deliver Council’s emergency management function.

Finance

Financial Statements

Explanation of major variations against budget

Explanations for major variances from the Council’s budget figures for 2019/20 in the 2018-28 Long Term Plan are noted below: More detailed analysis of variances may be found in note 31 of the financial statements and in the commentary on the various groups of activities in the full Annual Report.

Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense

The statement of comprehensive revenue and expense shows operating expenditure was \$2,684,000 more than budget while operating revenue was less than budget by \$3,609,000, resulting in an operating surplus before gains and losses on PPE and investments of \$898,000, against a budget of \$5,395,000. The deficit after tax was \$898,000.

Expenditure was higher than forecast primarily through increases in depreciation and in personnel costs. Revenue was lower than forecast primarily because subsidies and grants were lower than forecast. More detailed analysis is presented in note 31 of the financial statements and in the commentaries for each group of activities.

Statement of financial position

Council had net assets of \$607 million, largely represented by property, plant and equipment. This is an increase on the budgeted figure of \$526 million.

Because of a significant underspend in capital work of \$18.8 million there has been much less need to borrow externally during the year. The Covid level 3 and level 4 lockdowns

delayed capital works; in addition, there were continued delays in finding suitable land for wastewater disposal from Rātana, Marton and Bulls and progress of construction for the new Community Centre in Bulls was slower than expected.

The full Annual Report has further detail on variances for each group of activities. Two examples follow.

In Water supply, some of the planned upgrades did not proceed or have been delayed (in part by the impact of COVID-19 alerts), so actual capital expenditure was less than forecast and has been carried forward (shown in brackets): the Bulls reservoir replacement (\$1.299 million), repairs to the Marton Water treatment plant and dams (\$0.97 million), Erewhon reticulation (\$240,000), UV units (\$256,750) and completion of the new bore for Hunterville town (\$250,000).

In Rubbish and recycling, the Long Term Plan forecast that a Council-managed kerbside recycling service would begin during 2019/20 and thus made a provision for the purchase of bins in 2019/20. However, this purchase did not take place. Council made a decision to postpone implantation of such a service because of the uncertainty around the market for recycled products. This will be further considered in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

Summary Financial Results

	2019 Actual (\$000)	2020 Budget (\$000)	2020 Actual (\$000)
Summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for year ending 30 June 2020			
Total operating revenue	34,720	38,475	34,866
Less finance costs	49	117	96
Less other operating expenditure	31,762	32,963	35,668
Net surplus (deficit) before revaluation losses	0	0	(898)
Loss on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	0	0	0
Reversal of previous losses on roading assets	17,495	0	0
Net surplus (deficit)	20,404	0	(898)
Income tax expense	0	0	0
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income and expense	12	0	18
Gain on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	86,193	26,271	7,994
Comprehensive revenue and expense for the year	106,609	31,666	7,114
Summary Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity for year ending 30 June 2020			
Balance as at 1 July	492,961	494,376	599,570
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year	106,609	31,666	7,114
Balance as at 30 June	599,570	526,042	606,684
Summary Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2020			
Current assets	13,051	10,260	12,896
Non-current assets	594,052	536,725	604,002
Total assets	607,103	546,985	616,898
Current liabilities	4,124	4,867	6,336
Non-current liabilities	3,409	16,422	3,878
Total liabilities	7,533	21,289	10,214
Net assets	599,570	525,696	606,684
Represented by equity:			
Accumulated funds	463,839	450,145	462,942
Special reserves	4,293	4,257	4,292
Other reserves	131,438	71,294	139,450
Total equity	599,570	525,696	606,684
Summary Statement of Cash Flows for year ending 30 June 2020			
Net cash inflows(outflows) from operating activities	11,464	16,177	13,863
Net cash inflows(outflows) from investing activities	(10,837)	(23,189)	(14,944)
Net cash inflows(outflows) from financing activities	3,000	13,011	(16)
Net cash inflows(outflows) for the year	3,627	(1)	(1097)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	5,877	6,781	9,504
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	9,504	6,780	9,504
Summary Capital Expenditure			
Community Leadership	0	0	0
Roading and Footpaths	6,712	10,536	6,768
Water	2,640	6,476	2,040
Sewerage and Treatment and Disposal of Sewage	507	3,909	793
Stormwater Drainage	264	1,078	316
Community and Leisure Assets	3,518	7,321	4,576
Rubbish and Recycling	48	500	0
Environmental and Regulatory	0	0	0
Community Well-being	0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure	13,689	29,820	14,493

Post balance date events

The Council has no post balance date events.

Additional information

- The reporting entity is the Rangitikei District Council which is a territorial local authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002 and is domiciled in New Zealand.
- The specific disclosures in the summary financial report have been extracted from the full financial report which was adopted and authorised for issue by Council on 17 December 2020.
- The Financial Statements are for the year ended 30 June 2020 and all figures are in New Zealand dollars and rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.
- The Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 specifies a benchmark disclosure statement in the Council's annual report covering the current year and the four preceding years. These cover rates affordability, debt affordability, balanced budget, essential services, debt servicing, debt control and operations control. Council met seven of the ten benchmarks in 2019/20.
- The summary financial report cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as the full financial report. The full financial report on 17 December 2020 received an unmodified Audit Opinion (excluding the Significant Activities Statement which was qualified because of uncertainty on the verification of numbers of complaints about some services). This report is available from the Council Office, Libraries and Information Centres, and on our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz.
- The Council has designated itself a Public Benefit Entity (PBE) for financial reporting purposes.
- The full financial statements were prepared in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP), and with Tier 1 Public Benefit Entity (PBE) accounting standards. The full financial statements include a statement of compliance to this effect.
- These Summary Financial Results are in compliance with the PBE FRS 43 *Summary Financial Statements*.

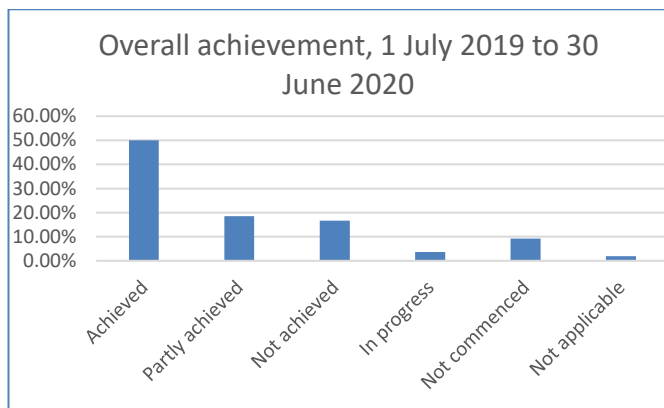
Levels of Service

The full report documents results for 53 intended levels of service across the nine activity groups.

An overall assessment of the actual levels of service compared with what was intended has a less certain basis than measuring financial performance because qualitative as well as quantitative information is used. The detailed analysis is provided under each group of activities.

The following chart shows the overall achievement for the year. 69% of the measures were either partly or fully achieved (64% last year). A further 4% were in progress (8% last year).

Of the 18 mandatory measures where the measure is applicable and data is available, 12 were achieved, two were partly achieved and four were not achieved.



Commentary on each group of activities

Activity	What we did	Elaboration
Community Leadership	<p>47% of Annual Plan actions were substantially undertaken or completed by 30 June 2020. This includes progress made with projects spanning more than one year, such as the water strategies for Marton and Bulls and the new Bulls Community Centre</p> <p>Total capital expenditure for the year was \$14.849 million from a total budget of \$30.409 million (i.e. 48.9%).</p> <p>New measures were introduced on satisfaction, value for money, effectiveness of communication, the Maori responsiveness framework and engagement with sector excellence programmes – all described in the full Report.</p>	<p>The year's target for completing actions was 92%, with all groups of activities to achieve at least 85% of their planned actions. No group achieved at least 85% of the actions identified in the Long Term Plan 2018-28</p> <p>The year's target for capital expenditure was 85%, with all network utilities achieving at least 70%. None of the network utilities groups achieved the target. This result reflects the projects that have been carried deferred/carried forward and the disruption for the Covid 19 alert level 3 and level 4.</p>
Roading	<p>46.85 km of resealing was done, together with pavement rehabilitation of 2.86 km.</p> <p>10,557m³ metal was placed on the District's unsealed roads (compared with 16,748m³ last year)</p> <p>There were 566 footpath and road callout requests received during the year. This is 65 more than last year.</p> <p>61% of callouts during working hours and 84% of after-hours callouts were responded to within time. (The respective figures for last year were 83% and 82%.) 66% of all callouts were resolved within a month of receipt (74% last year). Of 26 requests for service regarding potholes, 85% were responded to in the specified time (95% last year).</p> <p>In the twelve months to 30 June 2020, there were no fatalities from road crashes and four serious crashes. This excludes state highways running through the District.</p> <p>Footpaths exceeded the required level of service – with 95% being assessed as grade 3 ('fair') or higher.</p>	<p>The target was 55 km resealing and 8.8 km of road rehabilitation. This reduction represents funding constraints. The remetalling target was 12,000m³.</p> <p>The objective is for 95% callouts within working hours to be responded to within six hours, 95% of after-hours callouts to be responded to within 12 hours, and for 85% of all callouts to be resolved (i.e. completed) within one month of the request.</p> <p>The footpath condition analysis included all footpaths.</p> <p>The annual residents' survey sought view on the adequacy of provision and maintenance of footpaths, street-lighting and local roads. Overall, Council's provision and maintenance of roading networks, footpaths and street-lighting was rated better than last year (9% thought it better compared with 5.7% last year; 22% thought it worse compared with 28.3% last year).</p>
Water supply	<p>No E. coli was detected in any of the urban reticulated supplies. However, chemical compliance was not achieved at Mangaweka and there was insufficient monitoring at that plant.</p> <p>Protozoa compliance was achieved at Mangaweka and Rātana only. The other water treatment plants were considered to have excessive turbidity.</p> <p>The percentage of real water loss from Council's networked urban reticulation systems averaged 32.2%</p> <p>The average consumption of drinking water was 539 litres per resident in the District – higher than the 357 litres per resident calculated for last year. However, this includes all agricultural and commercial users connected to the Council's urban schemes. The target was to be less than 600 litres.</p> <p>The median time to respond to urgent callouts was 26 minutes, and the median time to resolve the matter was 1</p>	<p>All water supplies were compliant with their resource consents except for Rātana (on two occasions).</p> <p>Variances between schemes could be expected because each scheme is different. The reticulation within each town is of varying ages, and of varying pipe materials.</p> <p>In addition to this, ground conditions can vary. In the case of asbestos cement pipes in particular, soil pH is a strong determinant of expected useful life. Land form is also an issue, most prominently in Taihape, where slips can generate partial failures which contribute to leakage.</p> <p>There were no unplanned water interruptions during the year.</p> <p>There were 10.4 complaints per 1,000 connections. Last year there were 58 complaints per 1,000 connections. The improved result reflects the lack of complaints about dirty water in Marton which was a major cause of complaints in 2018/19.¹</p>

¹ These results do not include phone calls about planned outages. Such calls are treated as requests for information and are not recorded within the Council's service request system (as no action is needed).

Activity	What we did	Elaboration
	hour 25 minutes. The target is to attend within 30 minutes and to resolve within 24 hours.	
Sewerage and the Treatment and Disposal of Sewage	<p>Following an abatement notice, Horizons Regional Council made a successful prosecution for wastewater discharge into the Hautapu River, Taihape. A fine of \$60,000 was imposed.</p> <p>Only three plants (Koitiata, Rātana and Marton) were considered compliant during routine monitoring of discharge consents.</p> <p>There was one dry water overflow.</p> <p>The median time to respond to callouts for sewerage overflows resulting from a blockage or other fault in the Council's sewerage system was 23 minutes, and the median time to resolve the matter was 3 hours 30 minutes (37 minutes and 6 hours 54 minutes last year)</p>	<p>Council has programmed the upgrade of the Taihape Pump Station infrastructure in the 2020/21 financial year.</p> <p>The excessive volume of the discharge from the Taihape and Hunterville plants is typically caused by stormwater infiltration during heavy rainfall which reduces its environmental impact. Ongoing consultation with Horizons continues to occur. Bulls was non-compliant with the discharge limit on 26 days. Mangaweka was slightly over the discharge limit on four days.</p> <p>The target is to attend urgent callouts within 30 minutes and to resolve within 24 hours, for non-urgent it is 24 and 96 hours respectively.</p> <p>There were 3.36 complaints per 1,000 connections compared with 5.73 last year.</p>
Stormwater Drainage	There were 0.24 callouts per 1,000 connections (3.60 last year).	The mandatory measure of discharge compliance did not apply to the Council this year because Council has not been required to have a resource consent for the discharges.
Community and Leisure Assets	<p>Overall, from the 371 responses received in the survey conducted in 2020, all of Council's community facilities were perceived as performing better than last year.</p> <p>There were 19,997 separate uses of the Marton Pool (including schools, swim school and lane hire) and 9,649 separate uses at the Taihape Pool. The pools closed 33 days early because of COVID-19. On a pro rata basis, the attendance would have been 21,856 and 10,656 respectively, slightly higher figures than last year.</p> <p>83,536 users came to the three libraries (at Bulls, Marton and Taihape) compared with 94,693 last year. The libraries were closed for six weeks because of COVID-19.</p> <p>Occupancy of community housing was 97% at 30 June 2020, with 75% of tenants being superannuitants.</p>	<p>Public libraries: 15% believed it was better than last year (36% last year).</p> <p>Public swimming pools: 17% believed it was better than last year (31% last year).</p> <p>Sports fields and parks: 5% believed it was better than last year (19% last year).</p> <p>Public toilets: 19% believed it was better than last year (9% last year).</p> <p>Community buildings: 4% believed it was better than last year (19% last year)</p> <p>Campgrounds – 2% believed it was better than last year (7% last year).</p> <p>For community housing, Council records compliance with the 29 criteria in the rental warrant of fitness programme, aiming at 95%. 62 of the 72 units scored 95% or better, with a further 8 units scoring 94%.</p>
Rubbish and recycling	<p>Refuse tonnage to the Bonny Glen landfill was 4,878 tonnes compared with 4,720 tonnes last year.</p> <p>1,289.8 tonnes (or 20.8%) were diverted from being disposed in landfill. 362 tonnes of this was glass and 531 tonnes was green waste. Last year 1,420 tonnes (23.1%) were diverted.</p> <p>A planned Council-managed kerbside recycling service remained postponed.</p>	<p>Council's targets were that there is less tonnage going to landfill than last year and that at least 22% of waste would be diverted from being disposed of there.</p> <p>Waste collection contractors were able to access the waste transfer stations during the COVID-19 lockdown period, but public access was not permitted (other than bag drop outside) including access to the recycling area. This meant some recycling ended up going to landfill.</p>
Environmental and Regulatory	<p>85% of building consents and 74% resource consent applications were issued within the 20-day statutory period.</p> <p>Council received 1,227 requests for service for animal control and environmental services during the reporting period. Of these, 84% were responded to in time and 74% were completed in time.</p> <p>Council retained its accreditation as a building consent authority and the functions of a registration authority and a recognised agency under the Food Act.</p>	<p>There were 301 building consents and 89 resource consents processed during the year (373 and 63 respectively last year).²</p> <p>For animal control, priority 1 (urgent) callouts (dog attack, threatening dog or stock on road) require response within 30 minutes and resolution within 24 hours; for others, 24 hours and 96 hours respectively.</p>
Community Well-being	<p>A survey of partners was not undertaken this year because it would have been influenced by the COVID-19 alert settings and Council's provision of information and liaison about that.</p> <p>The District's GDP grew at a faster rate (3.3%) compared to the mean of similar district economies (2.55%), as did earnings growth lower (4.7% compared with 3.75%).</p>	<p>The number of young people attending to local schools was 581, compared with 606 last year.</p> <p>Youth spaces have been developed in both Marton and Taihape, and use monitored.</p> <p>Rangitikei Youth Council (a Committee of Council), meets monthly during the school year but partners' views on its</p>

² COVID-19 was a disrupter. No building consents were processed during the alert level 4 period, resulting in 43 consents waiting to be processed when the building team came back into the office at level 3. For resource consents, processing continued so long as all agency reports and information had been supplied and received. Where this was not the case, the consent went on 'hold' for the reports to be provided: the working days continued to be counted.

Activity	What we did	Elaboration
		<p>advocacy role (or that undertaken by Council on youth matters) has not been undertaken.</p> <p>Introductory sessions held for all staff on Civil Defence requirements, with requests to undertake online assessment. Some staff were able to use these skills during the welfare response to COVID-19.</p>

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Rangitikei District Council's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Rangitikei District Council (the District Council) for the year ended 30 June 2020.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following summary statements on pages 5 to 8:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2020;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary levels of service.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

However, the summary levels of service information includes a limitation in scope to the equivalent extent as the full audited Significant Activities statement in the full audit report. This limitation is explained below in *The full annual report and our audit report thereon* section.

Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed a qualified opinion on the Significant Activities statement in the full audit report and an unmodified opinion on the other audited information in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020 in our auditor's report dated 17 December 2020. The basis for our qualified opinion on the Significant Activities statement in the full audit report is explained below.

The District Council is required to report against the performance measures set out in the Non-Financial Performance Measure Rules 2013 (the Rules) made by the Secretary for Local Government. These mandatory performance measures include the total number of complaints (per 1,000 connections) received about the following:

- drinking water clarity, taste, odour, pressure or flow, continuity of supply, and the District Council's response to any of these issues.

- sewage odour, sewerage system faults and blockages, and the District Council's response to issues with the sewerage system.
- the performance of the stormwater system.

These measures are important because the number of complaints is indicative of the quality of services received by ratepayers.

The Department of Internal Affairs has issued guidance to assist local authorities in applying the Rules, including on how to count complaints. Our audit testing found that the District Council has not been counting complaints in accordance with this guidance and that the District Council's method of counting was likely to have understated the actual number of complaints received both in the current year and in the comparative year to 30 June 2019.

Complete records for all complaints made to the District Council were not available and we were unable to determine whether the District Council's reported results for these performance measures were materially correct. As a result, our work was limited and there were no practicable audit procedures we could apply to obtain assurance over the number of complaints reported against these performance measures.

Information about this matter is also disclosed on page 5 of the District Council's summary annual report.

Our auditor's report on the full annual report also includes an emphasis of matter paragraph drawing attention to the disclosures about the impact of Covid-19 on the District Council as set out in the full annual report in note 1 to the financial statements on page 102 and pages 28 to 75 of the Significant Activities statement.

Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to our audit and our report on the disclosure requirements, we have performed a limited assurance engagement related to the District Council's debenture trust deed which is compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements, we have no relationship with or interests in the District Council.



Chris Webby
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Palmerston North, New Zealand
15 January 2021



www.rangitikei.govt.nz

P 06 327 0099 | 0800 422 522 (24 hrs)

E info@rangitikei.govt.nz

46 High Street, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741

Making this place home.