



**RANGITIKEI**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
*Making this place home.*

# ORDER PAPER

## BULLS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, 22 January 2025  
**Time:** 6.00pm  
**Venue:** Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi  
Bulls Community Centre  
4 Criterion Street  
Bulls

---

**Chair:** Mr Greg Smith  
**Deputy Chair:** Cr Brian Carter  
**Membership:** Mr Nigel Bowen  
Mr Bruce Dear  
Mr David Yates  
Mr Graham Jenkins  
Mr Alistair Stewart  
Cr Coral Raukawa  
HWTM Andy Watson

## Purpose of the Committee

- To provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the community.
- To provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes.
- To exercise delegated authority for the annual allocation for "defined small local works" in line with the guidelines provided<sup>1</sup>.
- Particularly, to help ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure, by promoting its use and advising community members on how to use it.
- To be the first point of contact (prior to Council) for community groups. Where this is not possible, the Committee will be informed of the approach by the community group to the Council.
- To engage with wider/small communities of the ward represented.

## Quorum

Council's Standing Orders (adopted 31 October 2019) 11.2 provide: The quorum for Council committees and sub-committees is as for Council, i.e. half the number of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even or a majority if the number of members is odd.

At least 1 Elected Member must be present at the meeting.

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor, 0800 422 522 (ext. 917), or via email

[kezia.spence@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:kezia.spence@rangitikei.govt.nz)

---

<sup>1</sup> Appended to the Delegations Register

**Notice is hereby given that a Bulls Community Committee Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi, Bulls Community Centre, 4 Criterion Street, Bulls on Wednesday, 22 January 2025 at 6.00pm.**

## Order Of Business

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Forum .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest Declarations.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Confirmation of Order of Business .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes .....</b>	<b>5</b>
	6.1 Confirmation of Minutes .....	5
<b>7</b>	<b>Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings .....</b>	<b>24</b>
	7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Bulls Community Committee Meetings .....	24
<b>8</b>	<b>Chair’s Report .....</b>	<b>26</b>
	8.1 Chairman's Report - January 2025 .....	26
<b>9</b>	<b>Reports for Information.....</b>	<b>27</b>
	9.1 Bulls Open Space Project.....	27
	9.2 Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024.....	29
	9.3 Mayor's Report - 12 December 2024 .....	68
	9.4 Neighbourhood Play System Bulls.....	82
	9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - January 2025.....	104
	9.6 Funding Schemes Update - January 2025 .....	105
<b>10</b>	<b>Discussion Items.....</b>	<b>107</b>
	10.1 Campfest Planning.....	107
	10.2 Bulls Domain Upgrade .....	108
	10.3 Dog Agility Equipment.....	111
	10.4 Haylock Park Picnic Area .....	112
	10.5 Christmas Celebration Details .....	114
	10.6 Community Patrol .....	115
<b>11</b>	<b>Meeting Closed. ....</b>	<b>116</b>

## **AGENDA**

### **1 Welcome**

### **2 Apologies**

### **3 Public Forum**

### **4 Conflict of Interest Declarations**

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of items on this agenda.

### **5 Confirmation of Order of Business**

That, taking into account the explanation provided why the item is not on the meeting agenda and why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting, [enter item number](#) be dealt as a late item at this meeting.



## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

### 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from **Bulls Community Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2024** are attached.

#### Attachments

1. **Bulls Community Committee Meeting - 13 November 2024**

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Bulls Community Committee Meeting held on 13 November 2024 [**as amended/without amendment**] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

# MINUTES



## **UNCONFIRMED BULLS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Date: Wednesday, 13 November 2024**

**Time: 6.00pm**

**Venue: Te Matapihi Hall, Te Matapihi  
Bulls Community Centre  
4 Criterion Street  
Bulls**

---

Present      Mr Greg Smith  
                  Cr Brian Carter  
                  Mr Nigel Bowen  
                  Mr Bruce Dear  
                  Mr David Yates  
                  Mr Graham Jenkins  
                  Mr Alistair Stewart  
                  Cr Coral Raukawa  
                  HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance      Cr Paul Sharland  
                  Ms Melanie Bovey, Manager- Heritage and Culture  
                  Mrs Deb Haworth – Minute Taker  
                  Carolyn Bates, Chair, Marton Community Committee  
                  2 Members of the Public

**Order of Business**

1 **Welcome**..... 3

2 **Apologies** ..... 3

3 **Public Forum** ..... 3

4 **Conflict of Interest Declarations**..... 3

5 **Confirmation of Order of Business** ..... 3

6 **Confirmation of Minutes** ..... 3

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Bulls Community Committee Meetings..... 3

7 **Chair’s Report** ..... 6

8.1 Chairman's Report - November 2024..... 6

8 **Reports for Information**..... 6

9.1 Mayor's Report - 26 September 2024 ..... 6

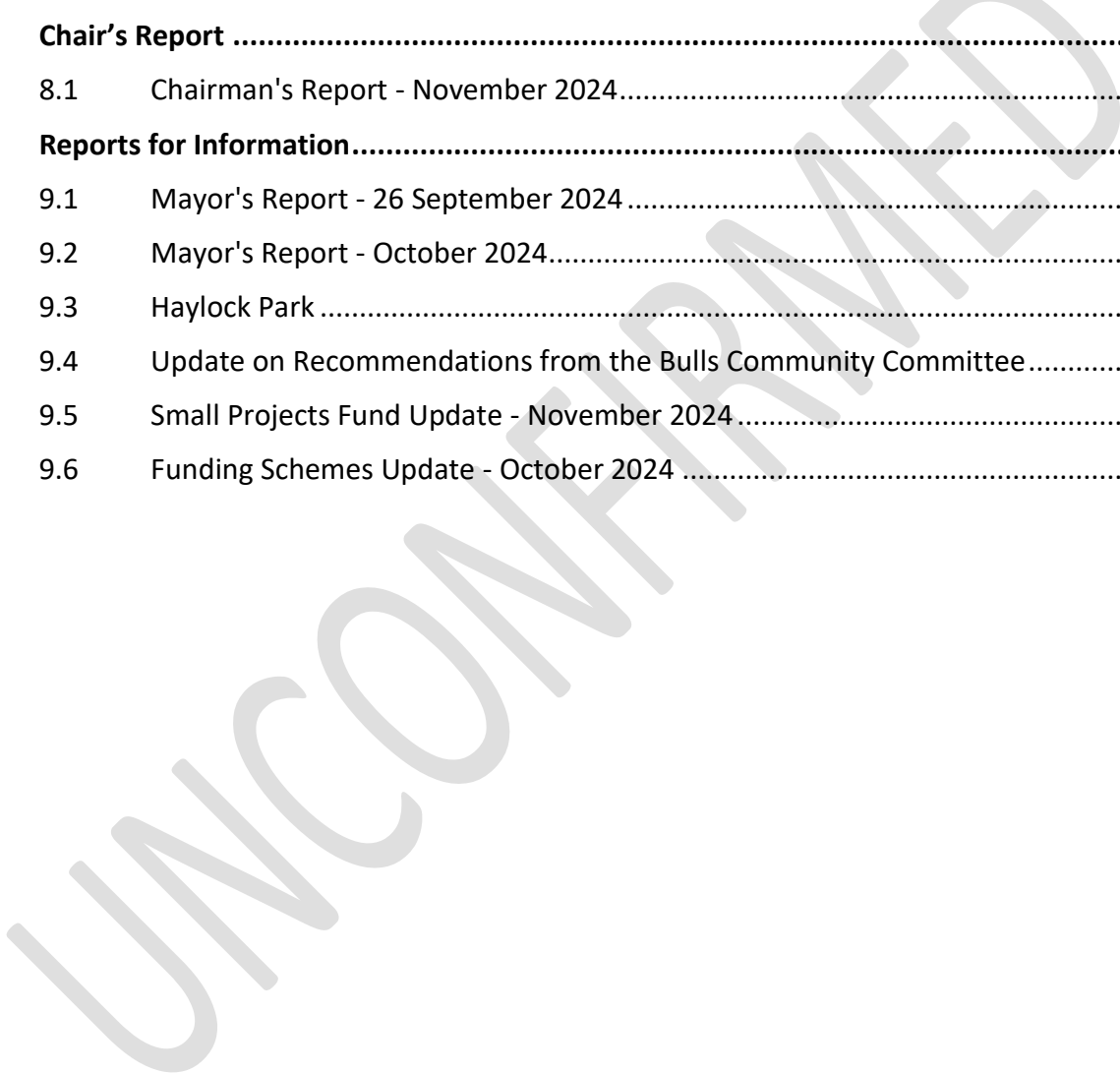
9.2 Mayor's Report - October 2024..... 6

9.3 Haylock Park ..... 8

9.4 Update on Recommendations from the Bulls Community Committee ..... 9

9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - November 2024 ..... 15

9.6 Funding Schemes Update - October 2024 ..... 17



## 1 Welcome

## 2 Apologies

No apologies received.

## 3 Public Forum

There was no Public Forum.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

Mr Smith would like to add some questions about Local Water Done Well as a discussion point.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

Mr Bowen informed the Committee the Minutes were inaccurate, he did not arrive late as stated in the Minutes.

Mr Dear noted that the way the Minutes have been written up has been extremely good.

### **Resolved minute number 24/BCC/068**

That the minutes of Bulls Community Committee Meeting held on 11 September 2024 **as amended** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Mr B Dear/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

### **7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Bulls Community Committee Meetings**

#### Item 1 - Planting area Criterion Street and SH1 beautification

Cr Carter said this project has been done about 3 times. It firstly started out with umbrellas on the corner with the picnic tables. That was in conjunction with the owner of the property. The umbrellas became unstable and destroyed themselves because they weren't being looked after by the tenants. Then the shade sale was put in at a cost to this Committee and the platform and new picnic tables and also the large pots at the base of each of the steel poles of the shade sale. This was part of this Committee's funds.

Mr Smith asked if there was a current plan for further beautification.

Cr Carter said it is up to the Committee. It was started and then left to be funded and looked after by this Committee. It is this Committee's property as well as the tables across the road in the small alcove.

Mr Smith asked is the old Information Centre?

Cr Carter was uncertain as to whether that area there, the furniture was part of the sale of the bus stop but the Bulls Bake House use that area. It is a grey area as it isn't the Council's anymore as it was the sale of the Information Centre.

Mr Smith said that if the furniture was there when the sale went through it is highlight likely they assume it is theirs, if it wasn't specifically mentioned.

Cr Carter also said there were two macrocarpa seats that was underneath the veranda there disappeared at the time of the sale.

Mr Smith said they have eliminated everything over there at the moment, there is nothing there now

Cr Carter said the pot plants over there were part of the project as well, they went in with the pots around the streets and the pots on the corner. That has been built with collaboration of the owner, its been built over a boundary, there is a special consent to have that structure over there – the shade sale.

Mr Smith said that no building consent is required for that structure.

Cr Carter said he got approval to do what was done. He was the creator of it.

Mr Smith said that as a Committee it was up to them to have a look and come back with ideas on what to do with it, if anything needs doing with it. He has spoken with the owner who is quite happy with it and he has some ideas of his own and he has invited him to the meeting.

Cr Carter asked, the owner or the lessee?

Mr Smith said the person who currently cooks in the place.

Cr Carter said the lessee.

Mr Smith will talk to the lessee to discuss with them if we have any ideas or he has any ideas to move it forward. Mr Smith proposed that we move the status so the item is added to stop it falling off.

### Item 2 - Sport Whanganui Report

Mr Smith asked if staff had any ideas about this.

Ms Bovey said this was the Community Trust so she is not quite sure.

Mr Smith said they had no report here.

Ms Bovey will follow this up with Heidi to see if she knows what it is.

Item 3 - Rubbish bins in the picnic area at the Bulls River

Mr Smith is waiting for the final agreement between Council and Horizons on what is happening there. It is with Arno Benadie, the Asset Manager.

Item 4 - Traffic Calming options on Taumaihi Street and Criterion Street

Mr Smith doesn't think this has not got any further.

Mr Dear believes it is being looked at and he wanted to make mention they have to consider some of the empty bin trucks going around there, bouncing over those, they will make a row so they will have to be careful otherwise they will get lots of complaints.

Mr Smith said there is still the issue of other vehicles using the Bus Stop as a short cut as well, which he thinks is under Council consideration as well.

Mrs Bates noted this item was marked as completed, should it be?

Mr Smith said he thought it wasn't completed., so the proposal is Item 4 be moved back to In Progress.

Item 5 – Haylock Park development options

Date: 13 November 2024

Details: as above

Person assigned: Cr Carter

Status Comments - what we expect to see: regular updates to committee from Council on the options

Status: In Progress

**ACTIONS:**

Items 1 - remove the Status comment

Item 2 - Ms Bovey to follow up

Item 4 – Status changed to In Progress

**Resolved minute number 24/BCC/069**

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Bulls Community Committee Meetings' be received.

Mr G Smith/Mr D Yates. Carried

## 7 Chair's Report

### 8.1 Chairman's Report - November 2024

Mr Smith presented his Report verbally. He has been flat out, coming out into spring, summer and Christmas.

He attended the Marton Community Committee meeting last month, along with Dr David Yates.

There was another load of rubbish taken out of the river in the Ute at the beginning of last month, the burnables and recyclables. The other rubbish is still there, he is guessing Horizons will get to it, not a pressing issue, just some shatter glass from a vehicle and the dumping under the bridge which has now been removed, thanks to Horizons after a number of reports and photos taken.

He is not sure if he used the Report It or straight to Horizons reporting system and it went through, with a response the next day, then a day later it was gone.

**Resolved minute number 24/BCC/070**

That the Chair's Report – November 2024 be received.

Mr G Smith/Mr D Yates. Carried

## 8 Reports for Information

### 9.1 Mayor's Report - 26 September 2024

**Resolved minute number 24/BCC/071**

That the Mayor's Report – 26 September 2024 be received.

Cr B Carter/Mr Stewart Carried

### 9.2 Mayor's Report - October 2024

HWTM Watson noted they were well into the replacement process for the CEO. The applications have closed and there is a committee that brings the long list down to a short list. There were about 40 applications put in front of the short list committee so there is a reasonable amount of interest and that doesn't include the one who were never going to pass muster.

The Dudding Trust have met and they haven't announced the money to be handed out but effectively the advisory Trustees have approved about \$900,000 to go out to the Rangitikei which is a considerable sum of money ringfenced for our district.

The apology from the Crown in Wellington yesterday for the abuse under care, HWTM Watson went down for it. The apology at Parliament, they had a huge number of people at the TSB Centre with Centres in Auckland etc. Some of the information is heart wrenching, the abuse suffered and the apologies. The Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition apologised, and they got about 6 or 7 leaders of different Crown entities to apologise. Some of those apologies were received really well and a couple weren't. Erica Stanford who is the Minister responsible was received really, really well, the feeling was from everybody that she had shown a genuine engagement process. The exception would have been the Solicitor General, people were very audible and upset with the way she delivered the apology because previously and in very recent times she has said effectively 'you people are lying and I am not prepared to listen to you'. That was known. It was pretty raw and later on in this coming month's Mayor's Report he will refer to a whole of things in detail because there is a huge amount happening at the moment. As a consequence, first of all there is an apology, then there is a compensation process for those people involved. How they fund that and how they decide who gets what will be a challenging process. Then there is a specific fund that is going to be used to try and identify the unmarked graves of people that may well have been buried and a lot of that relates to Lake Alice Hospital. There will be a process also where around the country if there are street names or references to people who are known now to be perpetrators, that will all be removed., There will be a public holiday on 12 November 2025 which will also serve as a these are the lessons that were learnt and what will you guys change in the meantime. It was a tough process and our district is highlighted a number of times because of Lake Alice. One of the things he will be putting in his report is also that he doesn't want everybody to be tarred by the same brush. There are people who worked at Lake Alice, who worked for Christian faith based organisations, there were people that adopted children and performed very well. Yes there were people who adopted people and abused them but there were also a huge number of people who did very good work.

HWTM Watson said he will take any questions and it is up to the Chair, Mr Smith, as to what he would like him to explain, if anything around Local Water Done Well. He asked if there were any questions from his Reports?

Mr Smith thought HWTM had represented the district well in this respect and it is a difficult subject to deal with when it comes to these historical instances. Rangitikei may not be seen by the general public of NZ in the best light, someone once said all publicity is good publicity at the end of the day. The water tower is still seen as a bit of a tourist attraction in some respects although there is rather a ghoulish aspect to that.

Mrs Bates asked if the public holiday was just next year or was it going to be ongoing.

HWTM Watson said they weren't clear about it, he thinks the intention is just next year. This is the most lengthy, expensive royal commission that has ever been held in NZ with thousands of people being interviewed. The abuse was endemic to a whole lot of organisations and government departments.

Mr Smith thanked HWTM Watson for his offer to answer questions about Local Water Done Well and he will treat it as a late item and discuss it there as there might be a resolution out of that.

**Resolved minute number 24/BCC/072**

That the Mayor's Report-October 2024 be received.

Cr B Carter/Mr Stewart Carried



### 9.3 Haylock Park

Mr Smith there is a Report on Haylock Park which was the request to Council to consider. There is another Report further up, so a couple of Reports.

The first one relates to the questions Mr Dear raised at the last meeting, on page 60 and there are some answers from Council.

Are the lease monies collected from Haylock Park held separately in a specific account dedicated to the Park – the answer is No.

How much money is available – the answer - no funding has been budgeted to the development of Haylock Park. Mr Smith said it is he would say outside of the Long Term Plan budgeting process.

What is the process to have a playground – it starts talking about submissions through the Long Term Plan process. Mr Smith's initial investigations of a playground means we are looking at a significant amount of money and it would be required to be raised

Mr Dear doesn't think that should be included because we don't know, we don't know how big we want it and these are Mr Smith's thoughts.

Mr Smith said even just a small playground, it doesn't matter, they start at quite large amounts of money. Compliance costs would be incurred through the Resource Consent process and Parks would be involved in that decision process prior to applying for any consents.

Can local contractors volunteer – that would down to community groups, and how much and health safety etc.

If the project was given the go ahead an agreement would be written clearly identifying the responsibilities of each party

Mr Smith asked if there was any further discussion on this?

Mr Dear said yes, regarding the lease money and the specific account, he didn't word the question correctly because when Cr Jane Dunn, a Councillor at the time in about 2019, advised the lease money was tagged for Haylock Park and she had a figure of about \$26,000 which she got from Council. Because Mr Dear put specific account, it may not be a specific account but money has been tagged according to Cr Dunn. He is also trying to find the information when it was going through, because the three living Councillors at the time said yes there was an account, so whether at the amalgamation it was put into the general account, he doesn't know. He is trying to get that checked out.

Mr Smith asked if he had a specific question to bring back to the Council.

Mr Dear said not at this stage, he will get his ducks in a row first, do the leg work then present it, one way or the other.

Mr Smith asked if there was any further discussion on the monies.

Mr Bowen asked if these decisions are voted on in Council or are they just discussed then concluded.

Mr Smith said if we produce a report to Council and request a Report then those decisions are voted on but I think this was a direct question.

Mr Dear said we asked the questions and they gave us the answers.

**Resolved minute number 24/BCC/073**

That we wait for the investigations for the next meeting.

Mr B Dear/Mr G Smith. Carried

#### 9.4 Update on Recommendations from the Bulls Community Committee

Mr Smith said this was some questions to the Council to investigate.

1.1.1 - The first one was the question be asked of Parks and Opens Spaces Facilities for a fenced off leash dog exercise area.

Council made the decision to not investigate a dog exercise area in Haylock park.

1.1.2 -That the Council collate the value of the volunteer contribution as well as the amount anonymously donated for the Hall construction and this combined amount be proportionately represented with the existing Donor Plaques. And that the display be mounted in the main Hall proper for greater appreciation and recognition.

Te Matapihi Volunteer Board, Council doesn't hold the information relating to contributions. Moving the Plaque into the Hall may impact acoustics, the Foyer is a public space where as the Hall can be booked. Moving the Plaque may come as a cost

1.1.4 - Council directed staff to investigate a plaque for the volunteer contributions. The Council does not hold any information relating to volunteer contributions for the construction of Te Matapihi therefore this won't be able to be displayed as part of the plaque.

HWTM Watson asked a question for his clarification, were you seeking just a board that recognises the huge number of volunteer hours contributed by everybody as a group without being able to put a figure on it or were you wanting to recognise individual volunteers.

Mr Bowen said basically the idea was the anonymous contributions should be recognised. He talked to Councillor Loudon who said there was a figure he was able to come up with in that respect. The volunteer side of it, in terms of getting a value for that, was just an add we did because we knew what the value of the house that got sold, \$139,000 or something. That is a figure that volunteers produced. He is sure there are figures there so he doesn't quite accept the response that has come back. There are figures there and he can quote Cr Loudon on that.

Cr Carter said that would be just for that given house. But there was fund raising where people were paying \$500 for a seat at different fundraisers. There is another donation people have made, there are the hours that were put into that house, not just the monetary side of it so you can't measure that.

Mr Bowen said he thought they could allow for that and make an educated guess. He doesn't think it's complicated and thinks it needs recognition. He thinks a plaque for just people names who gave certain amounts of money is not being true to the wider population of the town.

Mr Smith asked, in Mr Bowen's opinion, would it be acceptable just to have an acknowledgement plaque in general.

Mr Bowen said in a commensurate size is the wording in the question we gave to the Council. Its got to be relative.

Mr Smith said it could be really roughly, we discussed the various volunteers

Mr Bowen said even if we made it the backboard and a large amount of volunteer labour and anonymous donations also contributed. That is all he was asking on behalf of people who asked him. There is a sentence somewhere.

Ms Bovey pointed out that in 4.1, it notes Council have directed staff to investigate a plaque at Te Matapihi for volunteer contributions. She thinks that is what they are looking at.

Mr Smith said the question is whether we can get one that is commensurate in size to the volume of contributions.

Ms Bovey said even a frame around the outside, that might be a way – adding it up could be very hard and you could underestimate hugely the work that has been done and they don't want to do that either.

Mr Bowen said its not just the volunteers.

HWTM Watson said he has enough information to have a talk to the CEO.

Mr Bowen asked if the acoustic argument was a cheap response or was that educated one.

Ms Bovey said this is about the back part.

Mr Bowen said yes the back wall is definitely an acoustic wall.

Ms Bovey said that is why there is nothing on the walls in there, it is acoustically designed and you don't get the echoes you do in the other Halls. They are worried it would change the acoustics.

HTWM Watson said even the roof material is designed for acoustics.

Mr Bowen said he knows it's complicated, definitely. But it actually sort as a possible cause , it might make the acoustics better, we don't know.

Mr Smith said we are at a point where have achieved what we can and we will take that win and look forward to seeing where it gets. He imagines everyone has been and had a look and seen some space where it could go. Mr Smith asked Mr Bowen if he could put some ideas together and send them to HWTM Watson.

Mr Bowen said he has no other ideas other than what people ask him to do.

ITEM 6.1  
ATTACHMENT 1

Mr Smith said maybe a photograph of the area and say this would be good and this is the commensurate size that he has an idea from after discussions

Mr Bowen said he is not qualified to do that.

HWTM Watson said he will have a discussion with the CEO and say he now understands exactly what you are seeking.

Cr Carter asked was he wanting notice of the monies donated and the hours donated. You won't get a number.

Mr Bowen said an indication that it is substantial. He doesn't want a platinum plaque.

Mr Dear asked about the dog exercise area, that's a no go?

Mr Smith said he watched the discussion on that and there was a little bit of misinformation presented against our favour unfortunately, we didn't have anyone from the southern board presenting or putting our case forward at the meeting. However the main thrust was there is an existing unfenced dog exercise area down at the Domain.

Cr Carter said correction, fenced, there are two areas, both are fenced.

Mr Smith said the fenced area is a dog agility park and that is not available to the public.

Cr Carter said it has a locked gate, and you can't undo a farmers latch, you're in trouble.

Mr Smith said it has a padlock around it.

Cr Carter said the gate is open.

Mr Smith asked what other gate?

Mr Carter said the one at the other end of the park.

Mr Smith said we might have to look at getting some signage on it then.

Cr Carter said there is signage on it at the other end.

Mr Smith said it you can get down there.

Cr Carter said you can drive through the Domain. He was there this afternoon to check it out.

Mr Smith said there is a sign that says public access is available.

Cr Carter said it says dog agility, anyone is welcome and its got an ordinary gate latch you can open up and it is a fenced off area. The one on the roadway is padlocked to stop the yahoos coming in and driving on it and wrecking the place. You can get straight into the Domain and destroy it.

Mr Smith said there is no information on that front fence that says that you can access that area.

Cr Carter said if you look further you can see a gate at the other end.

Mr Smith said he will recommend to the Council that they get some better signage of some sort because it is not widely known. He has never seen members of the public using that area.

Mr Dear said he begged to differ but he had.

Cr Carter said there was a person there today.

Mr Dear said this means Haylock Park is not available, so we should get signage up for the irresponsible dog owners who let their dogs loose on the kids playing ground.

Mr Smith has investigated that and there is no ban for off leash, it is only under direct control of the owner is the requirement in the Council's by laws at the moment.

Mr Dear said he read it differently.

Mr Yates said he lives alongside of it so he sees what's going on all the time. Mr Dear said so did he.

Mr Yates said the kids there are having a wonderful time with their animals and it seems to him that everyday there is someone in there with their dogs and off leash as well and they are having great fun. The kids are having a lot of fun in there because they can chuck the ball around, the dog goes chasing after it, great stuff, it comes back again, family stuff. That's what it's all about. He thinks we do need to address this with a little bit of thought in there. It's a park, make it useful for folks. Off leash dog, you want to fence a bit of it for that, it would be fantastic for them. You want to make it safe for the dogs and the kids.

Mr Dear thinks the grass that is mown at the moment would be ideal for a kids playground and not the dogs and there is grass area out the back, so ok we just move it back towards the back and do it there. With all those dogs running around, how many people are not prepared to go in. We don't know.

Mr Yates hasn't looked at, it hasn't created a problem but having said that, move some of those sheep a little bit and put another fence in for the dogs. He doesn't think it's a major problem.

Mr Dear said the consideration of Haylock Park at the moment it is a mown area and you would have to go through Council to have a fenced in area down the back.

Mr Smith said the cost is not the critical issue here. The critical issue will be rearranging the leases and fencing an area in the sheep area, then off course it would have to be mowed.

Cr Carter has made some enquires about removing a fence which would double the size of the park that is mown at the present and looking at the leases arranged for that. There is another paddock out the back which is fenced off which could be used as a dog area as such. He has feelers out at the moment looking at what we can and can't be done.

Mr Smith asked, this would be in terms of Cr Carter knowing who the lessee is ...

Cr Carter said he is not dealing with it, it is Council's job, he has nothing to do with it. We, the Committee, have nothing to do with the lessee.

Mr Smith said no, but we would need to know some background information, we can't just say we are going to take this land

Cr Carter said Council are looking into the fact of the lessee arrangement and removing a fence.

Mr Smith asked to what end.

Cr Carter said to make the park area bigger.

Mr Smith said that was useful information.

Cr Carter said did he realise the park was the whole area.

Mr Smith said yes absolutely.

Cr Carter said he has taken it upon himself to investigate.

Mr Smith said thank you.

Mr Dear asked if Cr Carter needed confirmation from this group that it was ok for council to look to see if they could increase the current park area and also to include a fenced dog area because they are the owners. They can come back and say ok, we can do this area here.

Mr Smith said it sounds like a good motion.

Cr Carter said the back paddock would still remain fenced, he isn't looking at getting rid of all the fences but whether that lessee has got it for 6 months, he doesn't know. It might be a monthly lease.

Mr Dear asked what the requirement was or a dog fence.

Mr Smith has investigated this and you can go all around the country and there is no definable standard other than it needs to retain a dog in a reasonable situation. There are designs where they bury the fence in the ground, where they go quite high, where they have tiers on the top to stop the dog jumping over.

Mr Dear asked if the Council has something if you are a dog owner you have to retain your dog in your property, is there a requirement for that?

Mr Smith said no, the rule is you have to be directly in control of the dog and if it's off leash then you need to prevent it from being able to access a public space. This being a public space you have to ensure any fence would contain a reasonable dog from the area. You are not going to stop the Italian Police performing dogs, they can jump 6 metres, you have to be reasonable.

Cr Raukawa said to Mr Smith that he had already priced up a fence for that area.

Mr Smith yes, a temporary fence. It was roughly \$3,000 but he has since re-assigned that in a temporary vain using waratahs and off the shelf fencing and that drops it down to about a \$1,000. Depending on the size we need to make and this includes two double gates. It needs two double gates so the other dogs in there don't run out while you are going in. You have to make sure there is access for the mower to get in and out. Once we have the area, then we can start talking about putting agility components in there like ramps and jumps, see saws and things like that. It depends on the public want for more. He does know there are visitors to the town, this is pure conjecture, talking to the people at the Camp Fest last year and likely to come this year, they do have dogs, if they are passing through, they want somewhere they can stop and exercise their dogs off leash and

to the travelling public its quite a useful tool. He doesn't think, coming back to what Cr Carter was saying about the existing area that apparently is open to the public, even though the sign at the front sort of infers otherwise, he thinks we need a little bit mores signage and proactive publication to visitors that this is available.

Mr Dear said the Information Centre here can direct them to just down the road, it's not too far.

Mr Smith said that in light of the large number of dog walkers that use Johnson Street, he thinks there are a huge number of people walk there dogs.

Mr Dear said they walk them because they want the exercise, not just stand in a paddock and let their dog run free.

Cr Raukawa said wouldn't there be another cost for the doggy bins, or would that be Council's responsibility?

Mr Smith said that is a very good question, it is split around the Councils of New Zealand whether they provide the bags or not. Palmerston North provide bags at one site and not another. He doesn't know why they made the decision. In Wellington, there are no bags at the Evans Bay site which is a very good site and very well used, but he is not sure of the history of why they don't provide bags there but they do provide a bin. We do have a bin there at the moment and if we had that area enclosed in the dog exercise area, the bin would have to go outside so the general public could use the bin without entering the area if they chose to so if we do talk about investigating part the sheep grazing area as dog area, then we may have to look at another bin or at least at the other end.

Cr Carter said there is a bin down here at the dog exercise area, there is a bin sitting there waiting.

Mr Smith said but no baggies and no signage. There is no defined detailed standard countrywide that says what you do and do not need.

Mr Dear asked did Mr Smith feel a waratah fence was enough with current fencing laws.

Mr Smith said it would be a netted fence. To expand, at the moment there has never been a dog that has got through into the sheep area off leash because they have the small mesh and it goes yay high. You would expect if there was a dog that wanted to, it would.

Cr Carter, picking up a couple of points, you were talking about a dog agility tunnels, hills. How about putting the monies from that towards the one that is already established?

Mr Smith he would need to look at what they are doing there because it is a dog agility group that runs it.

Cr Carter said they bring in blow up stuff and put it down there.

Mr Smith asked if they keep stuff in the shed and bring it out. He will give the number on the fence and give them a call.

Cr Carter said Margaret Robinson. Mr Smith also mentioned Camp Fest with their dogs, were they aware they weren't allowed to have dog son the football field at all.

Mr Smith said it is included in the advertising for the group. There is enough area down in the on leash or under control exercise area, the back football paddock, not the oval. That is under control from the Committee.

Mr Smith asked Mr Dear if he wanted to raise a motion or us to try and work towards a motion.

Mr Dear suggested the Committee ask Council to come back with ideas to include an area somewhere for on leash dogs to try and accommodate both. We need an overall plan for the whole park and then work to stage 1, stage 2 and stage 3.

Cr Carter has it being look at, at present. Perhaps put it in the things to do list to keep track of it

Mr Smith said that's not a bad point because that way it stays in the program and we can get regular updates rather than waiting for the final. Would that be acceptable? We put it as Item 5.

The Committee discussed what this item would be.

Ms Bovey said there was an option to get Pio Rowe, Community Project Manager, involved. She runs the community projects and talks to groups who want to develop things like the new playground at Marton Park. She would be the person to potentially come along and speak to the group and get some ideas on what you are looking for and give you some ideas of what you can and can't do.

Mr Smith said that was a good idea.

Ms Bovey will email her contact details to Mr Smith.

Mr Smith will follow that up informally.

**Resolved minute number 24/BCC/074**

That Item 5 – Haylock Park development options be added to the Follow-up actions

Mr G Smith/Mr B Dear. Carried

**Resolved minute number 24/BCC/075**

That the report Update on Recommendations from the Bulls Community Committee be received.

Mr N Bowen/Mr Stewart Carried

## 9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - November 2024

Mr Smith read out the Report.

Cr Carter bought up the plant boxes across the road. The ones here have been strengthened renewed and replaced. The ones over the road are the bottom of the pile, do we wish to carry on with the project of the potted plants?

Mr Smith asked if it was the plants or the boxes.



Cr Carter said both. We replaced the plants in them and we must be getting up to replacing them again. The pots over there are shot and leak.

Mr Smith asked what sort of pots are they? Wooden boxes or ...

Cr Carter said they were all sorts.

Mr Dear said there were some troughs.

Mr Smith asked if it was worthwhile looking at a complete replacement?

Cr Carter thought they needed to be thrown out.

Mr Smith said it was not something that could be done within the \$200 maintenance.

Mr Dear said he would have to get prices from McIlwaines again to see if we can get those. But to be quite honest, the takeaway shop do not look after that area, it's a mess, they have no interest in looking after it.

Mr Smith asked as in rubbish?

Mr Dear said as in looking after the plants.

Mr Smith but that is our task anyway isn't it?

Mr Dear said no not really, they did the main street and that was overflow. And to get the people to pull the cart around to water those is a little bit too much.

Mr Smith asked what do you think if we are looking at it, to eliminate the plants over there altogether.

Mr Dear said if the building sells, we will have to see if we can put them back on again, get permission to have them there. If someone buys the bus stop, its part of the bus stop that area.

Mr Smith said we are talking about the bus stop and the Bulls Café. Short term, you are saying lets clear it out.

Cr Carter said they need to be looked at and thinned out. There are some there that have gone past their use by date.

Mr Smith said we just need someone to go and discuss with them to take it away.

Mr Dear said it doesn't need discussion, they are outs, we just take them. They haven't done anything towards them, just get rid of them. He will do it.

Mr Smith said in terms of that we will need a resolution to remove our property from their property. He asked how he was going to dispose of it, is it going to the tip?

Mr Dear said he is able to get rid of it.

Cr Carter also noted the plants under the shade sale have never been watered in the watering system.

Mr Dear said we have never provided plants for them either, apart from the original ones.

Cr Carter suggested we talk to the lessee and say they are for their benefit, how about they water a few plants.

Mr Dear said a lot of the ones are further out, we have started putting succulents in, and that's worked well, down Criterion Street.

Mr Smith asked if he gets the history and the background a little bit clear, we have someone coming around with a watering cart and pumps water into these.

Mr Dear said there is a group of about 8 people who have volunteered and there is a garden cart that is behind Intrigue. It was 20 litre containers on it, they fill them up. There are more water points so you don't have to pull 8 x 20 litre containers, the volunteers go around, some do the extra bits and some by the time they have gone around they have done enough. He is always asking for volunteers, he sometimes find someone and asks them to volunteer, so he knows he can rely on them.

Mr Smith so any volunteers or have some time, give you a call and say they are doing the watering.

Cr Carter suggested we talk to the dog agility group at the Domain and see if they have some equipment.

Mr Dear said they would need to come to us.

Cr Carter said he would talk to Margaret.

Mr Smith said it would have to be permanently out there all the time. It would need to be proper solid outdoor equipment, not just the blow up stuff.

Cr Carter said he would talk to her.

Mr Smith said he would also chat to her. We are looking at the next meeting we might have some ideas for signage we might need to look at paying for.

**Resolved minute number 24/BCC/076**

That the Committee clean up the area by the Bulls Bakery & Café.

Cr B Carter/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 24/BCC/077**

That the report 'Small Projects Fund Update –November 2024 be received.

Mr G Smith/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**9.6 Funding Schemes Update - October 2024**

Mr Smith noted HWTM Watson mentioned about Duddings Lake Trust which wasn't in the Report.

Mr Dear said it is not part of the Council.

Mr Smith said that clarifies that.

**Resolved minute number 24/BCC/078**

That the Funding Schemes Update –October 2024 be received.

Mr D Yates/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**The meeting closed at 7.15pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Bulls Community Committee held on 22 January 2025.**

.....  
Chairperson

UNCONFIRMED

## 7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Bulls Community Committee Meetings

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Bulls Community Committee meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for follow up, and a brief status comment.

#### 2. Decision Making Process

- 2.1 Staff have assessed the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 in relation to this item and have concluded that, as this report is for information only, the decision-making provisions do not apply.

#### Attachments:

1. **Follow-up Actions Register** [↓](#)

#### Recommendation

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Bulls Community Committee Meetings' be received.

## Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	13-Nov-24	Haylock Park development options	Brian Cater	The opportunity to update the committee on Haylock Park.	In progress
2	24-Jan-24	Sport Whanganui report to come to the committee when completed	Heidi	This will be included in the order paper	Completed.
3	28-Oct-21	<p><b>Also under Council:</b></p> <p>With regards to the recommendation from the Bulls Community Committee for rubbish bin/s at the picnic area at the Bulls river: A recommendation by Council to approve this request was lost, and Cr Gordon instead requested that staff contact Horizons Regional Council and request that they investigate this further as this area of land lies under their responsibility.</p>	Arno Benadie / Murray Phillips	Arno met with Horizons re MOU and withdrawing from the MOU.	In progress
4	11-Aug-21	<p>RDC please look at traffic calming options on Criterion St and Taumaihi St.</p> <p><b>31 Jan 22:</b> The committee believes the traffic count was done but no tubing was laid? They are waiting on data from the traffic count.</p>	Arno Benadie	Higgins and the Roding team are considering potential solutions for Taumaihi Street, Bulls. A speed calming structure will include the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the school. This location receives a high number of State Highway bypass traffic. Unfortunately Criterion street is not currently being considered for any traffic calming interventions. This item was not included in the annual works program and budgets and will stay on the radar to see if there is any funding available at the end of the financial year.	In progress.

**ITEM 8.1**

## **8 Chair's Report**

### **8.1 Chairman's Report - January 2025**

**Author: Greg Smith, Chairman**

The Chair may provide a tabled or verbal report at the meeting.

#### **Recommendation**

That the Chairman's Report – January 2025 be received.

## 9 Reports for Information

### 9.1 Bulls Open Space Project

**Author:** Clare Wooding, Senior Strategy Advisor

**Authoriser:** Katrina Gray, Manager Strategy and Development

#### 1. Reason

- 1.1 This item is to provide an update on work underway on the Bulls Open Space Project (the **Project**).

#### 2. The Project

- 2.1 A consultant (Craig Pocock, Design Environment) has been engaged to prepare a Recreation and Open Space Network Survey and Analysis for Bulls. The consultant we are working with prepared the Master Plan for the [Taihape Domain](#).
- 2.2 This project is being undertaken to ensure a planned and cohesive approach to the future development of open spaces for Bulls. There are a range of user groups and community groups interested in development of the open spaces in Bulls, as well as significant projected residential growth. Therefore, the Project is needed to provide a blueprint for future open space development for Bulls. It will take a community based approach to understand current and future needs, opportunities and constraints.
- 2.3 Engaging early with the Bulls Community Committee, User Groups, the community and with iwi and hapu are central to the work.

#### 3. Process

- 3.1 There will be two stages to the Project. The first stage will undertake a recreation and open space review with the community. This will include a strategic review of relevant documents and plans including the Community Spatial Plan 2023, the District Plan and existing open space plans. It will also include developing an understanding of relevant context, such as any recent discussions about the Bulls Domain and Haylock Park (including any with Council) and will include community workshop sessions.
- 3.2 The second stage will involve developing a Master Plan for the Bulls Domain. However, before proceeding with the master plan (and following community workshops and background research in stage 1), Officers will confirm with the consultant whether to proceed with a master plan for the Bulls Domain, develop a master plan for an alternative location, or develop a master plan for multiple locations.

#### 4. Community engagement

- 4.1 Engaging with stakeholders, iwi and hapu, user groups and community groups is the key component of this project.
- 4.2 This will involve:
  - Meeting with iwi and/or hapu.

**ITEM 9.1**

- Meeting individually with each user group, sports code representatives, and other established domain/park interest groups to gain an understanding of their current membership rates, trends, events, issues and aspirations.
- Hosting one open session for the general community.

4.3 One survey analysis diagram/plan per user group will be prepared, based on the information gathered during the workshops. These diagrams will show the constraints and opportunities per user group which will inform the final master plan.

**5. Timeline**

- 5.1 The consultant is in the process of gathering and reviewing background information to ensure they have relevant context. The record of recent discussions about Haylock Park at the Bulls Community Committee meeting late last year is included.
- 5.2 The intention is to carry out community engagement before the end of summer. The Bulls Community Committee will be informed as dates are scheduled.

**Recommendation**

That the report Bulls Open Space Project be received.



## 9.2 Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024

**Author:** Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

### Abuse Under Care

On 12 November I attended the apology from the Crown in Wellington for the “Abuse Under Care following the Royal Commission of Enquiry”. The Enquiry had previously found that many young people were abused, sexually assaulted and tortured while under state care. Many of these actions had occurred at hospitals, children’s homes and faith based institutions and in private homes where children were based with state carers. The Enquiry found that many young people had raised questions to authorities that were not listened to, or were punished further for reporting or questioning. There are many reports documenting the Enquiry and their findings are online. However I wish to make a few points –

- The survivors carry the effects and trauma suffered for their lifetime.
- For the huge number of survivors and supporters that listened to the apology and the stories from survivors at Parliament or at several centres around New Zealand it was emotional and raw.
- The lead coordinator Minister Erica Stanford apologised to a silently listening and grieving audience. Minister Stanford is acknowledged by all for genuinely caring and doing all that she can to support.
- There were a series of apologies from the various public sector leaders including MSD, Police, Oranga Tamariki, Education and Public Service. The Solicitor General Una Jagose KC gave an apology that was received with anger and hostility because on many occasions she was thought to have been unhelpful and criticised the honesty of the survivors’ stories.
- These apologies were followed by the apologies from Prime Minister Luxon and the Leader of the Labour Government which were accepted by most as genuine.
- With the apologies came the Crown responses. There will be compensation to the survivors although the mechanism and cost still has yet to be worked through. There will be a series of reforms for each Government Department and money will be allocated to search for the “missing people” i.e. the unidentified graves, and on 12 November next year there will be a public holiday to reflect and report on progress made.
- Apparently there are a number of street names in public recognition places relating to perpetrators of this abuse and these will be removed.
- So what does it mean for the Rangitikei? Lake Alice, which sits in our district, was named and regarded as the foremost centre of the abuse. There will be some sort of memorial here which is yet to be finalised. Our district will probably feature in the search for unidentified graves much like the search by our RSA Vet Barry Rankin for the unidentified graves of RSA veterans buried at our cemetery on State Highway 1.

Yes, abuse did occur at Lake Alice Hospital along with many other places throughout New Zealand and we must acknowledge that history. However there were many staff there at Lake Alice with the highest standards of behaviour who were genuinely caring for people and who were unaware of the abuse that was occurring. A huge number of young people were placed into adoption with people that loved them, cared for them and recognised them as family. Let us not forget these people who made sacrifices to support others.

**Gentle Annie Road**

With the closure of the Tangiwai Forestry Mills, cutting of the Ernslaw Forests has to continue. These logs unprocessed are now sent for export resulting in 1000 tonnes per day being trucked over the Gentle Annie Road that links Taihape and the Hawkes Bay. This is not a state highway - it is a demanding road not suitable for this volume of traffic and this may continue for many decades. Quite simply the road will deteriorate markedly and there will be accidents as there are many lined narrowed corners where large trucks cannot pass each other. The cost of upgrading and maintaining this road will be beyond the finances of our Council. These logs could go by rail but currently because of the extra distance it is cheaper to transport by road. I have asked for a meeting on 25 November with the key members being the forestry owners, KiwiRail, Ports of Napier, NZTA, Road Transport Contractors and representatives from both our Council and Hastings District Council to discuss this. That meeting will take place in Bulls.

There needs to be a solution and if one is unable to be attained at that meeting I will ask for a meeting with Minister Simeon Brown to discuss the possibilities of extra funding or the possibility of a toll levied on the forestry sector.

**Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Whanganui**

On the weekend of 8/9 November I was invited to a series of events in Whanganui to celebrate the reopening of the Sarjeant Art Gallery. It started with a powhiri on the Friday afternoon at Putiki Marae, followed with a 4.30am dawn ceremony on the Saturday morning to bless the building and a "Shimmer & Shine" social event on the Saturday evening. The Sarjeant Gallery is a nationally recognised taonga for New Zealand and was closed 10 years ago due to earthquake concerns. The plan for strengthening, restoration and the construction of a new wing dedicated to Tā Te Atawhai Archie John Taiaroa KNZM, who was a loved and respected kaumātua and inspirational leader of the Whanganui people, took 10 years and came at a cost of \$70m. Finding that funding was a challenge and was a partnership between Whanganui, the Crown with the Provincial Growth Fund and many investors.

**Spring Fling Taihape**

The Spring Fling this year was on the same day as the opening of the Sarjeant Gallery in Whanganui where I had attended the dawn blessing and evening function. Unfortunately that meant it was difficult to spend the whole day in Taihape so Beth and I were there for only a couple of hours. The highlight of the day was receiving the Historic Places plaque in recognition of the Grandstand. Andrew Coleman the CE of Heritage New Zealand made the trip to present the plaque and speak. He congratulated the district and included congratulations for the Mangaweka Cantilever Bridge and the Taihape Picture Theatre. Andrew is an Old Boy of Taihape and he used the occasion to meet up with his family and friends and have a class reunion attended by many of his classmates. Heritage is incredibly important to us all and the registration of the Grandstand as an Historic Place has been made possible by the Heritage Group from Taihape headed by Community Board Chair Peter Kipling-Arthur. Being honest, I thought the Spring Fling missed a few opportunities this year. There was no signage on the main street and attendance seemed to be down. I congratulate Pania for doing the

hard work but I wonder if I, our staff and community needed to get alongside her to provide support for the Trust.

### Armistice Day

I celebrated Armistice Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour with the RSA Service at Marton Park. This year was especially poignant as it came with the recent announcement of the death of Sir Robert “Bom” Gillies, the last survivor of the famed Māori Battalion. The volunteers of the Māori Battalion, who numbered 3600 men, fought in the Second World War in places such as Cassino and followed the Māori contingent that left New Zealand to serve in WWI in 1915. The Armistice Day Memorial speech was written and read by Luci Downes a senior Rangitīkei College pupil and with her permission, I attach that speech for you to read - it was very moving and thought provoking. Lest we forget.

### Local Water Done Well

Local Water Done Well is the new National Party solution to the (“three waters) delivery options for waste-water (sewerage), drinking water and stormwater services provided by Councils. Please refer to our Council website to see the regular updates and information. The changes to Local Government are the most significant changes in decades if not for all time.

Over the last week I organised a series of drop-in meetings during the day followed by evening meetings in Bulls, Marton and Taihape which had very little interest. I am prepared to speak to any group or anyone in the district if you missed these chances.

Government timelines for decisions are challenging and the key points are –

- Council decides on a preferred option to deliver water services on 12 December.
  - The options are –
    - i) Maintain sole control as our Council either by current in-house management or by forming our own CCO (Council Controlled Organisation);
    - ii) Have a joined up approach with other Councils in our region (preferably by way of a CCO);
    - iii) Adopt a consumer trust model.

*If you want to know more about the relative merits of these or who we could partner with please reach out.*

- Council will consult early next year (February/March) on our preferred solution and other options.
- By September we provide Government our plan for approval. Government can say that they don’t approve and make decisions for us!
- Council continues to provide these services as happens now until 2027/28 and then the new water entity takes over.
- It has been a frustrating process with further Government legislation due in December.
- Most Councils in New Zealand, I suspect, will form regional CCO’s with other Councils. This will give access to long term funding through LGFA (Local Government Funding Agency). The

Councils will then appoint one member to a Governance Board with probably both an independent chair and an iwi voice. This Board would then appoint directors of the new water entity based purely on expertise. However, none of this is yet set, but is in my opinion a likely outcome.

### A couple of updates

- As you will all know we have closed the Marton Swimming Pool because of the failure of the principal laminated beam. Council has decided that we will focus on the long term solution and hopefully have the pool reopened for next season. To make that possible we have already contracted a company to look at the structural integrity of the building, the repair of the roof and to provide us information on the future of not only the main pool but the roof surrounding the children's pool. I am hoping that we get reports back from that before Christmas to be able to present a way forward early next year. Myself and Council regard the Marton Pool as a key part of our community and I want us to move as quickly as we can. I know staff are looking at possible alternative arrangements for swim lessons and I hope to be able to update the community on this early in the new year.
- The Dudding Trust met recently and made decisions around who will receive money in this financial year. At the moment those results haven't been announced and successful organisations will be contacted in the very near future by the Trustee. What I can say is that we are distributing around \$900,000 to the wider Rangitikei community. The Rangitikei district is not eligible for a number of other funds and in this regard we absolutely rely on the foresight of Mr Dudding and I hope to be in the position to be able to congratulate successful recipients in the near future.
- In the last Mayor's report I made comment that we are going through a recruitment process to select a new Chief Executive. Council have now reduced what was a very long list because we had a significant number of people interested in the position and we are hoping to be able to appoint late this year for someone to take up the role early next year. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Kevin Ross who took on the role of what was an interim Chief Executive position last August. Staff have loved working with him and he has been able to successfully deal with a number of long standing issues.
- Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs TUIA – I am looking to continue with the TUIA programme in 2025 and will be interviewing prospectful candidates shortly for nomination. It has been a pleasure to work with this year's TUIA Nyssa Nepe and watch her grow as a future leader. Nyssa will present a report to Council on her experience in the programme in December.
- There have been recent announcements by Government that they will put approximately \$10m of funding (as cash funding) into Ratana to deal with infrastructure and needed building issues. The announcements were made from the Offices of Minister Potaka and Minister Jones. To my mind this helps addresses the number of times politicians from both sides of the House have made promises to Ratana during January celebrations and delivery of those promises has been a long time coming.
- Ratana will again celebrate the birthday of TW Ratana on 25 January 2025 and this will be an enormous occasion. The numbers could swell to 30,000 plus people who will want to accompany the new Māori Kuini Ngā Wai hone i te pō onto Ratana for her first official visit. We will be inviting our Elected Members to be part of that process and I will be spending 2-3 days at Ratana in support. I thank staff for the amount of time that they need to spend planning support in terms of water, wastewater, rubbish collection etc for the event.

- There has been a recent meeting of the Users of the Taihape Memorial Park Group and I just want to highlight the patience that Charity Davis and Charlotte Oswald have taken waiting for Council to develop their long term plans for the Park. The playground group have now been given approval that they can start with a known location, essentially where the old toilet block is on Memorial Park. This toilet block will need to be demolished and replaced with something that is fit for purpose. I know they are looking at taking a couple of options to the community and I know they will be seeking interest from any party who can help them with the funding. If you think that you can help please get in touch with Charity directly or approach myself or one of the Councillors.
- I am looking to attach to this report, but may not have completed in time, my report from the recent Zone 3 meeting held in Napier. To do justice to this report I want to take some time and comment on the relevant speakers and am hoping to get it attached in time.
- Similar to the Zone meeting in Napier I will be attending the Combined Sector Rural & Provincial Meeting in Wellington on 21/22 November and I hope to also be able to table a report on that meeting. These meetings are incredibly important as they are our direct interaction with Crown and the speed and complexity of decisions we are being faced with by Government at the moment and how they significantly affect Local Government is unprecedented.

**Schools**

- Last weekend I attended the celebration at Huntley School marking 10 years of girls attending the school.
- We are still waiting on the notification from the Ministry of Education around the rebuild of the Taihape Area School but I am hopeful we should receive this reasonably soon.
- I am currently attending prizegivings where my diary allows on requests from schools and at the end of year prizegivings for Rangitikei College and Taihape Area School there will be announcements around 4 successful scholarships that Council makes available to Year 13 students.

**Mayor’s Engagements**

**November 2024**

1	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Fortnightly Economic Development Meeting with staff Attended monthly catchup meeting with Police
2	Attended Hunterville Shemozzle to help set up Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs TUIA end of year celebration in Lower Hutt
4	Attended MTFJ Governance Group Online Meeting Attended JBS Dudding Trust 2024 Trustee & Advisory Board Annual Meeting
5	Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended meeting of Councillors and Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa Management Team re LWDW Attended MTFJ 6 Monthly Review Online Meeting

## ITEM 9.2

	<p>Attended GHD function in Palmerston North</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
6	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended monthly Governor's Q&amp;A session with Executive Leadership Team</p> <p>Attended drop-in LWDW meeting at Taihape</p> <p>Attended Zoom with Minister Potaka regarding Ratana Infrastructure</p> <p>Attended public evening LWDW meeting at Taihape</p>
7	<p>Attended Marton Office &amp; Library Project meeting with Elected Members and Staff</p> <p>Attended Ngati Rangī Hui Te Waiū-o-te-ika (Whangaehu Awa) in Ohakune</p> <p>Attended BA5 meeting in Marton</p>
8	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended CE Recruitment meeting with subcommittee</p> <p>Attended Powhiri at Putiki Marae for Opening of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery</p>
9	<p>Attended 4.30am dawn ceremony for Opening of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery</p> <p>Attended Taihape Spring Fling</p> <p>Attended Heritage New Zealand plaque presentation for Taihape Grandstand</p> <p>Attended Shimmer &amp; Shine evening function for Opening of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery</p>
10	<p>Attended Powhiri NZSF Surgical Exercise VIP Opening at Whanganui Hospital</p>
11	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Armistice Day Memorial Service at Marton Park</p> <p>Attended Sub-regional Briefing #2 LWDW with Elected Members</p>
12	<p>Attended Public Apology to Survivors of Abuse in Care in Wellington</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
13	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended drop-in LWDW meeting in Bulls</p> <p>Attended Creative Communities Scheme Meeting</p> <p>Attended public evening LWDW meeting in Bulls</p> <p>Attended Bulls Community Committee meeting</p>
14	<p>Attended Zone 3 Meeting in Napier</p>
15	<p>Attended Zone 3 Meeting in Napier</p>
16	<p>Attended Huntley School event celebrating 10 Years of Girls</p>
17	<p>Attended Regional Garden Tour Taihape</p>
18	<p>Attended Breakfast Meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys</p> <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p>

	<p>Attended drop-in LWDW meeting in Marton</p> <p>Attended quarterly regional relationship meeting with NZTA</p> <p>Attended public evening LWDW meeting in Marton</p>
19	<p>Attended Taihape Area School Scholarship Interviews</p> <p>Attended Memorial Park User Group Meeting</p> <p>Attended Historical Society Meeting</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
20	<p>Attended Assets &amp; Infrastructure Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Moawhango Wind Farm Community Drop In Session</p>
21	Attended LGNZ Combined Sector Meeting in Wellington
22	Attended LGNZ Rural & Provincial Meeting in Wellington
23	Attended Bulls Rose & Flower Show
25	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Hui regarding Taihape Napier Road</p> <p>Attended online meeting with Crown Response Unit regarding Unmarked Graves Project</p>
26	<p>Attended MPs site visit to Whangaehu Bridge – Te Araroa Trail</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Roundtable Zoom – Electoral Reform</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
27	Attended CE Recruitment Shortlist Review meeting
28	<p>Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Council Meeting</p>
29	<p>To attend meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>To attend Earle Creativity &amp; Development Trust Awards Ceremony</p> <p>To attend Federated Farmers End of Year Event</p>

**Attachments:**

1. **LGNZ Four Monthly Reporting** [↓](#)
2. **Armistice Day Speech - Luci Downes** [↓](#)
3. **Heritage NZ Plaque - Taihape Grandstand** [↓](#)
4. **Elected Member Attendance** [↓](#)
5. **Additional Mayors Report** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the Mayor's Report – 28 November 2024 be accepted.

ITEM 9.2  
ATTACHMENT 1



---

# LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// July-October 2024







## Ko Tātou LGNZ.

This report summarises LGNZ’s work on behalf of member councils and is produced three times a year. It’s structured around LGNZ’s purpose: to serve local government by **championing**, **connecting** and **supporting** members.

Many councils have found it useful to put this report on the agenda for their next council meeting so that all councillors can review it and provide feedback. Sam and Susan are also happy to join council meetings online to discuss the report or any aspect of it, on request.

This report complements our regular communication channels, including *Keeping it Local* (our fortnightly e-newsletter), providing a more in-depth look at what we do.

### Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Champion</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Local government funding and financing .....	5
Rates rise toolkit 3: Unfunded mandates .....	5
Tourism and cost recovery.....	5
Revenue capping and other measures .....	5
Forthcoming funding and financing toolkit .....	5
Regional deals .....	6
Government relations.....	6
Media .....	7
Electoral Reform Working Group.....	10
Remits .....	10
Māori wards .....	11
Water services reform .....	11
Resource management reform .....	12
Transport.....	12
Climate change.....	13
Localism .....	14
Other policy issues .....	14
Earthquake prone buildings.....	14
Emergency management system improvement.....	15
<b>Connect</b> .....	<b>16</b>




---

Member visits .....	16
SuperLocal24.....	16
Combined Sector meetings.....	16
2025 calendar .....	17
Te Maruata.....	17
YEM.....	17
Women’s lunch .....	18
CBEC.....	18
Metro Sector .....	18
Te Uru Kahika/Regional Sector .....	19
<b>Support .....</b>	<b>20</b>
Ākona .....	20
Roundtable zooms .....	20
Hūtia te Rito – LGNZ Māori Strategy.....	20
Governance guides/support .....	21
MTFJ.....	21
Moata Carbon Portal.....	21



---

## Introduction

This busy four months included our SuperLocal conference in Wellington, which attracted more than 700 people and dominated the news agenda all week. This was partly thanks to headline-grabbing comments from the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister, but also because of the LGNZ team's proactive generation of many other topics in the media spotlight at our conference, from four-year terms and tourism levies to localism and regional deals.

Alongside preparing for and delivering SuperLocal, our small team managed a huge range of other work, which is covered in this report. Highlights include:

- Launching our third rates rise toolkit in July, including NZIER's research uncovering the costs of unfunded mandates for councils. Unfunded mandates are costs that local government ends up carrying as a result of central government legislation.
- In October, launching our Electoral Reform Working Group's issues paper exploring the current state of participation in local election and asking for feedback.
- Local Government Minister Simeon Brown announcing a framework for Regional Deals that aligns with many of the elements LGNZ called for in our May proposal.

As you'll see below, we've had many meetings with Ministers, the Prime Minister and other politicians across a wide range of topics. And we've engaged in a range of policy issues, with our work driven by the high-level advocacy priorities that members and National Council agreed earlier this year:

- Funding and financing
- Water
- Resource management reform
- Transport
- Climate change

Right now, we're preparing for the 21 November Combined Sector meeting, focused on the Government's local government reform programme. It features a strong range of speakers including the Local Government Minister, Regional Development Minister, Opposition Finance Spokesperson, Australian local government speakers on their rates capping experience, and a briefing from the Treasury on New Zealand's fiscal situation.

During the meeting, we'll also be launching a funding and financing toolkit, showcasing a range of tools that could be used (alongside rates) to boost local government's financial position and help councils deliver for ratepayers. Watch out for an email direct to your inbox on 21 November with all the details. We'll be advocating strongly for these tools – and sharing resources so you can too.

Ngā mihi  
Sam and Susan



## Champion

### Local government funding and financing

#### Rates rise toolkit 3: Unfunded mandates

In July we released work we had commissioned from NZIER on the impacts of unfunded mandates on local government. NZIER’s research highlighted:

- that many central government reforms have resulted in increased costs for ratepayers;
- that central government does not adequately estimate or address what its reforms cost councils;
- that constant policy changes lead to high sunk costs for councils with no tangible outcomes; and
- the true costs of government reform are hidden because councils absorb them by reducing other service delivery.

Our third rates rise toolkit packaged this research with slides and key messages that members could use. The release generated significant media interest and engagement from members.

#### Tourism and cost recovery

From 1 October, the Government raised the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) from \$35 to \$100 to ensure visitors contribute to the upkeep of the facilities, services and natural environment they use and enjoy during their stay. LGNZ is advocating for councils to have a greater say in how the additional funding is spent on tourism-related initiatives. We are also continuing to advocate for the Government to enable cost recovery tools (such as a local tourism bed night charge).

#### Revenue capping and other measures

At SuperLocal, the Government announced that they would investigate performance metrics, benchmarking, and revenue capping for councils modelled on New South Wales and Victoria. The policy team has been engaging with local government experts from New South Wales and Victoria to understand how these policies have worked for them and what the impact has been. We will provide insights from these discussions and research on these policies with members soon, including at the November Combined Sector meeting.

#### Forthcoming funding and financing toolkit

We are working on a toolkit for release at the November Combined Sector meeting that details a range of 24 funding and financing tools that would benefit councils (but potentially require enabling legislation). This toolkit will include:

- Basic information about each tool, how it can be used and what it might deliver
- Data to support our approach and inform members’ conversations
- Messages local government can use



- A draft opened and draft letter to an MP that can be customised

The toolkit launch will be supported by media and advocacy activity, in the same way that the rates rise toolkits were.

### Regional deals

We were pleased that the Government made announcements around its Regional Deals framework at SuperLocal, and that our advocacy has been taken on board with the framework largely reflecting our position. This framework includes partnership, new funding tools and a commitment to long-term planning, and is modelled on LGNZ's proposal released earlier this year.

We know funding tools and regulatory relief will be made available in the regions that secure deals. We have been advocating for those benefits to be available for all of local government (where that makes sense).

Our focus now is on ensuring that the regional deals model has room to evolve and deepen – as it's become clearer that the first iteration will be limited in scope.

### Government relations

We appeared before select committees in support of our submissions on the water services preliminary arrangements and fast-track bills.

We've also had productive meetings with Hon Chris Bishop and Hon Casey Costello.

The meeting with Minister Bishop included Hastings District Council Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and chief executive Nigel Bickle. They were able to provide the Minister with their reflections on the recent Kāinga Ora review and some examples of what they were doing locally to promote better housing outcomes, as part of our effort to position local government as a key partner in resolving the housing crisis.

The meeting with Minister Costello was about what role councils may play in reform of vaping regulations, and resulted in an agreement that LGNZ would further engage with health officials on what a system in which councils have greater control over where vape retailers are located could look like.

In early July we hosted MPs who were former local government elected members or staff for a casual evening function at parliament. Six MPs joined Sam and the LGNZ team for some good conversations and bridge-building across party lines.

We have reached out to ACT leader and Minister of Regulation David Seymour to work with him and his party on streamlining the regulatory burden on councils, and on the ACT commitment in its coalition agreement with National to look at improving housing incentives on councils through GST sharing.

At our July meeting with Minister Brown, we raised concerns regarding NZTA's proposed changes to emergency works funding. We also discussed the Ratepayers' Assistance Scheme (RAS), which is an

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: July-October 2024 // 6



innovative financing scheme that LGNZ has been developing with a group of Metro councils, the Local Government Funding Agency and Cameron Partners. The purpose of the RAS is to make local government policies and charges more affordable for ratepayers. RAS would provide ratepayers with:

- Flexibility to decide when to pay local government charges; and/or
- Very competitive finance terms (below standard mortgage rates).

The recess period gave us the opportunity to connect with staff in the Beehive. These conversations have provided insights into the Government's perception of local government and help myth-bust staffers' perceptions (where that's been required).

In late September, we met with the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister together, as part of our series of regular quarterly meetings. Talks took a practical approach to tackle the challenges facing local government. Before the meeting, we asked mayors and chairs for practical cost-cutting ideas to relieve pressure for ratepayers and help councils operate more efficiently. Here's a selection of the ideas you shared:

- Simplify audits with a tiered, risk-based system
- Review Long Term Plans less often
- Let councils set their own fees for things like parking and animal control
- Review District Plans and conduct Representation Reviews less frequently
- Encourage shared services between councils
- Better align local and central government decisions
- Create a "Fast Track" process for land rezoning
- Address the contributors to civil construction price increases.

The Prime Minister and Local Government Minister were interested to hear about possible changes.

In early October, we again met with the Minister for Local Government. The Minister was open to receiving further advice from us on how to cut costs for councils, including a proposal to change Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act to make it less cumbersome and more accessible for the community. The Minister was open to coming to our sector meetings in February and May next year.

The Government announced a raft of proposed changes to the building consents system in late October and we are meeting with Hon Chris Penk in early November.

### Media

The June Infrastructure Symposium, including Infrastructure Minister Chris Bishop's speech at our networking function the night before, received very strong media coverage, with stories in The Post, BusinessDesk, NBR and RNZ focused on our support for more funding tools to pay for infrastructure. We also used the opportunity of the Infrastructure Symposium to further our advocacy against proposed changes by NZTA to emergency works, which was a lead story on 1News. Other media interactions in July focused on elected members' behaviour and Christchurch City Council's exit from LGNZ.



SuperLocal24 generated widespread national coverage, making it one of the top stories of the week. The Prime Minister’s politically charged speech, rate increases, and large media attendance contributed to the event being so widely covered. The overall media result was the result of significant planning by LGNZ. We developed a range of proactive stories and pre-briefed media on issues important to members, which ensured balance in stories and coverage of our proactive angles.

Feedback from media about the conference experience was very positive.



6 press conferences



33 accredited media



400+ media items



9 proactive story topics

Earlier in August, LGNZ led out positively on the Government’s Local Water Done Well announcement. LGNZ Vice President Campbell Barry spoke to [1News](#) and said while it was a welcome step, we need to temper expectations about the effect on rates short-term. LGNZ National Council members Tim Cadogan and Neil Holdom spoke to [Stuff and Three News](#) about the need for certainty from all sides so councils can get on with business. Concerns still playing out in the media centre around [credit ratings](#) of the LGFA and the new CCOs, which S&P put a statement out about. LGNZ engaged with S&P at the end of last week and will share updates in the coming months.

Confirmation of time-of-use or congestion charging was also announced in August, with LGNZ Transport Forum Chair Neil Holdom putting LGNZ’s support [on the record](#) saying, “it’s a prudent and pragmatic step that LGNZ has long advocated for”.

Coverage of our unfunded mandates research launch included LGNZ Vice President Campbell Barry speaking to [The Post](#), [RNZ](#) and [Newsroom](#) about the report and joining [ZB’s Early Edition](#) to highlight the cost of flip-flops on policies when the government changes. Then in [The Post](#), Ex-Chief Press Secretary for the National Party Janet Wilson reflected on our research, reiterating the impossible situation for councils as “rates as a share of GDP have hovered around 2% for 20 years” and “central government ... have all the power, with local councils forced to carry out its wishes.”

Also in August, rates invoices began to hit letterboxes. LGNZ has consistently raised this as a national issue in the media and ensured there is good data to support these conversations with communities. Infometrics CE and economist Brad Olsen commented in [The Post](#), giving this perspective on rates rises – “if you look at the amount of money that people pay in their rates versus what they pay to central government, you’re talking chalk and cheese.”

In mid-July, in response to the Government’s announcement it would not progress the Future for Local Government report, we issued a media statement saying “LGNZ developed our own response to the FFLG review, in collaboration with members, and that underpins all our advocacy. We won’t give up advocating for these key changes.”



---

Earlier in July, a disturbing story was front page in the [Herald on Sunday](#) with former Mayor of Nelson Rachel Reese telling her story after an intruder entered her home back in February. This targeting of former and current elected members is rising, and a poll at LGNZ's Combined Sector meeting in April showed 53% of elected members say it's worse than a year ago. LGNZ CE Susan Freeman-Greene spoke to NZ Herald about members' concerns and highlighted the work LGNZ has been doing to support members – including previously championing a removal of candidate addresses from election advertising, and our roundtable zooms with the likes of NZ Police and Netsafe.

Also in July, LGNZ President Sam Broughton joined the [On The Tiles](#) podcast to discuss our city and regional deals framework and what we could learn from the likes of Australia and the UK.

The Government's building consents reform was welcomed by LGNZ: Sam was interviewed on RNZ and Newstalk ZB. A few days later, when the International Visitor Levy went up, we proactively called for the Government to share the increase with councils to support tourism costs. This advocacy was picked up by the radio stations.

In October, LGNZ was in the media spotlight as we advocated for central government funding of emergency responses. This was part of [our response](#) to the Government's announcement following the North Island Severe Weather Events report. Our President Mayor Sam Broughton and National Council member Mayor Rehette Stoltz shared the workload, with Sam speaking to outlets like [Newsroom](#) and Radio NZ, while Rehette had interviews with TVNZ's Breakfast news and Newstalk ZB.

We marked one year until local body elections by [calling](#) for candidates to start thinking about getting prepared. LGNZ Deputy CE Scott Necklen chatted with Newstalk ZB and RNZ on the subject. During our YEM Hui in Christchurch last month we shone the [spotlight](#) on young leaders in local government, pointing to YEM numbers doubling over the past three elections. We used speakers at the YEM hui to tell a breadth of stories about the importance of this network.

With the Electoral Reform issues paper being released this week, we set up an interview with the Electoral Reform Working Group's Chair Mayor Nick Smith and Jack Tame on [Q & A](#). Securing an interview with one of the only longform political news programmes was a crucial part of our work to raise these issues in the political sphere – and to ensure the work helps inform the Government's decisions. Following our Electoral Reform [article](#) on Sunday, we also organised interviews with Mayor Rehette Stoltz (who is also part of the Working Group) on [Hosking Breakfast](#) and Radio NZ to discuss some of the issues.

LGNZ also [spoke out](#) about the Government's proposal for self-certification for building professionals, speaking to [Three News](#) and Newstalk ZB about the issue of long-term security over the indemnity insurance – to ensure that neither councils nor affected homeowners are saddled with costs if an issue occurs.

Amid public calls for tougher booze rules, Sam Broughton also spoke with both [The Press](#) and [Stuff](#) about how Local Alcohol Policies work.





---

### Electoral Reform Working Group

The Electoral Reform Working Group, chaired by Mayor Nick Smith, developed an issues paper that was launched in late October. It sets out the current state of participation in elections. It explores:

- Understanding of local government and why it is important
- How easy it is to vote, especially with the decline of post
- Knowing candidates and what they stand for
- Administration and promotion of elections
- Four-year terms including their implementation and transition

From mid-October to 5 January, we will seek feedback on the paper from members, key stakeholders, and the wider public. This will include presentations at all zone meetings.

Engagement on the issues paper will inform a draft position paper, which will be engaged on from March-May, before a final paper is drafted. National Council will be asked to adopt that final position paper, which will be launched at SuperLocal25.

### Remits

This year, to better prioritise resource allocation to remits, National Council adopted a two-step process for remits agreed at LGNZ's AGM. As part of this process, the AGM ranked remits in order of priority, with the following results:

1. Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives
2. GST revenue sharing with local government
3. Local government Māori wards and constituencies should not be subject to a referendum
4. Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings
5. Representation Reviews
6. Community Services Card
7. Graduated Licensing System

At its September meeting, National Council decided to take the maximum approach for the first four remits. This means commissioning advice or research, or in-depth policy or advocacy work. National Council decided to take a less resource-intensive approach to the remaining remits, which could involve writing a letter to the relevant minister or agency. However, remits may get additional resource if they align with other existing work programmes.

LGNZ's policy team will shortly be in touch with all councils who proposed successful remits to agree on next steps.



### Māori wards

Forty-five councils established or resolved to establish Māori wards since the law change in 2021. The Coalition Government enacted legislation that required those 45 councils to make decisions to retain or disestablish their Māori wards by Friday 6 September. If councils chose to keep the wards, they have to fund a poll at next year's local elections.

Two councils decided to disestablish their Māori wards: Upper Hutt City Council and Kaipara District Council. The other 43 decided to retain their wards and a number of these decisions were unanimous, including: Far North, Porirua, South Taranaki, South Wairarapa, Hauraki, Stratford, Marlborough, Whakatāne, Rangitikei, and Ruapehu.

Some councils indicated they would investigate the implications of refusing to hold a binding referendum. Palmerston North City Council will present a report at an upcoming council meeting; Whakatāne District Council has sought legal advice; and Far North District Council has asked the chief executive "to investigate options of not conducting a binding poll at the next local body election in 2025".

LGNZ is supporting councillors affected by this legislation. Connected to this is our work around supporting Iwi Māori to stand for (re)election in 2025 and promoting voter participation.

### Water services reform

The passing of the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act in August marked the second stage of the Government's *Local Water Done Well* reforms. This Act provides the framework and preliminary arrangements for the new water services system. There is a requirement for councils to develop and adopt Water Services Delivery Plans (WSDPs) by 3 September 2025. Successful elements of [our submission](#) include the expansion of streamlining provisions for water service entity creation, the scope and timeframe for WSDPs, and the Secretary for Local Government's role in making regulations. However, we were unsuccessful in securing a longer timeframe for WSDP development or greater support for councils in implementing this legislation, including funding.

The Government has announced the third stage of these reforms, which will shape the final bill, due to be introduced by the end of 2024. We released an [explainer](#) covering the key elements of this reform in *Keeping it Local*.

We're engaging with the Commerce Commission on how transitional and permanent economic regulation would work under Local Water Done Well. The Commission will be presenting at the November Metro and Rural & Provincial sector meetings to support members to develop a greater understanding of what economic regulation is and how it operates in other sectors.



### Resource management reform

RMA Reform Minister Chris Bishop outlined the Government's plans for stage two of its resource management reform at SuperLocal. These will be progressed via a package on national direction and a second piece of legislation amending the RMA. There will be new national direction issued for infrastructure, housing, and natural hazards, as well as amendments to a wide range of existing national direction, with seven new national direction instruments and amendments to fourteen existing ones in total.

The changes cover four areas:

- infrastructure and energy,
- housing,
- farming and the primary sector, and
- emergencies and natural hazards.

Also included are measures to put into effect the Government's Going for Housing Growth and Electrify New Zealand reforms.

The expansion in national direction must be undertaken in close consultation with local government to be workable, and we will raise this with the Minister and officials. We have met with Simon Court to discuss the NPS-Infrastructure, which he is taking responsibility for developing. This was a positive meeting and further engagement with officials is likely to follow.

The Government has announced that two pieces of legislation would be passed to replace the Resource Management Act as part of stage three of their three-stage approach to resource management reform. One piece of legislation will deal with managing "environmental effects arising from activities", while the other one will "enable urban development and infrastructure".

Cabinet has agreed to 10 core design features for the new resource management system. These will guide the work of an Expert Advisory Group (EAG), which was also announced by the Minister. This group will report back to the Minister before the end of the year with a "blueprint" for new legislation.

Resource management lawyer and former Environmental Defence Society director Janette Campbell will chair the EAG, which also features local government experience in Christine Jones (General Manager – Strategy Growth & Governance at Tauranga City Council) and Gillian Crowcroft (former Auckland Council and Auckland Regional Council staffer).

We will be keeping a close eye on how development of the new RM "blueprint" unfolds between now and the end of the year, ahead of our final catch-up of the year with Minister Bishop in December.

### Transport

In August, the Government announced that legislation to enable congestion charging schemes would be introduced by the end of the year. This is a significant and long-awaited announcement,

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: July-October 2024 // 12



particularly for metro councils. We will submit on the legislation when it makes its way to Select Committee.

We submitted on the Commerce Commission's review of Auckland Airport's pricing decisions for the 2022-2027 period. We expressed concern about the flow-on effects that Auckland Airport's proposed increased charges to airlines could have for ticket prices, regional connectivity, and the competitiveness of New Zealand's aeronautical sector.

In August, Sam and Transport Forum chair Neil Holdom met with the NZTA board just ahead of an in-person meeting of the Transport Forum.

In September, the Government released its 2024-27 National Land Transport Programme, which is largely in line with the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024. It includes significant funding increases for major roading projects and road maintenance, balanced by a decrease in funding for active and public transport initiatives.

Following the release of the National Land Transport Programme 24-27, we have been building a picture of the impact on members, including through a discussion at the in-person meeting of the Transport Forum. While funding decisions were largely as anticipated (based on the signals from the GPS Transport earlier this year), some members were surprised about the extent of funding cuts for safety improvements and public/active transport. The lack of alignment between the NLTP and LTP planning cycles has also created instances in which projects in LTPs no longer have expected co-funding from central government, meaning councils need to find alternative funding sources or scale the project back.

The impact of the reversal of speed limit reductions will be a focus over the coming month, particularly the fiscal impact given the need for new signage around schools. The new Government's speed limit rule includes:

- Reversing Labour's blanket speed limit reductions on local streets, arterial roads, and state highways by 1 July 2025.
- Requiring reduced variable speed limits outside schools during pick up and drop off times by 1 July 2026.
- Enable speed limits up to 120km/h on Roads of National Significance where it is safe.

We will be engaging with councils to get a picture of the overall fiscal impact of these changes.

### Climate change

We submitted supporting the intent of the Government's draft Second Emissions Reduction Plan (2026-30). We also highlighted that most of the actions would require direct or indirect contributions from councils.

We sponsored the Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network's (ACAN) annual hui again this year, which was held in the Bay of Plenty in October. ACAN is a network of council staff working in climate adaptation focused roles. We engage closely with ACAN on all our climate adaptation work.



The Finance and Expenditure Committee has completed its [inquiry into climate adaptation](#). The high-level objectives and principles it set out will inform the development of New Zealand's climate change adaptation policy framework. The report acknowledges the leading role councils will play in climate adaptation, and adopted much of what was proposed in [LGNZ's submission](#). The report does not resolve crucial questions relating to roles and responsibilities or how to decide who pays for adaptation and retreat.

The Department of Internal Affairs is consulting on an exposure draft of regulations for natural hazard information in Land Information Memoranda (LIMs). The regulations have been drafted to support local authorities in implementing changes to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act that are due to come into effect on 1 July 2025. LGNZ submitted on the amendment Bill in February 2023. We supported the Bill but said we would like to see a few changes, many of which have now been incorporated into the updated Bill and proposed regulations. These regulations, in conjunction with the legislative changes that are due to come into effect next year, will provide certainty for councils about sharing natural hazard information in LIMs and reduce their risk of legal liability.

### Localism

At SuperLocal, Susan launched our Choose Localism guide and research showing public attitudes to councils and localism.

To produce this research, we worked with Curia to poll members of the public. [The data](#) looks at perceptions around the effectiveness of councils, how councils could improve their effectiveness, and who should deliver services.

[Localism: A Practical Guide](#) sets out a wide range of tools and approaches councils can use to make a localist future a reality and apply a localism lens across their day-to-day work. This is a high-quality, comprehensive piece of work featuring many council cases studies. When we launched the guide to members during SuperLocal, this email had a 65% open rate (which is incredibly high by direct-email standards). We will be posting a physical copy of this guide to all Mayors and Chairs later in November.

### Other policy issues

#### Earthquake prone buildings

In August we submitted on the Building (Earthquake-prone Building Deadlines and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, which delivers on the Government's commitment to extend remediation deadlines for earthquake-prone buildings. We expressed strong support for the legislation and outlined local government's expectations for the upcoming wider review of earthquake prone buildings.

We have also engaged with MBIE to make sure there is suitable local government representation in the wider review's steering group, particularly individuals from the South Island and/or medium risk councils.

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: July-October 2024 // 14



---

We understand that decisions on the MBIE steering group for the review of the earthquake strengthening regime are imminent. We put forward a number of names to represent local government on this group, and are following up with MBIE to determine if any of them were ultimately chosen.

**Emergency management system improvement**

We engaged on the Government’s response to the North Island Severe Weather Event Inquiry’s report and wider emergency management system improvement as a member of the steering group. We facilitated engagement between the project group and a group of Mayors, Chairs and CEs, to test the group’s current proposals. A Cabinet paper will set out a new Emergency Management Bill (to be introduced next year) along with budget bids and other system changes.

The Government’s response to the North Island Severe Weather Event Inquiry’s report, and wider emergency management system improvement, has been released. We have been contributing to this work as a member of the Steering Group. This response will form the basis for the development of a new Emergency Management Bill to be introduced next year, along with budget bids and other system changes. The key recommendation is to retain the locally led, regionally coordinated approach – but with NEMA taking on a standard setting and assurance role. This could require increased investment by councils, but at this stage there are no additional funding mechanisms proposed.



---

## Connect

### Member visits

In June, Susan and Sam visited 14 councils. These visits are vital for connecting with members, helping them understand what LGNZ delivers, and hearing their feedback and ideas. Visits resumed in early September with visits to a range of Zone 2 councils. Susan visited the Chatham Islands in late September, with Susan and Sam's other member visits scheduled for October and November.

NC members and LT members have also appeared at several member council meetings via zoom to support their consideration of the LGNZ four-monthly report.

### SuperLocal24

This year's conference was the "place to be" for local government, with the PM, many Ministers and the Leader of Opposition all speaking alongside impressive international and New Zealand keynote speakers. SuperLocal dominated media and public discourse that week.

We had nearly 800 people attend – and generated 394 media mentions across a huge range of topics (bed tax, PM speech, regional deals, localism, women in local government, four-year term, SuperLocal award winners, and much more).

We asked attendees to complete a feedback survey. While feedback was again positive, there were slightly more negative/neutral comments this year, partially driven by the political polarisation prompted by the PM's speech.

We are incorporating feedback into our planning for SuperLocal25, which will be held in Christchurch (supported by the councils in the region). In response to comments about this year's conference length and timing, we will be starting SuperLocal25 on the Wednesday morning (with the AGM prior) and wrapping up the conference by the end of Thursday, with the awards dinner on the Thursday night.

### Combined Sector meetings

We received a huge amount of positive feedback on the programme and organisation of the Infrastructure Symposium on 14 June. Nearly 200 people attended, with Peter Nunns of the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihanganga and Sir Bill English particularly popular speakers.

Our November Combined Sector meeting will take a deep dive into the Government's local government reform, including benchmarking, efficiencies and rates capping. Confirmed speakers include Local Government Minister Simeon Brown, Regional Development and Assoc Finance Minister Shane Jones, Labour Finance spokesperson Barbara Edmonds, Auckland Mayor Wayne

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: July-October 2024 // 16



---

Brown (via zoom), and New South Wales and Victorian speakers on their experience of rates capping.

We are planning for the 2025 Combined Sector meetings, with the theme for February to be around accountability and demonstrating value, and May to be around delivering infrastructure for growth.

### 2025 calendar

We released our [calendar of events for 2025](#) in October. This will be updated with Zone 5/6 events shortly.

### Te Maruata

Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere have met regularly, and also initiated a regular Teams drop-in session Piki te Ora that enables members to come in and kōrero, share thoughts and ideas on their mahi and what is happening in their rohe.

Te Maruata's pre-conference hui was attended by approximately 100 people. The hui is the annual face-to-face event for the wider membership but also welcomes non-members who have a strong connection to LG and Kaupapa Māori. The Rōpū welcomed Green MP Hūhana Lyndon, and MP Willie Jackson and MP Shanan Halbert were also in attendance. The programme included a workshop on sharing issues, ideas and solutions given the current climate, and a panel on "how to move the waka forward" with a particular focus on action on the ground, rangatahi participation and civics education.

### YEM

Our Young Elected Members held a successful pre-SuperLocal hui in Wellington attended by around 40 YEM. It included a presentation from Dr Jess Berentson-Shaw on how to communicate effectively to achieve change, and a workshop on how to increase young people's participation in local government.

The annual YEM Hui took place in Christchurch regardless of Christchurch City Council's decision to withdraw from LGNZ. This is because the YEM Committee decided earlier this year to shift away from having a host council, with the Committee taking on full responsibility for hosting. We worked closely with Cr Deon Swiggs (Environment Canterbury and member of the YEM Committee) on planning for the event. Former Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel delivered the keynote address, with the theme of the hui being "mā mua kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua" – driving change through community leadership. The programme was about councils empowering community leaders to make real change and equipping YEM with the key skills needed to make good decisions around council tables. Tikanga sessions were organised to support members to prepare for the whakatau at the commencement of their hui.





### Women's lunch

Before SuperLocal, we hosted a lunch for women that was attended by more than 100 elected members including nearly every woman Mayor. Finance Minister Nicola Willis was a very effective speaker and the event was well covered by media, with [this local democracy reporter story](#) carried prominently by every major outlet. The lunch also included a workshop. We are now considering next steps for this work.

### CBEC

Christchurch City Council's decision to withdraw from LGNZ means that Co-Chair of CBEC Simon Britten stepped down in July, with Sarah Lucas becoming the sole Chair.

CBEC has been focused on the Community Boards Conference which, for the first time, was held in conjunction with the LGNZ SuperLocal Conference. While organising the two conferences at the same time was challenging, the Community Boards Conference went well. At their September meeting CBEC resolved not to hold a community board conference in 2025. Instead, they are investigating the possibility of having a dedicated session at the 2025 Super/Local conference that would attract community board members. They are also looking at facilitating smaller zone or regional-based seminars for community boards.

CBEC is continuing to develop a work plan to implement recommendations around community board members' satisfaction and their relationships with their councils. A key part of the work plan is developing a guide to assist councils and community boards to build effective relationships. This will include a model agreement to enable councils and boards to set out mutual expectations.

Sarah Lucas has been actively assisting community boards going through representation reviews.

Work is progressing on the development of an approach to enable the Remuneration Authority to fairly recognise and compensate those community boards with additional responsibilities.

### Metro Sector

The Metro Sector held a workshop in September to discuss metro-specific priorities and agree on actions that will complement and support LGNZ's broader advocacy work programme over the next year. Members agreed that the key priorities for metros are centred around enabling growth and economic prosperity, and achieving these priorities requires removing obstacles and improving things that currently slow us down. This is reflected in the following agreed areas of focus:

1. Improve alignment of central and local government investment cycles to reduce inefficiencies and encourage more bipartisan agreement on key infrastructure decisions.
2. A strategic approach to supporting economic development and growth.
3. Lift governance and accountability in order to improve LGNZ's impact in the Metro space.



---

**Te Uru Kahika/Regional Sector**

The online meeting of the Regional Sector in June covered a number of key issues for the sector, including emergency management system improvement, Taumata Arowai’s work on wastewater performance standards, and work on the climate adaptation framework. Their October online meeting focused on the Finance and Expenditure Committee’s Inquiry on Climate Adaptation, the Regional Sector’s views on how Core Services should be defined in upcoming legislative changes, and NZTA’s Public Transport programme’s priorities.

The Regional Sector’s ever-popular Regional Tour prior to SuperLocal explored a range of flood protection, recovery, and biosecurity and biodiversity initiatives across the Hawke’s Bay and Wellington regions.



---

## Support

### Ākona

Ākona users continue to grow, with another 138 people logging in for the first time since July. We have started a monthly email that highlights new Ākona courses and content. Please let us know if you're not receiving it.

In July we launched a new course on the CE Relationship – featuring the insight of Mayor Sandra Hazelhurst, Nigel Bickle, Nigel Corry and Chair Daran Ponter. This course was developed after receiving multiple requests from members. In August we launched a course on Leading Complex Communities, which will eventually include at least two Ako hours with expert host Jo Cribb.

The Climate Change course (released two months ago) caught the attention of the Aotearoa Council Climate Network, who were impressed with the content and keen to encourage elected members to engage with the learning. To support that mahi, a cloned copy of the Climate Change course was made available to sustainability staff from all member councils two weeks ago.

Five Ako hours were run from June-August, including a session that was arranged in response to the change in Māori ward legislation. Another three Ako hours were scheduled during September/October. These sessions are becoming increasingly popular, whether through attending the live sessions or viewing the recordings later.

We are working to confirm logistics and continue development of materials for Induction 2025 before the end of 2024. A draft design was produced and tested with members across October along with a prototype for an upgraded Ākona platform and programme that delivers a more personalised learning experience. The response from testers was very positive and the tīma have now begun development, starting with the production of pre-elected materials ready for release in March 2025. Existing courses have been reviewed in preparation for the shift in format with their redevelopment due to begin in November.

### Roundtable zooms

Our second zoom in this series on sovereign citizens was popular and provoked a lot of conversation and positive feedback. We then held a well-attended zoom for elected members on physical security in early August. Our next zoom on 24 September featured the Security Intelligence Service speaking about the new threat assessment for New Zealand, which contained specific commentary on the vulnerability of local government. The presentation provoked a lot of member questions.

These recordings and all other security-related resources can be found in a [special section of Ākona](#).

### Hūtia te Rito – LGNZ Māori Strategy

Work continues on the development of this strategy. Related kaupapa include:

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: July-October 2024 // 20



- **Toitū te Reo** – This annual symposium launched in Hastings at the start of August and is a partnership between Heretaunga District Council and Ngāti Kahungunu, with the support of many others. Three LGNZ team members attended.
- **Tangihanga of Kiingi Tuuheitia Pootatau te Wherowhero VII** – The Māori King passed away on 30 August and his tangi was held from 31 August-5 September at Tūrangawaewae. LGNZ acknowledged the King’s passing on social media and issued a media release acknowledging the ascension of the King’s daughter to the throne, to become Te Arikinui Kūiini Ngā wai hono i te po Pootatau te Wherowhero VIII. The team will firm up a plan to connect with the Kiingitanga in the coming months, in support of the Kōtahitanga vision.

### Governance guides/support

LGNZ has worked with the Taituarā Democracy and Participation Working Party to update the LGNZ standing orders template. The update will ensure legislative consistency and introduce plain English. A draft has been circulated for member feedback and the final draft is now being legally reviewed. The changes made to the template involve updating it to include legislative amendment from the past three years and introducing plain English where possible. The templates, which include a territorial/unitary council version, a regional council version, and a community board version, are expected to be ready in early 2025.

### MTFJ

MTFJ members and networks gathered for the Annual Breakfast meeting at the SuperLocal conference. At this event, Social Development and Employment Minister Louise Upston confirmed \$9 million in funding for the next financial year. Justin Lester of Dot Loves Data launched a revamped youth employment data dashboard, which sets out a council’s local landscape in terms of youth and NEETs.

We would like to acknowledge Mayor Max Baxter’s service and mahi for MTFJ. Max stepped down from the role in early October. MTFJ held a thank-you and farewell afternoon tea in his honour to celebrate his contribution.

Mayor Alex Walker has been elected as the new MTFJ Chair.

### Moata Carbon Portal

This month we’ve extended the Moata portal subscription for Queenstown Lakes District Council for another 12 months. We’ve also provided a demo of the portal and had conversations on carbon accounting with Horowhenua District Council.



---

Mott MacDonald, LGNZ and the Infrastructure Sustainability Council held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aotearoa Carbon Crunch event in Auckland on 12 September, with approximately 100 industry players and council staff attending the breakfast event.

Ko Hikurangi Tōku Maunga  
 Ko Waiapu Tōku awa  
 Ko Nukutaimemeha Tōku Waka  
 Ko Ngati Pourou Tōku Iwi  
 Ko Mangatū Marae  
 Nō Whatatutu Ahau  
 Kei Tūtaenui Tōku Kāinga ināianeī  
 Ko Rangitikei College Tōku kura  
 Ko Luci Tōku ingoa  
 Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa

Morning everyone my name is Luci Downes I'm a year 12 student at Rangitikei College, and hopefully a future lawyer but most importantly I'm the descendant of young men and women who served for our beautiful country, it's due to these men and woman that I have had the fortune to of not having to grow up in a country that is ravaged by war something thousands of people my age in other countries have to experience. To me Remembrance day is a reminder that for my freedom and future many had to fight, Remembrance day to me is also a reminder of my tupuna who Gave their lives to the forces. More Closely to my heart Remembrance day is a Reminder of My Papa Warrant Officer Timoti Tihore who enlisted at the age of 17 and didn't stop serving the Army till he passed away in 2022. It's his lemon squeezer and Medals that I wear on me today. In this day and age Remembrance Day is incredibly important because it's a powerful reminder of the bravery and selflessness of those who fought for our freedom. It's a time to honour their sacrifices and express our deep gratitude. Let us never forget the heroes who gave everything for us. Remembrance Day is a global commemoration of the end of World War One, which began on July 28, 1914, with Aotearoa , Australia, Britain, France, and Russia fighting against Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. The war lasted four years, with many soldiers dying and even more injuries. On November 11, the first two minutes of silence are observed to remember those who served their countries. Remembrance day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by millions of people, emphasising the importance of cherishing possessions and loved ones, and the importance of remembering the past, present, and future. To conclude my Speech today let me read you a extract from one of the most well known poems of the Anzacs.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow*

*Between the crosses, row on row,*

*That mark our place; and in the sky*

*The larks, still bravely singing, fly*

*Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago*

*We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,*

*Loved and were loved, and now we lie,*

*In Flanders fields.*

Thank you.



ITEM 9.2 ATTACHMENT 3





	A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
2	Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
206	3-Sep-24	ERWS	AP								PR			PR	
207	11-Sep-24	Bulls CC	AP	PR						AT			PR		
208	18-Sep-24	RA meeting	PR	PR		PR		PR		PR					
209	25-Sep-24	TRAK Workshop	PR				AP	PR						PR	
210	25-Sep-24	Youth Council	PR				PR							PR	
211	26-Sep-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR	AT		AT	PR	PR	PR		PR	
212	26-Sep-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
213	3-Oct-24	TCC Meeting	PR		AP										
214	7-Oct-24	HRWS Meeting	PR			PR			PR						
215	7-Oct-24	HCC Meeting	AP			PR			PR						
216	8-Oct-24	TRAK Hui	PR				PR	PR					PR		
217	8-Oct-24	Ratana CB	CB					PR							
218	9-Oct-24	Taihape CB	CB				PR							PR	
219	9-Oct-24	Marton CC	PR	AP							PR				
220	10-Oct-24	AIN Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR		AP	
221	17-Oct-24	Council Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
222	29-Oct-24	ORWS	PR				PR								
223	31-Oct-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	AP	AT		AT	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
224	31-Oct-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
225	13-Nov-24	Creative NZ Committee	PR				PR								
226	13-Nov-24	Bulls CC													Minutes not recieved
227	20-Nov-24	PPL Meeting	AP	PR			PR	AP	PR		PR			PR	
228	20-Nov-24	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	AP		PR	

ITEM 9.2 ATTACHMENT 4

## LGNZ SECTOR MEETINGS – 21-22 NOVEMBER 2024

### DAY 1 – COMBINED SECTOR MEETING

- The morning opened with a discussion from Alex Walker, Central Hawkes Bay Mayor and Tim King, Tasman District Council Mayor.
- Conversation from membership around Minister Simeon Brown’s address and noting that he preferred a strong concept that “200,000 connections would be required to gain true efficiencies within Three Waters”.
- There were questions raised in discussion re the priority of water work decisions by entities when the capacity to do the work is challenging, i.e. who will make the call on what the priorities for the water entity will be.

#### Hon Mark Mitchell - Minister Emergency Management

- He acknowledged the East Coast councils and Cyclone Gabrielle and acknowledged the leadership of the total sector.
- “Legislation needs to be fit for purpose, presently there are gaps in the legislation”.
- As part of that thought process he highlighted that iwi and hapu always step up but don’t have any formalised role within legislation.
- Central Government needs to empower/support Local Government – they are the best placed ones to act.
- I asked the question to the Minister around possible assistance to set up IL4 Emergency Response solutions throughout the country and quoted the example of the cost effective centre setup in Gisborne that could be replicated by Civil Defence. The Minister acknowledged my question and said that we have his support for that principle.

#### Michael Lovett – DIA (Deputy CE of Local Government Branch for LWDW)

Made the following points, many of which are known already to councils -

- He puts the solution back onto councils – they need to have financially sustainable solutions that will require Government oversight.
- He quoted the second tranche of legislation on Three Waters and said that the third tranche of legislation will be out next month.
- He referenced the five different models available, i.e. including CCO options.
- Funding/pricing operations will be left to the CCO’s.
- Not all of the five different models available to CCO’s will receive preferential rates under LGFA.
- He emphasises price harmonisation is not required under CCO’s but could be a vision for an entity over time.
- He saw no need to consolidate all debt and asked groupings to talk to DIA around this.
- He again pointed out that the LGFA funding was up to 500% of income.
- DIA see real benefits in CCO’s forming and he referred also to Minister Simeon Brown’s speech regarding the 200,000 connections.
- From DIA’s perspective there will be three core documents –
  - The Statement of Expectation;

- The Water Services Strategy; and
- The Water Services Annual Report.
- The key component is the ringfencing of Three Waters income and that this income cannot go back into the general council accounts.
- The Water Service Delivery Plans must satisfy three areas –
  - Financial sustainability;
  - Implementation plan; and
  - Anticipated or proposed model.
- He indicated that Crown Facilitators can be of use in the decision making at a cost of \$1,000 per day which he commented was far cheaper than the cost of consultants currently being used.
- The Commerce Commission will be the economic regulator and will have sign off on the information.
- The Commerce Commission will be levy funded probably at an anticipated rate of \$3-\$4 per head/per annum/per connection.

**Allan Prangnell** - CE Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai

- Yes there will be levies
- Many different supplier types such as the Metro, Provincial, Rural Schemes, Private and Community Maraes
- Should be different rules to reflect scale
- There are brochures available through Taumata Arowai regarding specific drinking water supplies for spring and bore supplies. One of the solutions is point of treatment at household levels for rural schemes
- 300+ wastewater treatment plants
- Over 50% serve under 1000 people
- 300+ serves 3.3m people
- Standards due out soon
- Standard conditions may replace RMA consent process

**Mark Patterson** – Minister for Rural Communities

- Communities (Rural) challenges/issues opportunities
- Rates cap discussion is on the table
- Government does understand that there is pressure
- Referenced the need for other income stream, referenced Minister Jones
- Brought up the question of amalgamation of councils – “scale gives efficiency”. Central Government will not drive this – but Three Waters may lead to these thoughts.
- Keenly aware of the impact of forestry – loss of sheep/beef into pines
- “Need to build more capacity in energy” (talking Minister Jones’ story)
- “Bio fuels will be the new future”.

**DAY TWO - RURAL AND PROVINCIAL SECTOR MEETING – 22 NOVEMBER**

Rural and Provincial are the largest grouping of councils in New Zealand with only the large city or metro councils absent. Metro was actually meeting on the same day and at times joined in our discussions. Rural and Provincial is a chance for all of Local Government to meet with Central Government Ministers and to hear from speakers discussing Government policy. I will summarise the key speaker presentations and give my thoughts in *italics*.

1. The address by **Simeon Brown**, Minister of Local Government, Infrastructure, Roading, Three Waters (Local Water Done Well) -
  - He acknowledged respectfully Local Government and added that “yes you have, like us, inherited a significant challenge”.
  - Again referenced the need to get back to basics/core infrastructure and that Government has outlined its expectations previously. *This is a direct reference to the removal of the four wellbeings and a reminder that Government is watching you.*

The Minister again outlined Local Water Done Well (LWDW), highlighting -

- Looking for local solutions i.e. councils to solve.
- Councils have a requirement to deliver a framework/plan for water services now and for the future.
- The LGFA (Local Government Funding Agency) position is a game-changer, allowing for low interest loans over a long time at 500% of income for those councils who comply.
- That Government legislation has ringfenced Three Waters income (rates etc apportioned to Three Waters) to LWDW.
- Now is the time for councils to step up.
- These plans and CCO’s are now 3 months into a 12 month timeframe to comply.
- CCO’s will separate Three Waters from council business.
- Business as usual is no longer an option.
- There is a strong expectation from Government that regional CCO’s will be formed.
- Councils may not have harmonised pricing from Day One!
- Councils should already be discussing pathways with their neighbouring councils.
- Crown Facilitators are available for advice and can also help to solve issues.
- The Commission *over time* will price check.
- Taumata Arowai will set standards and decisions due by August 2025 and Taumata Arowai will be funded by levies on councils!
- Mentioned the use of modular designs for wastewater plants to minimise consenting costs.

*So what does all of this mean?*

1. *There is a very strong message to say that councils must form CCOs with other councils and if you don’t they will force you to.*

2. *There will be a levy charged on councils to fund Taumata Arowai – this is a change from Labour’s position.*
  3. *That the new entities will probably have different charges for wastewater and water across different councils in the same entity and that there may be different charges across a single council, i.e. the charges for Marton water and wastewater could potentially be cheaper than the charges in Taihape.*
  4. *Regional councils will face standard consent conditions being put in place to lower consenting costs. This makes sense to me, but there will need to be some local environmental exceptions.*
  5. *Expectation is that they would be strongly advised to work with Crown Facilitators now, something I believe we should do.*
- Cabinet has agreed to invite all councils to submit on regional deals based on economic growth, increasing GDP and housing.
  - Councils that are advanced in Three Waters collaboration will be helped to obtain a regional deal!

*There are some challenges here. Firstly, the time to register for regional deals is ridiculously short (18 December) and councils, including us, are under so much pressure it probably won’t happen, and there is a direct threat with Three Waters – forget regional deals if you don’t form a regional water entity.*

*It is also worth noting that they are regional deals with a regional sign-off, Government has shown no interest in engaging with rural councils on their own.*

- The Minister again emphasised the need for tolling on roads. *This will be in part a reaction to the huge number of current submissions on tolling by Tararua and Horowhenua councils which probably signals Government’s response to those submissions.*

## 2. Keynote Speaker **Wayne Brown** -

- Highlighted that Auckland is, and should be, a special case as it is one-third of the population.
- *“We have had CCO’s dumped on us” – this is a reference to the number of Auckland CCO’s that Wayne is trying to get rid of.*
- Government will make decisions for you if you don’t act.
- Local Government is declining in influence, noting that they can’t even set their own parking fines.
- There are efficiencies in size – *this repeats the Government’s position on CCO’s.*
- *“The ratepayer should be the last option for paying for things” - this is a reference again to look at things like tolls, fees and charges, private/public partnerships and sponsorships etc. This is something that is far, far more difficult for rural councils to consider but it is worth noting.*

3. Panel Discussion on **CouncilMark** -
  - Now named Te Korowai and used as a benchmarking tool. *This was effectively a reference that CouncilMark hasn't worked, as personally I think was evident in our case, and a reorganisation of how benchmarking could continue in the future, something that I also respect is important.*
4. **Minister Shane Jones** -
  - Thanked us for the Regional Growth Summit at Te Matapihi.
  - There is slightly less than \$1b left in the Infrastructural Fund.
  - As a Minister he will work on how we adapt to climate change. He is not interested in other discussions! – *this is a reference to the fact that in his opinion we need to concentrate on economic growth and other forms of energy, mining etc and that will come at some environmental risk.*
  - He has concern with regard to the number of new reserves for fisheries and he wants to increase the economy helped by agriculture and we can't do both.
  - Minister made several comments with regards Fast Track Legislation . He made the point that Fast Track is possibly not a long term process or solution but is needed now. He also noted the comment that many of the applications for Fast Track have in fact been made by councils.
  - That he and Government have used \$60m to deep drill 7kms in the central plateau region to see if there can be a new energy source for New Zealand.
  - Crown Regional Infrastructure will have a report on their website and there will be a series of public meetings - he regards this as a brave step forward.
5. **Rates Capping – The New South Wales Experience** - led by Cr Darriea Turley President of Local Government NSW
  - Rates capping is where the maximum rate increases communities will face is set at a particular level and how that can change over time.
  - This presentation was organised because the New Zealand Government is strongly showing an interest in in putting rates capping in place for New Zealand – *this is again in response to the high rate rises that in Government's view have been caused by non-back-to-basics expenditure.*
  - Rates capping or pegging only applies in NSW to general rates and does not include Three Waters charges.
  - Rates caps tend to be set by an independent body to Local Government.
  - Difficulties arise where the rate caps are often set below the level of inflation e.g. a rates cap of 0.79% was set for the year where inflation was currently running at 3%.
  - NSW found that it led to greater uncertainty over the reliance on national grants and difficulty with staffing retention.
  - I note that the Rural and Provincial meeting started with the Victoria Australia Experience on Rate Caps which I have yet to hear but will try and look into.

6. **Digital water metering and use of the internet in a smart way with metering to gain efficiency** – led by Chorus

Benefits of water metering are -

- Data driven decisions
- Identification of leaks quickly
- Lowering of consumption
- Fairness of charging
- Gains in efficiency
- Hastings District Council have been through this process and have found that the installation of water meters actually turned out to be cost-neutral. *This is where the regional CCO's must head in my opinion and I therefore support them in principle.*

7. **Labour's views and presentation to the sector** - Kieran McAnulty

- We as Labour have been disappointed with the way Government has patronised Local Government.
- Central Government likes placing the blame on Local Government.
- We are disappointed with the way Government has dismissed all recommendations on the Future of Local Government reports.
- The rating system is unsustainable – new revenue streams must be found.
- Labour would not repeal National's Three Waters position but may look to refine it.
- *In the Q&A from Kieran he was informal, honest and direct and was impressive but I note it is easier to be this way in opposition.*

8. **Fiscal Outlook** - Treasury

- Take out message is the outlook is improving but will take considerably longer than initially thought.

9. **LGNZ** – Susan Freeman-Greene

- Again the take out single message is there will be a funding/financing toolkit loaded in memberships' emails following this meeting.

### 9.3 Mayor's Report - 12 December 2024

Author: **Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor**

#### 1. Reason for Report

Local Government as an organisation is split up into zones or groups of councils around New Zealand. Rangitikei is in Zone 3 which includes councils such as Gisborne, Wairoa and Hawkes Bay councils, New Plymouth to Horowhenua and of course all of the councils in the Horizons region. I Co-Chair Zone 3 with Craig Little, Mayor of Wairoa. We meet as a Zone as Mayors, Councillors and Chief Executives to receive reports from Government, to work out how we collectively respond and update each other on what work we are doing on an individual basis. Many Zone 3 councils have been through Cyclone Gabrielle and it is a chance for us to provide support/assistance to our fellow councils. Recently Zone 3 met in Napier to coincide with the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration of Napier City so the timing was always going to be great and with Gabrielle it also gave us an absolute chance to reflect on the past history of Hawkes Bay and how it has been affected by cyclones and earthquakes in the past.

I have included the draft minutes of the Zone 3 meeting, minus the attendance register, and I thank Sarayde, the Administrator for Zone 3 for what is a very complete report. I wish to make a few small comments in addition to the reports –

- **The presentation from Hastings District Councillor Michael Fowler on the major weather events and how they have impacted Napier and Hawkes Bay** – incredibly interesting and show these events happen routinely over time and will happen again in the future. But one of the things he didn't really highlight was effectively the wealth that the earthquakes brought to Napier City. A huge amount of land was lifted out of the ocean, and it became council land that they were able to sell to provide business and industry in the area where the airport currently sits. In some ways this was a huge financial win for Napier City.
- **The presentation by Lawrence Yule, Crown Manager dealing with flood mitigation matters in Hawkes Bay** – fascinating, he has been funded and charged with the responsibility of dealing with things such as the Wairoa River Response where the stop-banks failed, partially due to a consequence that the Regional Council hadn't kept the bar clear. I stress that this is my view and will continue to be litigated in enquiries for quite some time to come. Lawrence is very well known to Local Government as previous Mayor of Hastings and Chair of LGNZ.
- **The NZTA presentation on Driver Licensing** – this has been an issue that the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs has campaigned for so long to different ministries including the Ministry of Education. In our view, not having a drivers licence is the greatest handbrake on employment for a huge number of people. Often not having a licence leads to the first interaction with courts. It would be magnificent if we could actually get progress on this nationally.
- **James Kilty and Don Elers from Powerco** presented at my specific request. Essentially our district has a huge number of wind farm and solar farms going through consenting and the view of Powerco was this absolutely needed to happen for NZ Inc and that power companies are bending over backwards to facilitate this. James announced during the meeting that he will leave Powerco early next year to be Chief Executive of Transpower NZ. He suggested to



me privately that I should have discussions with him around where the Rangitikei is prior to December and his changing role.

- **Day 2 featured very heavily on “Around the Regions”** – where every council gets a few minutes to talk about what they are doing and what their future direction is. I am not going to comment on individual councils as it has been very well recorded in the minutes and I invite you to have a read of them as it’s fascinating.
- **The Zone topic - “Working together to make our boat go faster – lessons and opportunities from around New Zealand” by NZ First MP Andy Foster.** You will of course remember his three years as Mayor of Wellington. We had reached out to Minister Shane Jones to attend the Zone meeting however in fairness to him his diary is incredibly complex and he put up Andy as an alternative. Andy produced a lot of financial figures around where New Zealand sits in terms of GDP and where we are placed now compared to where we were placed 10-15 years ago. The reality is that per head of capita, New Zealand is slipping, and slipping quite quickly. This becomes absolutely one of the drivers of the NZ First/National Party coalition to focus on GDP growth and in their view the need to make some very harsh decisions. It builds on the story of Minister Jones saying that we have to fast track for at least the short terms and accepts there will be some environmental damage as part of that process. This is purely a reflection on where we are as a country at the moment.
- **Hamish Saxton from Hawkes Bay Tourism talked on the great wine capitals of the world** and when we were putting the Zone agenda together I questioned whether this was an appropriate use of time for councils within the Zone. However his presentation was enlightening in terms of the economic advantages that have been gained for the Hawkes Bay councils as being regarded as one of the great wine capitals. There are a limited number of these capitals throughout the world, countries can apply and a number have applied that have been either turned down or told they don’t quite make the grade at the moment. The wine produced from these regions then becomes highly regarded worldwide and hence marketable. So I have to concede and apologise to some extent – this was a very worthwhile presentation.
- **The last real topic of the day was from Caroline Dumas – Zone 3 Department of Internal Affairs Representative.** Unfortunately for Caroline she was unable to make some of the announcements that the Minister was wanting to make a few days later at the Rural & Provincial meeting. What I would refer to you there is to look at my last council report detailing those changes. It illustrates the fact that Government’s position is changing on an almost daily basis. As part of that we are still waiting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> tranche of legislation that is due out before Christmas. It has been hinted that the regional CCOs that are currently being formed by councils will come nowhere close to gaining efficiencies that in Government’s view are deemed to be 200,000 connections for water or wastewater services. My next Mayor’s Report should have the last tranche of legislation that I can comment on.

I close with wishing everybody a very Merry Christmas - please travel safely. I am conscious of the number of people that we lose from our regions from road and water related fatalities every year at this time. I look forward to welcoming you all back next year.

## ITEM 9.3

**Mayor's Engagements**

December 2024

2	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended meeting with Local Government Funding Authority</p> <p>Attended Council Workshop</p> <p>Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs online meeting</p>
3	<p>Attended Emergency Management Standing Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Mayoral Forum Meeting</p> <p>Attended Erewhon Rural Water Scheme Meeting</p> <p>Attended Local Water Done Well Meeting for Rural Water Schemes</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
4	<p>Attended Executive Leadership Team Q&amp;A session with Governors</p> <p>Attended Follow-up Hui re Napier-Taihape Road</p> <p>Attended Local Water Done Well Northern Iwi Meeting</p> <p>Attended meeting with ratepayers Taihape</p>
5	<p>Attended Governance Group meeting re Marton Office &amp; Library Project</p> <p>Attended Nga Tawa End of Year Prizegiving</p> <p>Attended CE Recruitment Interviews</p> <p>Attended Turakina Community Committee Meeting</p>
6	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Bulls School Charity Concert</p> <p>Attended Mayor's Christmas Function</p>
7	<p>Attended Marton Market Day</p>
8	<p>Attended Marton Christmas Parade</p> <p>Attended Marton Historical Society Christmas Party</p>
9	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended meeting with previous Youth Councillor</p> <p>Attended Junior Neighbourhood Awards at James Cook School</p>
10	<p>Attended Merry Night in Marton Christmas Tree winners celebration</p> <p>Attended Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meeting</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p> <p>Attended Ratana Community Board meeting</p>
11	<p>Attended Springvale Toilet acknowledgement lunch</p> <p>Attended Hautapu Bridges Blessing/Opening</p>

	Attended Taihape Community Board Meeting
12	Attended Council Workshop for Annual Plan Attended Council Meeting
13	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend Fortnightly Economic Development meeting with staff To attend Accelerate35 Meeting To attend Marton School Prizegiving To attend RDC Staff Christmas Function
14	To attend Bulls Christmas Parade
15	To attend Otiwhiti School of Agriculture Cadet Graduation & Prizegiving To attend Bulls Festival Day
16	To attend monthly breakfast meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend Meet & Greet with MTFJ placements in Taihape To attend MTFJ Governance Group online meeting
17	To attend Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs Fortnightly online meeting To attend relationship meeting with Powerco To attend Citizenship Ceremony To attend weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
18	To attend 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary morning tea celebration with staff member
19	To attend Governance Group meeting re Marton Office & Library Project To attend Council Meeting
20	To attend meeting with Chief Executive
22	To attend St Stephens Church Christmas Service
25	To attend community Christmas Lunch in Taihape

**Attachments:**

1. **Zone 3 Draft Minutes 14 November 2024** [↓](#)
2. **Elected Member Attendance** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the Mayor's Report – 12 December 2024 be accepted.



**Zone Three Meeting**

Thursday 14 November 2024

1.	<p><b>Mihi Whakatau</b> The meeting opened at 12.10pm with a mihi whakatau from tangata whenua – Ngati Pārau, Kāhui Kaumatua and the Napier City Council Kapa Haka Group. Iwi representative/Māori Relationships Manager from Napier City Council performed a karakia, followed by a waiata himene and waiata-a-ringa.</p> <p>Mayor Little responded to the welcome by thanking tangata whenua and the welcoming group for the warm welcome.</p>
2.	<p><b>Mayoral Welcome – Napier City Council Mayor, Kirsten Wise</b> Mayor Wise welcomed Zone 3 Councils to Ahuriri Napier and McLean Park, acknowledging this year as the 150th Anniversary for Napier. She highlighted Napier establishing a borough Council in November 1874 and the various natural disasters throughout Napier’s 150-year history and the profound impact these events have had on the city, including a devastating fire in 1886, significant flooding sometime later and the catastrophic 1931 earthquake.</p>
3.	<p><b>Zone Welcome and Admin - Zone Three Chairs, Andy Watson and Craig Little</b> Mayor Little welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged all special guests and speakers in attendance.</p> <p><b>Confirmation of the Minutes</b> from the Zone 3 Meeting held Thursday 21 and Friday 22 March 2024. <i>THAT the minutes from the Zone Three Meeting held 21 and 22 March 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.</i> <b>RESOLVED: Alex Walker / Tracey Collis</b> CARRIED</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> from member authorities. <i>THAT the apologies be received from member authorities.</i> <b>RESOLVED: Craig Little / Sandra Hazlehurst</b> CARRIED</p> <p><b>Securing the location for the next meeting.</b> There was uncertainty around where the next Zone 3 meeting will be held. The decision for the next meeting location was deferred to Friday 15 November. It was decided on Friday 15 November: <i>THAT the next Zone 3 meeting location will be South Taranaki District Council in April 2025.</i></p> <p><b>Zone 3 Financial Report</b> Mayor Watson stated he felt there was no need to call on further funds and on behalf of Zone 3 he wanted to acknowledge Sarayde Tapine (Zone 3 Administrator) work as the person who makes all the magic happen for the meeting. Mayor Watson was happy to report that all Councils were up to date with payments.</p>

	<p><i>THAT the Zone 3 Financial Report be received.</i> <b>RESOLVED: Andy Watson / Bernie Wanden</b> <b>CARRIED</b></p> <p><b>Health and Safety Briefing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mayor Watson provided a health and safety briefing to the group followed by the itinerary for dinner that night at Mission Estate.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Zone Topic – ‘Speaking on major weather events which have impacted Napier and the Hawke’s Bay region over the past 150 years and what we have learnt from these events historically’ – Hastings District Councillor, Michael Fowler</b></p> <p>Michael Fowler provided an informative presentation on the history of flooding from Reverend William Colenso’s experiences to the local Maori. The following points from his presentation were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>William Colenso’s statement in the 1840’s ‘why would you live in a damp hollow’. William and wife experienced floods and had silt deposits through his house.</li> <li>Memorial built to flood victims.</li> <li>Briefly touched on the flood mitigation across Napier, Hastings and Clive.</li> <li>1895 was the only year there was no flooding.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Zone Topic – ‘Role of the Crown Manager in dealing with the flood mitigation matters in the Hawke’s Bay region’ – Crown Manager, Lawrence Yule</b></p> <p>Lawrence Yule presented on his role as the Crown Manager for dealing with flood protection in the Hawke’s Bay region. The following notes were highlighted from his presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wairoa is a remote part of Hawke’s Bay, a really difficult road to get to on a coastal part of New Zealand and is highly prone to flooding.</li> <li>The Wairoa river is the largest catchment in Hawke’s Bay.</li> <li>Wairoa river mouth to Frasertown has no elevation.</li> <li>The Wairoa community has a small rating base with over 50% of Māori and simply cannot afford flood protection.</li> <li>Cyclone Bola which hit New Zealand in 1988 was a severe weather event that caused extensive damage, particularly in the North Island. Wairoa was one of the areas hardest hit by the cyclone’s powerful winds and flooding.</li> <li>Flood protection is not the end solution as you cannot beat the immense forces of nature, however, we can try and manage it.</li> <li>Lawrence Yule formally appointed as Crown Manager on 15 August 2024.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Zone Topic – ‘NZTA Driver Licensing – the current system, improvements underway and the future’ – NZTA National Manager Performance and Insights, ‘Jodi Mitchell’</b></p> <p>The NZTA Director of Regional Relationships Linda Stewart introduced the NZTA National Manager Performance and Insights, Jodi Mitchell presenting on community based driver licensing. The following points were highlighted from her presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barriers prevent equitable access and progress through our Graduated Driver Licensing System.</li> <li>In New Zealand, 3 in 10 novice drivers either become stuck on a learner or restricted licence or are slow to progress to their full.</li> <li>Not having a licence impacts individuals, families and communities.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She advised some funding sources have slowed down while others have picked up and noted Mayors to get in touch with the regional providers.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Zone Topic – ‘LGNZ Issues Paper – Electoral Reform Working Group’ – Hutt City Council Mayor, Campbell Barry</b></p> <p>Campbell Barry spoke to the LGNZ Issues paper in regard to the Electoral Reform Working Group with the below points highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elections coming up next year with induction planning well underway for this noting that the induction is designed to complement what Councils already do on their own.</li> <li>• The release of the free toolkit before the end of the year with some collateral and materials on voting and elections 2025.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Zone Topic – ‘Energy and Infrastructure Transition’ – Powerco, James Kilty and Don Elers</b></p> <p>James Kilty and Don Elers from Powerco company briefly introduced themselves with the following notes highlighted from their presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powerco’s footprint spreads across a lot of Zone 3 regions and serves just under a million Kiwis delivering electricity and gas. Currently expanding by building fibre in the Coromandel area at the moment.</li> <li>• Seeking Board approval next week for Smart and Gas meter rollout.</li> <li>• Powerco is a group of 500 plus highly committed Kiwis from all around the world and is committed to helping find a way to make our services and our industry effective to help New Zealand grow to net zero.</li> <li>• The great and “lucky” position New Zealand is in however there is a need to start leveraging what we have which in turn means having those difficult conversations about how things have to change in New Zealand across the board including local and central government and communities and the willingness from both sides to trade off things.</li> </ul>
9.	<p><b>Brief/Close of meeting – Napier City Council Mayor, Kirsten Wise</b></p> <p>Mayor Wise offered the closing remarks for day one of the meeting noting the site visit to the Faraday Museum of Technology and dinner at Mission Estate. Mayor Little closed the meeting with a closing karakia at 4:17pm.</p>

Friday 15 November 2024

1.	<p><b>Opening/Welcome – Zone Three Co-chairs, Andy Watson and Craig Little</b></p> <p>The meeting started at 8:30am with a welcoming introduction and opening karakia by Mayor Little. Mayor Watson announced that South Taranaki will host the next Zone 3 meeting in April 2025.</p>
2.	<p><b>Around the Regions – ‘Nurturing Partnerships. How does your community benefit from your relationships? Maybe it’s a partnership with another council, central government, mana whenua or the community itself. Show off ONE project, plan or programme that makes the most of your strategic relationships’.</b></p>

	<p>The below points were highlighted from each Council’s around the regions presentation.</p> <p><b>Tararua District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on strategic partnerships in the taiao / environmental space with two iwi partners – Ngati Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua and Rangitāne o Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua.</li> <li>• Both iwi have been put under considerable resourcing constraints that were exacerbated by Cyclone Gabrielle to support the workloads of both Councils and government agencies.</li> <li>• Both iwi have signed the agreement for funding with scheduled monthly hui to discuss the project which focuses on establishing a strong relationship with the Council, overseeing cultural activities related to consenting and engaging with the council on environmental matters requiring iwi input.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gisborne District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focussing on Te Tiriti partnerships, the ‘Te Tiriti Compass’ was developed by the GDC Māori Partnerships Team and is a path to develop effective and meaningful, genuine collaboration with mana whenua to ensure iwi and hapū have a long-term role in future planning and decision making for the region.</li> <li>• The compass consists of four pou – <i>Kāwanatanga</i> (Governance and shared decision-making), <i>Tino Rangatiratanga</i> (Self Determination), <i>Ōritetanga</i> (Equity between Māori and Tangata Tiriti) and <i>Whakapono</i> (Protection of customs and faith).</li> </ul> <p><b>South Taranaki District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spoke to the great partnership between the Council and the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust. The Rotokare Scenic Reserve consists of 230 hectares of predator free fenced wetland and lake habitat. Largest predator free fenced lake and reserve area in New Zealand.</li> <li>• In 2008 the predator free fence was built, and the Council has supported the project with over \$2.2m covering the fence and ongoing maintenance costs, as well as an annual grant of \$70k.</li> <li>• Home to over 54 species of birds, 36 being native of which a handful are threatened species. A lot of these species have been re-introduced to the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Manawatu District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented on empowering localism in small rural communities and marae. 16 community committees that work in partnership with the Council to be the voice for residents to ensure their views are being heard by the Council when making decisions that could potentially affect them.</li> <li>• Council is working with communities in their district to take charge of their own future and engaged environmental consultants (Boffa Miskell) to develop their community plans.</li> <li>• One of the smaller rural communities initially indicated that they didn’t want a community plan, however, as they have seen the benefits from other communities having plans, they now want to be a part of the community planning process.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hawke’s Bay Regional Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spent collectively between ratepayers and taxpayers around \$200m in clearing up the hill country that has come down to the plains as a result of erosion during Cyclone Gabrielle.</li> </ul>
--	---



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land for life is a partnership between the Nature Conservancy, one of the largest global impact funders for environmental work in the world, MPI, the regional Council, local landowners and a series of financial institutions. This enables the Council to put in place a public / private partnership to help manage erosion in the hill country.</li> </ul> <p><b>Whanganui District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with one of the local iwi on an initiative ‘Toitū Te Whānau’ which is a relationship agreement between iwi, hapū, Council and central government agencies.</li> <li>The approach consists of 5 elements – System, design, whānau engagement, resourcing and community operating model. The intent of this is telling central government what to do and not the other way around.</li> </ul> <p><b>Napier City Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spoke to the Tiaka project being a space in the inner city which was made earthquake prone in 2017 and closed. As a result, the city lost the local library, civic building, governance space and staff accommodation space. The Council have since embarked in partnership with mana whenua to design Tiaka and replace what was lost.</li> <li>Looking to keep and strengthen the library while demolishing the civic building. Currently at the detailed design and resource consent granting phase and going out for expressions of interest for head contractors.</li> <li>A core part of the project has been the development of a cultural narrative – a story telling foundation that expresses the spirit, identity and uniqueness of Tiaka. Through the partnership with mana whenua, they have shared their stories, insights and created a narrative that has been woven into every element of the process.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ruapehu District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Video played to demonstrate that the Council is resilient and in partnership with other agencies to ensure a sustainable economy moving forward. The video also covered working together with other councils that cross boundaries.</li> <li>Focussed on the Ngā Ara Tūhono – Mountains and Sea Cycle Trail a project in partnership with Ngāti Rangi and local iwi totalling to about \$7m which Kānoa were involved in.</li> <li>The project presents an opportunity to link up with Whanganui, with a strong focus from the Council in working hard to getting the economy back on track.</li> </ul> <p><b>Horizons Regional Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented on a project the Council is doing in Ernie’s patch for Lake Horowhenua for water quality improvements, namely the Arawhata Wetland Project.</li> <li>A part of the project is weed harvesting to take out some of the fast growing weed to break the nutrient cycle that feeds the toxic algae blooms.</li> <li>The lake is privately owned, and Council has been working closely with trustees from the inception of the project including consenting, building the boat ramp and then getting out on the lake with the harvesting.</li> <li>Collaborative project overseen by a governance group consisting of 9 members, of which 4 are iwi.</li> </ul> <p><b>New Plymouth District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Played a video as part of their presentation.</li> </ul>
--	--



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NP Partners encompasses the power of a shared vision by community leaders for a particular area and committing to investing in the growth and expansion of the city and creating greater community value and impact through a partner-led, Council managed programme.</li> <li>• Proposal by the Mayor to enhance and increase private sector investment in the community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Central Hawke’s Bay District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spoke to the Tamatea Housing Taskforce first beginning in 2019 with a team approach between the Council, the Heretaunga Tamatea Settlement Trust and the Local Taiwhenua Trust.</li> <li>• Taskforce created to provide leadership and guidance to address housing challenges in Tamatea and to oversee the “Our Homes” strategy for Tamatea.</li> <li>• To date the taskforce has worked to move the dial and as such has resulted in zero people living in emergency housing, the Salvation Army delivering 7 transitional housing spaces and Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga delivering 18 transitional spaces.</li> <li>• The community now has 2 active commercial rental property developers and are now facing the challenge which is the national average rental price which has been outstripped so the market has to adjust and Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated has confirmed investment into affordable rentals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Rangitikei District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spoke to how quickly relationships need to change.</li> <li>• A new relationship having to be created very quickly with the closure of the mill and 1000 tonnes of logs heading over a road not designed for heavy transport. Looking to assemble KiwiRail, the two Councils, forest owners, road transport operators, NZTA and Ports of Napier into a room to discuss next steps moving forward as what is currently happening is unsustainable. The potential relationships this could establish was noted.</li> <li>• Marton Swimming Pool – one beam in the centre has collapsed and is not included in the LTP to repair with estimated costs of \$3m. In this case a private individual stepped up and has decided to fund the pool roof repair with a previous playground investment for the community of \$650k.</li> <li>• Rangitikei Council continues to lead as the highest performing Council for Mayors Taskforce for Jobs in New Zealand.</li> </ul> <p><b>Palmerston North City Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focussed on an economic partnership Te Utanganui the central NZ distribution hub consisting of rail, road, air and sea connections and stands as one of the Council’s largest joint venture projects.</li> <li>• The project encompasses several infrastructure projects which when combined will create the primary distribution and transport hub for central New Zealand, supporting the transport and logistics centres of South Auckland, Waikato and Canterbury.</li> <li>• The project is expected to take development in Manawatu to the next level, building on initiatives already planned for the area like KiwiRail’s Regional Freight Hub and/or roading projects including the Manawatu/Tararua highway and Otaki to North of Levin expressway.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hastings District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waiaroha celebrates the strong relationship between the Council and Heretaunga mana whenua that reflects the dedication of partnership fostered by Councils and Rangatira.</li> </ul>
--	--



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waiaroha communicates the importance of caring for the water and is aimed at not only providing safe drinking water but also emphasising the critical importance of water taonga and how to protect and conserve it for future generations.</li> <li>• Through engagement with primary schools the feedback given was that the education centre would be a great way to tell the water story and the partnership with Ngati Kahungunu has been integral to the success of the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Stratford District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spoke to the Stratford Park project that arose around 5 years ago when the Council were approached by 3 different groups with vastly different interests and needs. The one thing in common they had was a lack of space around their current facilities already owned.</li> <li>• Through the collaboration that followed from this approach a partnership arose namely, the Stratford Park project.</li> <li>• The Council decided to lend \$7m to buy neighbouring land to expand on each of their ideas.</li> </ul> <p><b>Wairoa District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focussing on the Cultural Trail project is a partnership between Wairoa Young Achievers Trust, Mayor’s Taskforce for Jobs Initiative, Rongomaiwahine Iwi Trust and the local Council.</li> <li>• The project encompasses a vision as a partnership driven cultural experience that enhances Te Wairoa as a must visit destination and to share the unique stories and places of Te Wairoa for generations to come.</li> <li>• Initial focus on two cultural sites of significance within Wairoa township with the vision for growth to expand to other sites and communities across the Wairoa rohe.</li> </ul> <p><b>Horowhenua District Council –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spoke to concentrating on the basics and delivering on wellbeing as that it extremely crucial to the Council to understand and inform their decision-making. Strong focus on the Community Wellbeing Committee Structure set up within their Council.</li> <li>• The Community Wellbeing Committee has been in place for well over 10 years with the Council deciding to strengthen it by having a number of forums that feed into the committee including iwi partners, access and inclusion, youth services, older persons, education and part of the refugee community.</li> <li>• The purpose of the Committee is to provide collective leadership, advocacy and holistic outcomes that enable the population of Horowhenua to be well together.</li> </ul> <p><b>Taranaki Regional Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spoke of the dramatic direction change in the last year for regional councils. The Council is in a position where they have held 29 meetings with the community around the district to get real opinions of what people thought. The direction change to the farming community was also noted.</li> </ul>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Zone Topic – ‘Working together to make our boat go faster – lessons and opportunities from around New Zealand’ – NZ First MP, Andy Foster</b></p> <p>The following points were highlighted from NZ First MP Andy Foster’s presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous background of working 27 years in Council and three years as Mayor in Wellington.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted the tough job of Mayors and Elected members throughout the country. You can never please anyone while juggling all sorts of aspirations.</li> <li>• Jobs for nature and how NZ First are building up a business case for it to return.</li> <li>• Focus on how we manage our economy is crucial to performing well economically with a need for more high-skilled jobs.</li> </ul>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Zone Topic – ‘LGNZ General Update’ – LGNZ Chief Executive, Susan Freeman-Greene</b>                  Susan Freeman-Greene introduced herself and thanked the co-chairs for the invitation to the meeting. The below points were highlighted from her presentation timeslot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGNZ is launching a toolbox on Thursday 21 November which will contain 25 tools that will make a difference for local government and will indicate to central government what councils need assistance with.</li> <li>• Earlier this month LGNZ released their four monthly reports containing a lot of information and attendees were encouraged to read it. LGNZ pushing for Councils to table the report, quarterly at their council meetings.</li> <li>• Akona now has 22 varied modules which have come from Council suggestions and 10 ako hours which are discussions with subject matter experts on more specialist topics.</li> <li>• Planning on election inductions is well in advance with LGNZ doing things differently this time around. The induction is designed to complement what Councils do already within their own Councils. Offering in-person courses between the 22 October and 07 November. Straight after the election is Elected member inductions and the Regional council Chairs induction in November.</li> <li>• Releasing a free toolkit before the end of the year on voting 2025 materials.</li> </ul>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Zone Topic – ‘Talking on Great Wine Capitals, a global network of the finest wine regions in the world of which Hawke’s Bay is the NZ representative. His talk will focus on the economic benefits we have seen from becoming a Great Wine Capital and how other regions could capitalise on their unique – Hawke’s Bay Tourism, Hamish Saxton</b></p> <p>Hamish Saxton of Hawke’s Bay Tourism introduced himself before expanding on Great Wine Capitals to the zone 3 group. The following notes were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawke’s Bay are the largest premium red wine and chardonnay producer in the country with 38 varietals of wine that are produced in the region.</li> <li>• Hawke’s Bay have New Zealand’s oldest surviving wineries founded in 1851 (Mission Estate).</li> <li>• 80% of New Zealand’s sector features rums from Hawke’s Bay.</li> <li>• Hawke’s Bay has more than 45 food and beverage experiences including cooking schools, food and wine operators, food experiences and tasting rooms.</li> <li>• May 2022, the twin city region (Hastings and Napier) jointly applied for the Great Wine Capital. Application put together in December 2022 and Hawke’s Bay is officially the newest Great Wine Capital of the world. Recognised as an exceptional wine destination Hawke’s Bay joins many of the world’s most prestigious wine locations including Bordeaux Mendoza, Verona, Adelaide, Napa Valley and more and is now connected to a global network of wine and tourism expertise.</li> </ul>



<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Zone Topic – ‘DIA General Update’ – Zone 3 DIA Representative, Caroline Dumas</b>                  The DIA Zone 3 Representative Caroline Dumas provided a brief update to zone 3 members with the following points highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new Governments change in approach to a locally led reform of water services letting Councils make their own decisions.</li> <li>• Local Government Act requires Councils to develop Water Services Delivery Plans by 03 September 2025. These plans are expected to cover information across three key areas financial and asset information, investment required and service delivery arrangements.</li> <li>• Guidance to be released in December on council commitment and shareholder agreements surrounding the set-up of CCO’s. Guidance will be inclusive of – set-up rights and obligations of each shareholder in Council, how shares are allocated, what specifies the whole business of the CCO, how directors are appointed, how assets are issued and organised and how shareholders get reporting for example.</li> <li>• Regional deals will be based on a 30 year vision which is critical to thinking strategically long-term.</li> <li>• The priority objective for regional deals will be building economic growth, delivering connected and resilient infrastructure and improving the supply of affordable quality housing.</li> </ul>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Closing Comments - Zone Three Chair, Craig Little and Host Council Mayor, Kirsten Wise</b>                  Mayor Little and Mayor Wise gave closing remarks to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance across the 2 days. Mayor Wise wished everyone well on their travels home and closed the meeting at 12:10pm.</p>

	A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
2	Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
214	7-Oct-24	HRWS Meeting	PR			PR			PR						
215	7-Oct-24	HCC Meeting	AP			PR			PR						
216	8-Oct-24	TRAK Hui	PR				PR	PR					PR		
217	8-Oct-24	Ratana CB	CB					PR							
218	9-Oct-24	Taihape CB	CB				PR							PR	
219	9-Oct-24	Marton CC	PR	AP							PR				
220	10-Oct-24	AIN Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR		AP	
221	17-Oct-24	Council Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
222	29-Oct-24	ORWS	PR				PR								
223	31-Oct-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	AP	AT		AT	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
224	31-Oct-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
225	13-Nov-24	Creative NZ Committee	PR				PR								
226	13-Nov-24	Bulls CC	PR		PR							AT	PR		
227	20-Nov-24	PPL Meeting	AP	PR			PR	AP	PR		PR			PR	
228	20-Nov-24	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	AP		PR	
229	28-Nov-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR			AT	PR	PR	PR		PR	
230	28-Nov-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
231	3-Dec-24	ERWS Meeting													Minutes not received
232	5-Dec-24	Risk and Assurance	CB	PR		PR		PR		PR					
233	5-Dec-24	Turakina CC													Minutes not received
234															
235															
236									Present (and is a member of the committee)					PR	
237									Apology					AP	
238									Absent - no apology received					AB	
239															
240									Not a member of the committee						
241									Not a member of the committee (but still attended)					AT	
242									Not present as on Council business					CB	
243									Attended via Zoom [this indicator is no longer used]					ZM	

## 9.4 Neighbourhood Play System Bulls

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

### ITEM 9.4

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Bulls Community Committee follow up actions included a report from the Bulls Community Development Trust and Sport Whanganui.
- 1.2 This is included for the Bulls Community Committee's information.

#### Attachments:

1. Neighbourhood Play System Bulls [↓](#)

#### Recommendation

That the 'Neighbourhood Play System Bulls' is received.





**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

# Contents

**Executive Summary ..... 2**

**Introduction to the Bulls Neighbourhood Play System (NPS) Blueprint..... 3**

    Neighbourhood Play Systems .....3

    Bulls .....3

**Methodology ..... 4**

    Tamariki engagement .....4

    Community engagement .....4

    Site visits .....4

**Findings: The State of Play ..... 5**

    Play at home .....6

    Play at school.....7

**Play in the community ..... 8**

    Play spaces.....8

**Barriers to tamariki mobility.....13**

    Traffic .....13

    Antisocial behaviour.....14

    Out-of-town activities.....14

**What tamariki want .....15**

    Bigger and better facilities.....15

    New activities .....15

    Playful environments .....16

    Safer environments.....16

**Recommendations.....17**

    Short-term (within 6 months)..... 18

    Medium-term (6 months to 1 year)..... 18

    Long-term (over 1 year)..... 18

**Conclusion .....19**

**Authors:**

Whitney Cox  
Insights & Evaluation Lead  
Sport Whanganui  
whitney@sportwhanganui.co.nz

**School Project Lead**

Kim Gordon  
Principal  
Bulls School

Adrian Burn  
Principal  
Clifton School

**With thanks:**

Heidi Macaulay  
Community Development Co-ordinator  
Bulls and District Community Trust

Justine Rowe  
Tamariki/Rangatahi Youth Engagement Officer  
Rangitikei District Council

Libby Rayner  
Healthy Active Learning Connector  
Sport Whanganui

Jen Bagshaw  
Healthy Active Learning Advisor  
Sport Whanganui

Margot Bennetts  
Healthy Active Learning Advisor  
Sport Whanganui

Finn Boyle  
Play Advisor  
Whanganui District Council

Greer Oliver and Fleur Martin-Austin  
Arup New Zealand

Tamariki, staff and communities  
of Bulls School and Clifton School.

Any comments and questions about this report can be directed to Whitney Cox, Sport Whanganui Insights & Evaluation Lead: whitney@sportwhanganui.co.nz





# Executive Summary

Play has a crucial role in shaping the development of our tamariki and whānau, and the future growth of Aotearoa communities. Sport Whanganui has partnered with Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa and others to develop an approach to growing play opportunities called the Neighbourhood Play System. The methodology of Neighbourhood Play System research places tamariki at the centre of the study and aims to define and develop neighbourhoods through the lens of play.

For Bulls School, Clifton School and the surrounding community, Sport Whanganui conducted a thorough play assessment and consultation to identify ways to enhance play opportunities. This report details our findings for the Neighbourhood Play System around both schools and offers recommendations to foster a play-friendly atmosphere in Bulls.

To better understand the current state of play in Bulls, we used various research methods, including a qualitative survey of school children, a parent survey, site visits and workshops. We also delved into Sport Whanganui, Sport NZ and district council strategies relevant to kids' play experiences.

This report focuses on understanding how the schools and the surrounding urban environment influence children's play. The key stakeholders are the tamariki of Bulls, and we've centred our research on their experiences. By listening to the voices of tamariki and their families, we aim to guide the school community, Sport Whanganui, Bulls residents, community groups and the Rangitikei District Council in creating a play-friendly environment for the future.

Our research has revealed that key factors preventing tamariki from engaging in meaningful play are challenges within the built environment, including limited mobility due to a busy state highway that bisects the town, and underinvestment in community play spaces. There is also a need to travel out of town for most organised activities, resulting in fewer incidental play opportunities.

To support Bulls tamariki to enjoy more play in their community, we propose seven recommendations for new actions and infrastructure. These have associated timeframes which span the short, medium and long term.



# Introduction to the Bulls Neighbourhood Play System Blueprint

## Neighbourhood Play Systems

The playful upbringing many of us enjoyed is no longer always as accessible to tamariki, due to changing social, environmental, technological and economic pressures. With increasingly structured lives and reduced free time, the loss of traditional play spaces, such as streets and driveways, heightened fears around safety and risk, and a loss of societal connections, play deprivation is increasingly becoming a national and international concern.

To address these issues, Sport NZ supported the development of the Neighbourhood Play System, an approach to urban play design that places the key stakeholder – tamariki – at the centre of the process. They are the best ones to tell us where they play, how they play and what’s preventing them from playing more at school and in their neighbourhood.

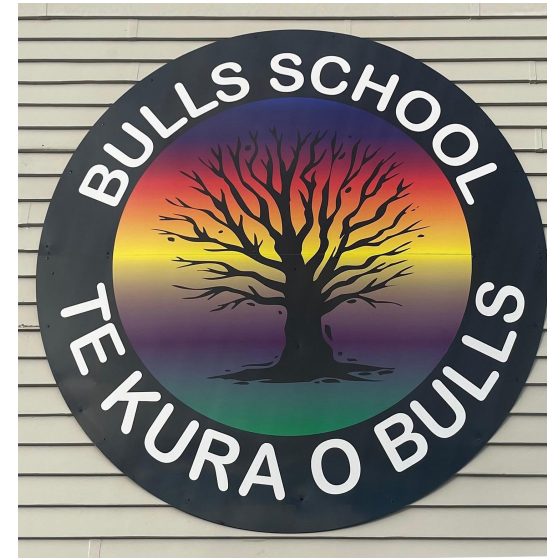
The Neighbourhood Play System provides a blueprint to identify key barriers and opportunities for tamariki to play inside their school and in their surrounding neighbourhood. This is approached through the eyes of tamariki and their whānau who live, work and play in that community.

## Bulls

Bulls is a town in southern Rangitikei, a largely rural district spread across approximately 4,500 square kilometres. With 2,187 residents, Bulls is the second largest town in the district. The population has grown significantly in recent years and the Rangitikei District Council’s population projections expect this to continue, with an additional 2,000 residents expected by 2050. There is a relatively high proportion of tamariki in Bulls: 24.1% of the population is under the age of 15 compared with 19.3% for Rangitikei overall.

There are two full primary school in Bulls: Bulls School at the north end of town and Clifton School on the southern end. The centre of town is at the junction of two busy state highways, and the challenges this poses to moving across the town are well known.

We hope that through the Neighbourhood Play System process, we can centre the experience of the growing population of tamariki in Bulls and influence decision-makers to develop the town with their needs in mind.



# Methodology

## Tamariki engagement

Ākonga from Bulls and Clifton Schools were invited to engage with us as part of the Neighbourhood Play System process through:

- A tamariki survey taken at both schools (109 responses).
- Workshops with ākonga from both schools to help us identify the state of play from the point of view of tamariki, and what they want to see change in their community.
- Playground tours led by tamariki at both schools.

Sport Whanganui staff also engaged in observation and unstructured engagement during two play activations held at each school: a chalk activation during lunchtime, and by bringing play equipment to the schools' Whānau Days.

## Community engagement

A survey was sent out to the Bulls community via the community newsletter, the Bull-it-inn to better understand the barriers adults believed limit access to play, how tamariki currently play outside of school, and where changes could be seen from an adult point of view. The survey was also offered to parents at whānau day engagement sessions at both schools and at a community event. At these events, Sport Whanganui staff were also able to kōrero with parents to better understand the barriers and opportunities for play in Bulls. The survey received 21 responses, which largely supported the issues and opportunities identified by the tamariki.

## Site visits

Site visits gave researchers an understanding of the natural and built environments of the school and surrounding community.

The following were observed during the visits:

- The condition of play spaces and play locations both at the school and in the neighbourhood.
- Physical barriers that might reduce accessibility for tamariki to play spaces and play locations (for example: difficulty using footpaths, busy roads, high-speed areas, gated play location, street lighting, vandalised areas, narrow cycle paths).
- Shade and shelter, coverage from rain, wind, and sun (for example: shading, trees) and seating.



Figure 1: Clifton School workshop group.



Figure 2: Bulls School workshop group.

# Findings: The State of Play

Overall, tamariki in Bulls are happy with the play experiences they have access to, and give the town a 3.5/5-star rating for playfulness. Several tamariki couldn't think of any suggestions for improvements.



Please tell us what could change that would make Bulls a better place for you to play.

*I think that it doesn't need any changes.*

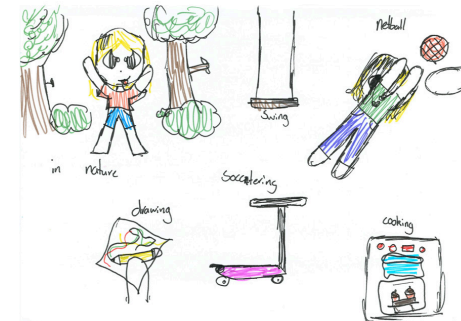
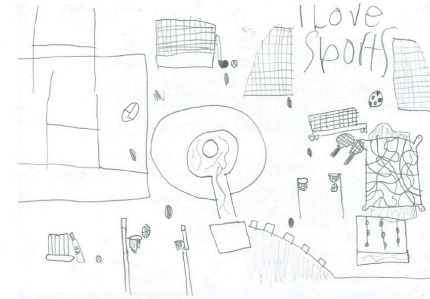
Please tell us what could change that would make Bulls a better place for you to play.

*I wouldn't know because it's all good.*

Please tell us what could change that would make Bulls a better place for you to play.

*nothing... I don't want to change anything.*

When tamariki were asked about their favourite play activities, a wide range of preferences emerged. This suggests that they are being exposed to different forms of play through their whānau, schools and built environment. Some common themes were swimming/ water play, wheels (especially scooters and bikes), playing on technology, sport, art and nature play.



**" I like all the swings in town. I don't have a favourite. "**

**" I like to go out into the nature. I like to breathe the air, listening to the birds and it's just so relaxing. "**

**" I like kicking balls over the rugby posts. "**

**" I like to play drawing and painting and art. "**

Tamariki also reported few barriers to play, with 'nothing' being the most common survey response, followed by 'I'd rather play on technology'.

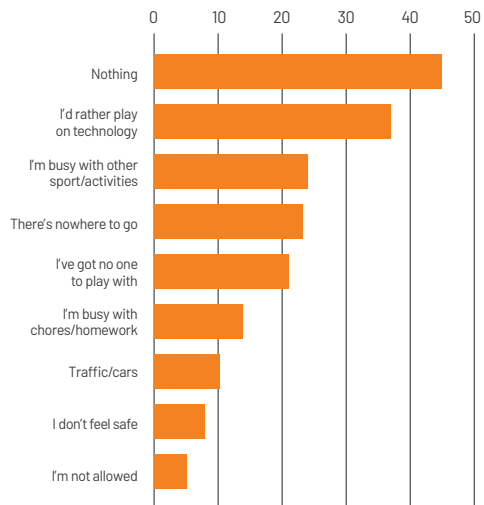


Figure 3: What stops you from playing outside where you live.

Despite being generally happy with their experiences, tamariki had plenty of suggestions for ways play could be improved, particularly when it comes to opportunities in the wider community.

### Play at home

'At home' or 'another house' were the two most popular places for tamariki in Bulls to play. The activities they enjoyed there were varied, but they frequently mentioned spending time with friends or family as an activity they most enjoy. 78.1% of the ākonga living in Bulls town say they have a friend who lives close by, one of the benefits of living in a small community.

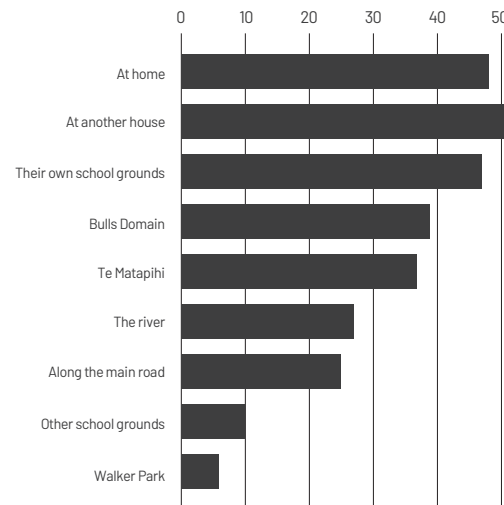


Figure 4: Favourite places to play or hang out in Bulls outside of school time.

Permission is a key enabler of tamariki engaging in play, and parents in Bulls generally appear to be providing this. Only five tamariki surveyed reported that not being allowed was a barrier to them playing outside. Despite a high portion of parents having safety concerns, over half of parents surveyed say their tamariki play outside seven days a week.

"Talk, be silly, have fun, hang out."

"Go on the trampoline at my house and do flips."

"At my house I like to play on my tablet."

"I like to play and swim at my nana's."

"I like doing drawing with my friend."

"Hang out with friends and family."

"Playing video games with my friends."



**Play at school**

After private residences, their own school grounds were the favourite place to play for tamariki. Both schools are very well provisioned for play, with large grounds, playground areas for junior and senior students and nature spaces.

Both schools are also open to the community outside of school hours. Despite being open to all, tamariki rarely chose the other school's grounds as one of their favourite places to play.

**“ I think our playgrounds are little hubs of activity after school and weekends. Obviously, it amps up in the summer time ... That’s something that we encourage because it keeps our school safe, so knowing that there’s people on the bike track and the playgrounds and basketball courts and tennis courts is a good thing. ”**

Kim Gordon, Bulls School Principal

**Bulls School**

Bulls School, a coeducational primary school that provides education for children from year 1 to year 8, is located at the north end of Bulls township. It was founded in 1867 and is the oldest school in the Rangitikei District. The current roll is 183, with 29.5% Māori and 10.4% Pasifika students.

Bulls School has a large campus and is well provisioned for play opportunities. The school has:

- a swimming pool
- junior playground with challenging, age-appropriate equipment
- senior playground with challenging, age-appropriate equipment
- trees to climb
- field with rugby posts
- two netball courts
- basketball hoops
- bike track for bikes and scooters
- 80m running track painted onto field
- paved areas with play stencils
- loose parts
- fitness trail
- orchard
- forest
- EzyRollers to be used on the paved areas.

Tamariki at Bulls School told us they were generally very happy with the play opportunities on the school grounds. During several site visits and the playground tour, there were tamariki playing in all areas of the grounds.

When asked about any improvements, they said they would like more eagle nest swings, a bigger flying fox and a merry-go-round.

**Clifton School**

Clifton School is based at the southern end of Bulls township. It is a semi-rural, full primary school with a roll of 159: 31.4% Māori and 8.2% Pasifika students. Most of the school's whānau come from Bulls, Marton and the nearby RNZAF Base Ohakea.

Clifton School has large grounds that are well provisioned for play. Play opportunities at the school include:

- a swimming pool
- turf with nets that can be moved
- junior playground with challenging, age-appropriate equipment
- senior playground with challenging, age-appropriate equipment
- trees to climb
- outdoor learning space
- field
- paved areas with play stencils
- loose parts
- Wheels Day on Fridays.

The tamariki leading the playground tour were very happy with the opportunities at the school. If changes could be made, they told us they'd like swings in the senior play area.

## Play in the community

Play spaces in the wider community were less popular with tamariki, and their feedback on these areas included many suggestions for what could be improved. ‘Underdeveloped community spaces’ was also the most common issue adults thought needed to be addressed.

### Play spaces

#### Bulls Domain

Bulls Domain is located at the north end of Bulls, approximately 1km from Bulls School and 1.3km away from Clifton School. The domain is the town’s main sportsground, home to the rugby club and tennis and netball courts. Facilities include:

- a playing field used by the rugby club
- a fenced-in court with markings for three tennis courts and two netball courts
- a large grassy area with established trees
- a skatepark
- a playground
- toilets
- a water fountain
- a picnic table by the playground
- tracks and trails in the bush, along the perimeter.



Figure 5: Bulls Domain

In student surveys, Bulls Domain was the most popular public space for tamariki from Bulls School to play, and the second most popular public space for tamariki from Clifton School (after Te Matapihi). In the survey and in workshops, tamariki identified a wide range of activities they enjoy at the domain, including sports, the skatepark and the nature trails.

However, tamariki were never seen playing at the domain during multiple after school and school holiday site visits. The playground, skatepark and netball/tennis courts all need updating and pose limitations for users of various skills and abilities due to design. Many tamariki and adults identified the need to redevelop the play infrastructure at the domain.

“ I go to the Bulls Domain because I do runs. ”

“ I enjoy playing at the domain with my siblings and dogs. ”

“ At the domain, I like going into the forest. ”

**BULLS SCHOOL**



Figure 6: ?

There were also concerns raised by some adult stakeholders about antisocial behaviour at the domain. This is likely due to the domain being set back from the road and having minimal passive surveillance much of the time.

**“ The domain at the moment... We do get undesirables down there and we can’t monitor it. ”**

**“ There have, over the years, been tennis lessons down there and some specific play down there. Trainings for touch or whatever. But because it’s off the road and out of the eyes and ears, it is also a place to go to vape and a place to go and do whatever else. So, it’s a bit of a mixture. ”**

During rugby season, however, the domain is well used. The Bulls Rugby Club actively fosters a whānau-friendly environment, and several tamariki told us they enjoy coming here while older family members are playing rugby. It is likely that much of what tamariki enjoy about the domain is the atmosphere created during events rather than the opportunities provided by the equipment and infrastructure.

**“ I’m 33 and the playground is still the same as when I used to play in it, even the domain one. A bush walk down at the domain would be cool to add fairy doors, rock hunting or some outdoor tree huts and rope play. ”**

Adult

**“ At the domain the playground should be better, and the slide should be made of plastic, so it doesn’t burn you. There should be a really good balancing sort-of-thing made of logs and stumps and stuff like the one at Mt Lees. We could make a better skatepark and have more signs pointing to parks. ”**

Tamariki



### Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre

Te Matapihi was the most popular public space for play among students from Clifton School and the second most popular at Bulls School (second to the domain). Tamariki identified a range of activities they enjoyed, including reading, crafts, Lego and community concerts. However, using technology was the most common activity that drew tamariki to the location.

The hall, library and forecourt are often activated by the Bulls and District Community Trust through large community events like the Fest-a-Bull, or through regular programmes such as the Bulls Youth Club. The Trust trialled a temporary basketball hoop in the hall, and while it was very popular, it proved too difficult to move and store when community groups booked the hall. Installing a hoop on the forecourt was investigated, but deemed too dangerous because the forecourt is adjacent to SH1.

**" Me and my friends love hanging out at Te Matapihi and play on the VR. "**

Tamariki

**" We put the hoop up in the hall here, and I got some soft balls that Jo Manual [from Rangitikei District Council] organised, which is great. And they were either shooting them at each other or in the hoop. I've got a video, and I think one day there were like 25 to 30 children in there. It was a wet day, and they were just playing and they were being loud, and it was really cool. "**

Adult

**" Go to Te Matapihi and go on technology. "**

Tamariki

**" I've started a Dungeons & Dragons club. I don't understand it, but it's really cool to see all these children; it's every Tuesday night at the moment. I've got two Dungeon masters and there's children I've seen, [NAME] is an example from Clifton, he's actually always on the [computer] games and he's hopped off and started joining in. "**

Adult

**" Te Matapihi: read books and play with Lego! "**

Tamariki



Figure 7: ?

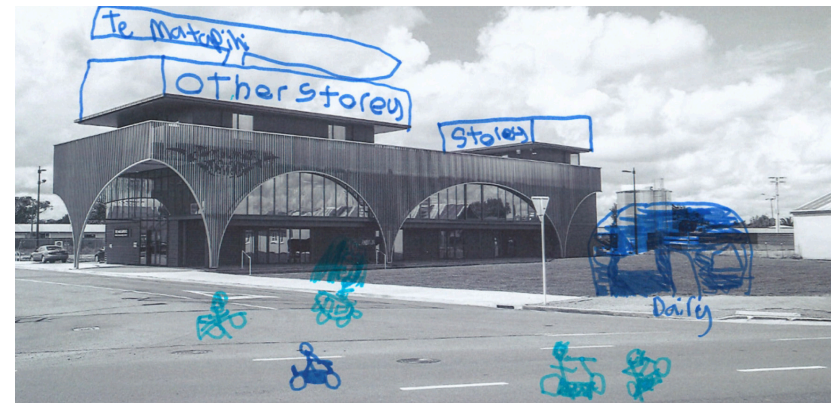


Figure 8: ?

**The Rangitikei River**

The Rangitikei River runs along the southern edge of Bulls. It can be accessed by a gravel road that goes under the highway bridge (connecting the two sides of the town), or through Clifton Cemetery.

Many tamariki like playing at the awa, but there are legitimate safety concerns around encouraging unsupervised play in the area.

**" I hear lots of stories of people who are originally from here and that's where they'd be every weekend. They'd be in that river. But now they don't know. They don't know how to swim in that river. I suppose it's knowledge of how they can actually play with what we've got as well as building on it. "**

Adult stakeholder

**" A lot of kids who can't swim, or think they can, go to Rangitikei River unsupervised. They've been doing this for years. That's the reason I end up going out of town for swimming pools as I don't want my moko going to the river by themselves. "**

Adult

**" We go swimming at Makino and Marton, and we used to go swimming in the river, but we are not allowed to anymore because of the flood. "**

Tamariki

**" The river: Swim and fish for rainbow trout! "**

Tamariki

**State Highway 1 (SH1)**

Adults stated that they frequently see local tamariki wandering on SH1. While tamariki did not identify the main road as one of their favourite places to play, they did tell us that they like going to McDonalds, and very frequently suggested more takeaway shops as a change they would like to see in Bulls.



Figure 8: ?

**" Eating at McDonalds. "**

Tamariki

**" Get Subway and McDonalds. "**

Tamariki

**" I would say that a large majority of our children, from fairly young ages, eight or nine, roam. So, they see that as their after-school activity. "**

Adult

**Walker Park and west of SH1**

Walker Park is located at the south end of Bulls, approximately 850m from Clifton School and 1.3km from Bulls School. The park is located on the highway, just as motorists enter the town from the south. Because of its location, many in the town see it as a park intended for visitors rather than local families.

Both Bulls and Clifton School students thought Walker Park was the least popular public space to play in. However, in the workshop, Clifton students were enthusiastic about the park, which has:

- picnic tables under shelter and in the park
- adult fitness equipment
- a play area for small children, including a hut, small slide, and tic-tac-toe
- equipment for older children including swings and a taller slide
- grassy areas
- trees along the perimeter for nature play.



Figure 9: Walker Park.

There are several less-developed green spaces on the west side of the highway, such as Kittyhawk Park, Haylock Park and a large empty space on Taumaihi Street. Mapping from the Rangitikei District Council identified that the majority of Bulls' tamariki live on this side of the state highway, particularly in the area just northwest of Clifton School.



# Barriers to tamariki mobility

## Traffic

Bulls township is located at the junction of two national highways, SH1 and SH3. Approximately 15,218 vehicles pass through Bulls each day, 12% of which are heavy vehicles (NZTA Waka Kotahi Annual Average Daily Traffic). The main commercial area is located to the south of the junction and is home to several businesses that cater to both residents and motorists.

A key concern identified by both adults and tamariki during this consultation was crossing the state highway. The only pedestrian crossing is outside Bulls School, at the north end of town. There are no crossings near the shops, however there is a pedestrian island to make crossing slightly easier. There is nothing to support pedestrians crossing near Te Matapihi. This is a well-known issue, and the Rangitikei District Council's Spatial Plan has identified improving active mobility pathways around Bulls as a priority.

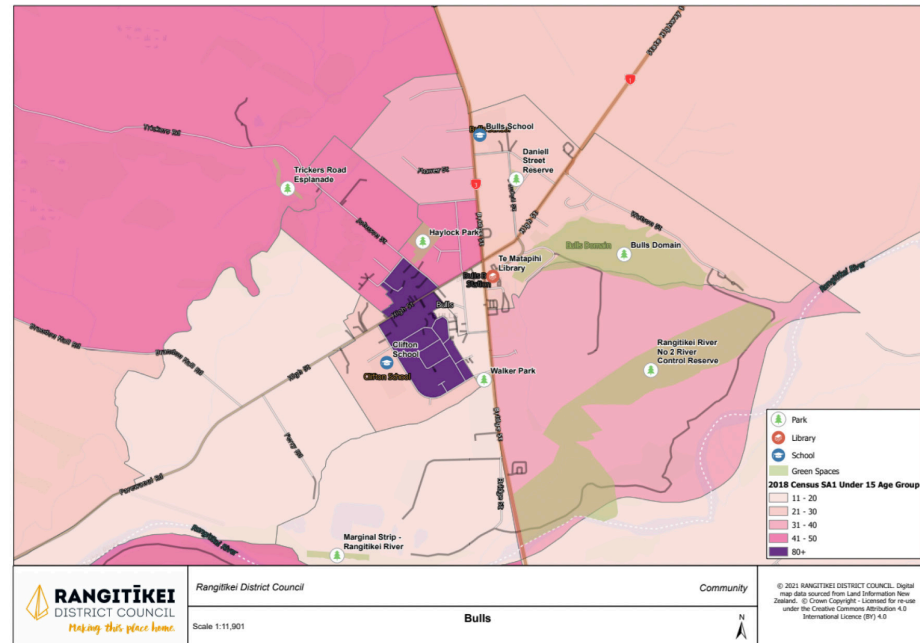
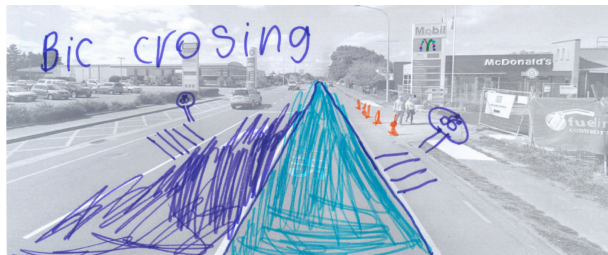


Figure 10: ?

**“ We do suffer quite a bit of separation because of this main highway. ”**

Adult

**“ It’s really hard to get across the road so I have drawn a crossing. ”**

Tamariki

**“ We need more zebra crossings - especially to cross the road to get to Te Matapihi. ”**

Adult

**“ We live on Taumaihi Street and if kids want to go to Bulls School, Bulls Domain and Te Matapihi Community Centre, it’s not safe to walk due to heavy traffic. ”**

Adult

### Antisocial behaviour

While the tight-knit community in Bulls is a strength, there are still issues with antisocial behaviour. This can be particularly intimidating or impactful for younger children. Parents are concerned about what their tamariki might be exposed to while playing in the community. Several parents said there was a lack of activities available for rangatahi in the community, which often attributed poor behaviour to bored teenagers.

**“ Unfortunately, there is an element who are hanging out at school play areas who are claiming these as ‘their patch’. My own teenager and his friends have been threatened whilst playing football at Bulls School. ”**  
Parent

**“ Being led astray by older kids who are up to mischief. Bored teenagers don’t always make good decisions! ”**  
Adult Stakeholder

**“ The domain at the moment ... We do get undesirables down there and we can’t monitor it. ”**  
Adult

**“ Less bad people. ”**  
Tamariki

### Out-of-town activities

As Bulls is a small, semi-rural town, tamariki need to travel out of town to access many sport and play opportunities. We heard from parents and tamariki who regularly travel widely to access sports clubs, swimming pools and playgrounds.

Bulls benefits from being relatively near larger towns and cities. This allows whānau who have the time and access to transportation to connect their tamariki with sport and play opportunities in other places. However, we also heard from parents whose limited access to private vehicles means their children miss out.

Taking tamariki out of Bulls for sport and play also results in fewer opportunities for incidental play. Children are removed from the community and cannot travel independently to their practices and games.

**“ Over the years the soccer’s gone. We still have rugby, but the rugby can be a little hit and miss in terms of numbers and age groups. They have to go out to Rongotea or Feilding to join clubs for their age group, which of course takes some of them ... they have to get transport and things. Soccer’s gone, we don’t have basketball. Netball’s in Marton. ”**  
Adult

**“ I have to play netball in Marton, I don’t like travelling there. ”**  
Tamariki

**“ Bulls’ parks aren’t wow factor... We have been going to Palmeston North, Feilding, Marton, Foxton and Wanganui also visiting swimming pools. ”**  
Adult

**“ I take my child to Feilding because that is the only transport I can get from Bulls. I can’t go to Marton. My child has a disability so I’m limited to where I can go. ”**  
Adult

# What tamariki want

Throughout the consultation, we asked tamariki what could change in Bulls to make it a more fun and welcoming place for them to play. Most of their responses fell into four distinct categories:

## Bigger and better facilities

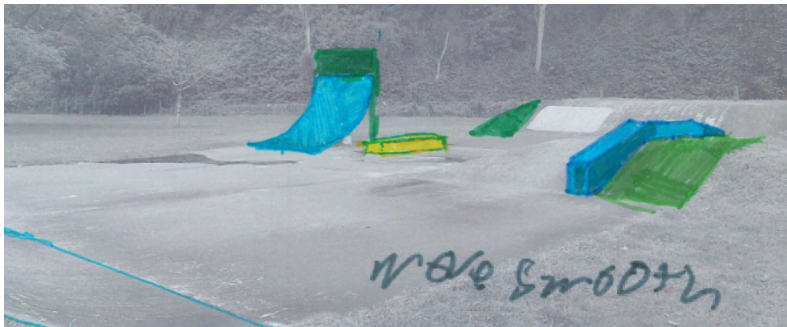
The main request was for substantial improvements to existing facilities. The most common suggestions were for more or bigger parks and playgrounds, a redeveloped skatepark, or a pool. (There is no community pool, though both schools have small pools. Clifton School's pool is open to the school's community out of hours). Tamariki are familiar with the play facilities in nearby towns and frequently mentioned examples of what they would like to see in Bulls.

" Make better playgrounds like the Marton playground. "

" You know Marton's big playground. Let's add that to Bulls please. "

" Maybe build a public pool like they have in Marton that is in-between Bulls School and Clifton School so that if it's really hot on whatever day the school/class can walk there and have fun in the water! "

" Update the skatepark like the Feilding skatepark. "



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAY SYSTEM

## New activities

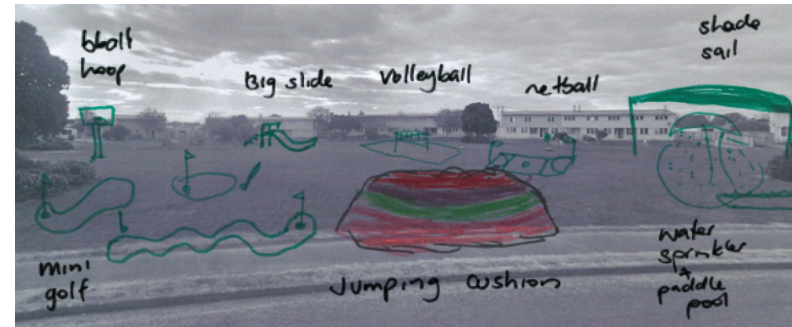
Many tamariki also had suggestions for new, specific additions that would increase the range of activities available. Their ideas ranged widely, but they all reflected a desire for new experiences to be made available in Bulls.

" You could add more things to do such as a minigolf. "

" A trampoline park. "

" Bug walk. "

" I want something more exciting at the domain like a fort. "



SPORT NEW ZEALAND

### Playful environments

Many tamariki made suggestions about creating a playful atmosphere in Bulls rather than being tied to any particular activity. This speaks to the importance of having a sense of permission for tamariki (and adults) to be playful.

- " Have more signs pointing to parks. "
- " More fun lights in town like there is around Christmas. "
- " More art and painting on the roads and buildings in town. More colour! "
- " A square where everyone can hang out. "
- " Every car should have a moustache or a unicorn horn. "

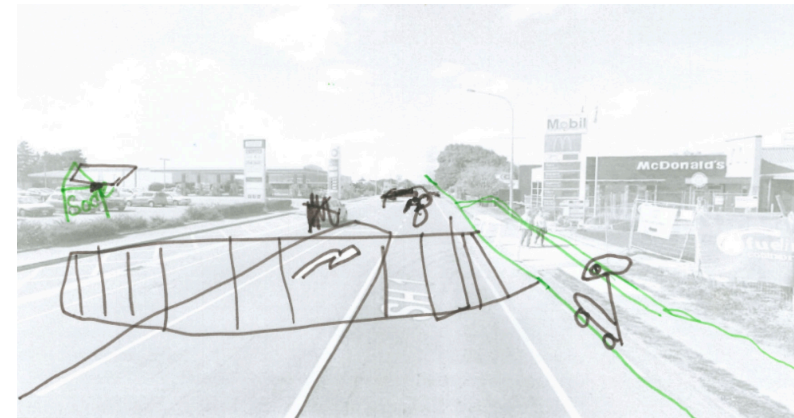


NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAY SYSTEM

### Safer environments

When asked about their aspirations for their community, tamariki again identified traffic and antisocial behaviour as barriers/problems. Several of them suggested making the road easier to cross, others identified 'people' as an improvement that was needed.

- " A street for only walking. "
- " Safer people. "
- " Less bad people. "
- " More safety around the main roads so like a bridge over the road or a tunnel under the main road. "
- " There should be more zebra crossings so it's safe to cross the road. "
- " Tunnel over the main road. "



SPORT NEW ZEALAND

# Recommendations

We took the feedback from both tamariki and adults and shared with an adult stakeholder group. Based on these insights, we did some brainstorming exercises and discussed opportunities to take action.

The image contains several hand-drawn notes and diagrams:

- Top Left:** Three stars with the text "So many things to do!"
- Top Middle-Left:** A circular diagram with arrows and the text "Social Disconnections".
- Top Middle-Right:** The text "Busy / lots happening at Domain + Parks." with a drawing of two stick figures.
- Top Right:** A drawing of a road with a tunnel and the text "Tunnel" and "State HWY 1".
- Middle Left:** A drawing of a road with signs that say "Abull" and "Abull Sign" and the text "Hunt...".
- Middle Middle-Left:** The text "Playful lights." with a drawing of colorful string lights and "etc".
- Middle Middle-Right:** The text "Concrete" with a list: "Marten's", "Hasekete", "4 Square", "Footsteps", "etc" and a drawing of a grid.
- Middle Right:** The text "Domain Focus..." with a drawing of a park area and the text "State park or wheels area" and a red box containing "MAKE IT SAFE KIT".
- Bottom Left:** The text "School is Open (even if it's not)" and "lots happening at schools i.e. lots of people/families using the spaces" with a drawing of a swimming pool labeled "Swimming pool - supervised".
- Bottom Middle-Left:** The text "Fun stuff at parks where lots of people go" and "eg Water park like Kawhai Park" with a drawing of a water park slide.
- Bottom Middle-Right:** The text "River ?" with a question mark.
- Bottom Right:** The text "Unicorns (I'm running out of ideas)" with a drawing of a lightbulb, "Invite... Bulls → Club for school.", "To familiarise each other w playgrounds" with a drawing of a playground structure, "Fun Clubs... Exercise based! eg F45 for kids?" with a drawing of a person on a bike, and "Type?" with a drawing of a tire.



**Short term (within six months)**

**1. Equipment to support new activities**

Some advancements have already been made since this project began: Sport Whanganui has sponsored a Play Station at Bulls Domain – a box filled with donated sports gear that can be borrowed and used in the park. As another example, the Bulls Community Trust gained funding from Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa to purchase games to be used in the forecourt of Te Matapihi.

Providing equipment is a low-cost and quick way of giving tamariki access to new activities in spaces that don't have the fixed infrastructure to allow more permanent equipment. There are downsides to this approach, specifically that gear needs to be managed more intensively than fixed infrastructure. However, where there are individuals and organisations willing to act as kaitiaki of the equipment, it can be an effective solution.

**2. Expand access to schools**

Both schools have a range of quality play opportunities for their ākonga. They both offer a variety of ways to play, including nature play, wheels, loose parts, challenging playgrounds and sports facilities. Both have large grounds tamariki are free to explore, trees to climb, and access for the community outside of school hours.

There is an opportunity to leverage the strengths of the schools' play infrastructure, particularly in light of limited community play assets. In the tamariki survey and workshops, it was clear that the students at both schools prefer playing on their own school's grounds. The reasons for this weren't clear, but could be because of proximity to home, or not feeling as comfortable or welcome on the other school's playground. Any barriers could be investigated further, with promotions and programmes put in place to encourage tamariki to see both school grounds as options for play outside of school hours.

**Medium term (six months to one year)**

**3. Nature play area**

Based on the consultation with tamariki, it seems like a natural play area would be popular with the tamariki looking for new experiences. Nature play areas are typically lower cost to develop than a traditional playground and could be created relatively quickly.

**4. Play west of SH1**

Given the high proportion of tamariki that live west of SH1 and that the two preferred community spaces for play (Bulls Domain and Te Matapihi) are on the east side of the highway, the western side of Bulls should be considered as a site for new play activities. There are several green spaces that would be suitable, and there is the potential to link the sites through wayfinding.

**5. Organised opportunities for all ages**

Tamariki did not highlight a desire for new organised activities, but an increase in local activities would address some of the barriers they did highlight. For instance, increased use of parks for sports practices would address concerns about antisocial behaviour through passive surveillance. Local sports and clubs for tamariki can also support exposure to new and different activities, and incidental play times before and after the activity would be an additional benefit.

Drawing community to the domain for an event such as an adult's rugby match can result in positive play experiences for tamariki. Additionally, intergenerational events and activities can help develop relationships within the community, promoting a sense of safety as tamariki play and travel through community spaces.

**Long term (over one year)**

**6. Bulls Domain redevelopment**

The need for facilities upgrades was highlighted by tamariki and adults alike. Bulls Domain was identified as an obvious place for this, with potential to improve the playground, skatepark and sports facilities. This is not the first time the idea has been raised: the council's spatial plan has already highlighted the community-led redevelopment of Bulls Domain as a priority.

**7. The road crossing**

Crossing SH1 is both one of the most important issues raised in the consultation process and one of the most challenging to address. Any changes to the highway will need to be done through NZTA Waka Kotahi and must balance the road's function as a key transport route. There will not be an easy or quick solution to this, but it is important to begin the conversation with council and central government partners around what can be done.

In the interim, there may be some innovative ideas that could be actioned to help tamariki move safely from one side of town to the other.

## Conclusion

The recommendations here are ideas that have come from the insights generated while developing this report. Sport Whanganui will follow up with relevant stakeholders to action them, but ultimately the responsibility of creating a fun and safe environment for our tamariki to play belongs to everyone. Anyone reading this report is encouraged to think about the ways play can be facilitated for our tamariki.

It is important to remember that tamariki in Bulls told us they are generally happy with the ways they play. They play often, they enjoy what they have and like playing together. As we seek to make their environment safer and easier to move through, creating new opportunities for tamariki to play, we should focus on actions that enhance and enable what they already love doing in their community.





Level 1, Harbour City Centre  
29 Brandon Street  
Wellington 6011, New Zealand  
PO Box 2251 Wellington 6140  
Phone: +64 4 472 8058  
[sportnz.org.nz](http://sportnz.org.nz)

**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

**9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - January 2025****Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****ITEM 9.5****1. Allocation**

1.1 The total 2024/25 allocation to the Committee's Small Projects Fund is \$3,173.70, this includes the carry forward of \$1,873.70 from 2023/24 and \$200 for minor repairs 2022/23.

**2. Breakdown 2023/24**

2.1 The committee has spent \$112.70 for the seat plaque, and this has been paid.

2.2 The remaining funds available for the Bulls Community Committee Small Project Fund is \$3,061.

**Recommendation**

That the report 'Small Projects Fund Update –January 2025 be received.

## 9.6 Funding Schemes Update - January 2025

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

### 1. Overview

- 1.1 Council currently administers four funding schemes for the Rangitikei District, these are:
  - a. Community Initiatives Fund
  - b. Events Sponsorship Scheme
  - c. Creative Communities Scheme
  - d. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

### 2. Community Initiatives Fund

- 2.1 This is a Council fund intended to support community-based projects in the Rangitikei District that develop community cohesion and community resilience.
- 2.2 Council allocated \$30,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 2.3 Round one for 2024/25 opened 01 July 24 and closed 31 August 24. Decisions were made at the September Finance and Performance meeting with funds totalling \$12,337.
- 2.4 Successful applicants were:
  - 2.4.1 Bulls and Community Development Trust
  - 2.4.2 Marton and Districts Budget Service
  - 2.4.3 Parkinson's NZ
  - 2.4.4 House of Science NZ Charitable Trust
  - 2.4.5 Te Kai Whaka Ora- Marton Youth Trust
  - 2.4.6 Forest and Bird Society- Rangitikei Branch
  - 2.4.7 Marton and Surrounds ICT Hub Charitable Trust
  - 2.4.8 Marton and District Historical Society
- 2.5 Round two for 2024/25 will open on the 01 February 25 and closes 31 March 25. Decisions will be made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 17 April 25.

### 3. Events Support Scheme

- 3.1 This is a Council fund intended to support events in the district that help to develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth.
- 3.2 Council has allocated \$25,000 to this fund annually, to be distributed across two separate funding rounds.
- 3.3 Round one for 2024/25 opened 01 July 24 and closed 31 August 24. Decisions were made at the September Finance and Performance meeting totalling \$15,460.
- 3.4 Successful applicants were:
  - 3.4.1 Turakina Caledonian Society

3.4.2 Hunterville Huntaway festival

3.4.3 BCDT, Christmas Parade

3.4.4 Manawatu Wanganui Golf Ass Inc

3.4.5 Taihape Area Dressage Group

3.4.6 3 Stand 8-Hour Strong Wool Shearing Record Attempt- Hunterville

3.4.7 Marton Country Music Festival

3.4.8 BCDT, Bulls 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Rose Show and Fest a Bull

3.4.9 St Joseph's School PTA

3.5 Round two for 2024/25 will open on the 01 February 25 and closes 31 March 25. Decisions will be made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 17 April 25.

#### 4. Creative Communities Scheme

4.1 This fund is supplied by Creative NZ and administered by Council. Applications are encouraged from community groups and individuals whose projects:

- Demonstrate growth over time
- Develop and support local artistic communities
- Encourage a transfer of artistic skills
- Support diversity and inclusion
- Projects with a youth focus are also encouraged

4.2 Creative NZ typically allocates \$24,090 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis, and this is distributed across two separate funding rounds.

4.3 Round two for 2024/25 opened on the 10 December 24 and will close on the 10 April 25. Decision will be made on the 28 May 25.

#### 5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

5.1 This fund is supplied by Sport NZ and administered by Council. The fund is targeted at young people aged between 5 and 19 years and is open to rural sport club teams and rural school club teams with eligible members who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

5.2 Sport NZ allocated \$9,500 (+ GST) to the Rangitikei District Council on an annual basis. There is one funding round per year.

5.3 Applications are now open for this fund and close 31 March 25. The decision will be made on the 17 April 25.

#### 6. Further Information

6.1 More details about these funding opportunities can be found on the Council website (link below) and this is also where applications can be submitted:

<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/district/community/grants-funding>

#### Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update – January 2025 be received.



## 10 Discussion Items

### 10.1 Campfest Planning

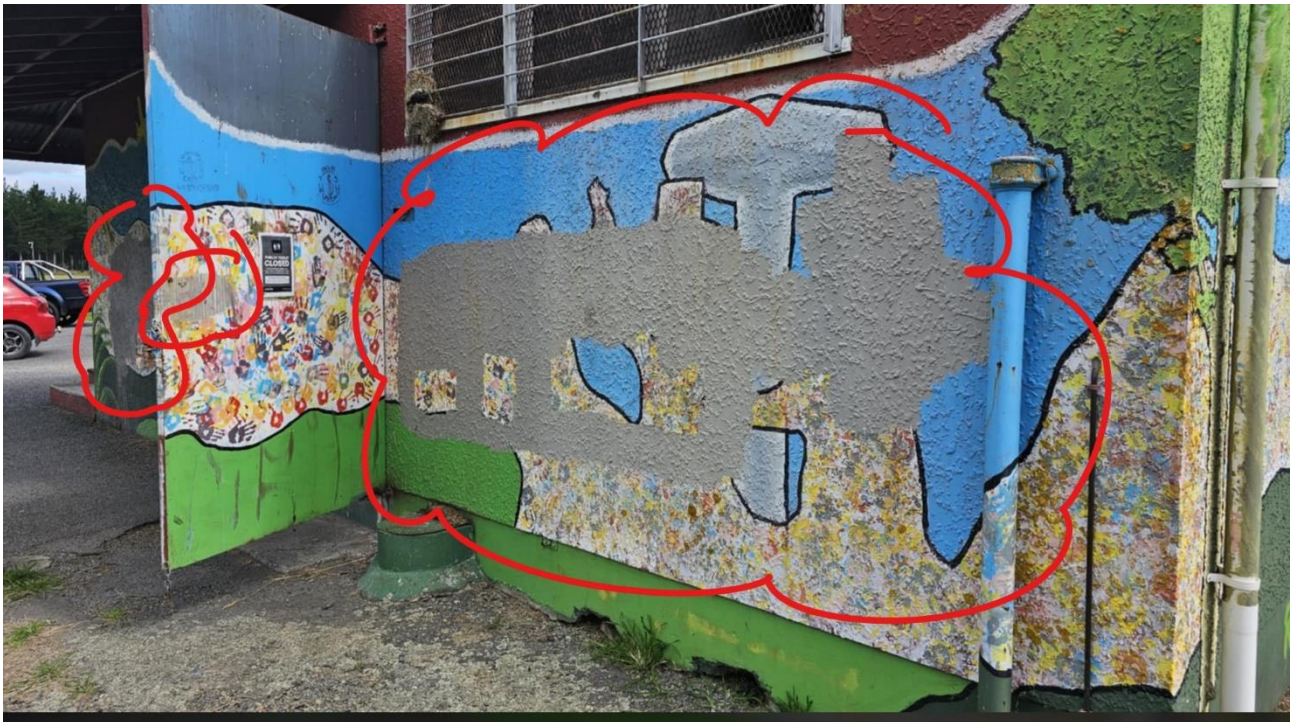
Author: Greg Smith, Chairman

#### 1. Reason for Report

1.1 The Chairman requested this item be included.

1.1.1 Campfest planning

1.1.2 Mural at the toilet block



#### Recommendation

If needed:

**10.2 Bulls Domain Upgrade****Author: Greg Smith, Chairman****1. Reason for Report**

1.1 The Chairman requested this item:

1.1.1 Bulls Domain Upgrade

1.2 Ideas and background information requested.

1.2.1 Mr Smith has had a preliminary meeting with the designer, who is working his way through the community.

1.2.2 See <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BUghEdgiH/>

1.2.3 For those not on FB or choose not to click links...The Taihape Master Plan is available on RDC website.





Greg Smith

Admin

All-star contributor · 26 November 2024 ·



Bulls Domain

RDC has held a Policy/Planning Committee Meeting and engaged a consultant (same who upgraded the Taihape Domain) for a similar process on Bulls Domain.

<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/.../taihape-domain-master...>

Budget should be kept as small as possible (or it's just feeding the borrowing money machine), but also money well spent.

No waste should be council motto in these trying times.

A few thoughts.

1. If you don't ask, you don't get
2. If you don't engage, we'll likely get a corporate result that does not match the needs of the community, and costs a lot more than we can afford.

A number of community groups utilise this space. Some make money as well for the upkeep, and others utilise the public spaces for recreation an mental health.

Questions.

1. Do we wish to retain overnight camping/caravanning?  
Can this become a fee earning activity by offering powered sites? (Consider there is no camping facility nearby)
2. Is the current layout adequate or can there be a major improvement by moving facilities?  
Bear in mind the courts, skatepark and playground as well as buildings are probably fixed in place due to cost.
3. Any desire for new facilities?

BCC meeting in Jan 22nd 2025 will probably be in a position to present more info.  
In the meantime, think, talk, comment.



**RANGITĪKEI**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

*Making this place home.*



RANGITIKEI.GOV.T.NZ

**Taihape Domain Master Plan**

An integrated masterplan for the development, use and upgrade of Taihape Domain in a way t...

**ITEM 10.2**

**Recommendation**

If needed:

### 10.3 Dog Agility Equipment

**Author:** Greg Smith, Chairman

#### 1. Reason for Report

1.1 The Chairman requested this item be included.

1.1.1 Dog Agility Equipment

1.1.2 It was suggested that instead of adding an "off leash" dog area to Haylock Park, that the committee look at providing signage and permanent equipment for the public in the area at Domain which is fenced and accessible by rear gate.

1.1.3 To discuss whether we go forwards with signage costs, and then later equipment.

Spoke with Margaret (Southern Rangitikei Dog Training Club) and she says no room or need for permanent equipment.

Suggested some nearer the escarpment under the trees.

I will look into that.

However, a suggested project is to provide a doggy doo bag dispenser at the site.

#### Recommendation

If needed:

**10.4 Haylock Park Picnic Area****Author: Greg Smith, Chairman****1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 The Chairman requested this item be included.
  - 1.1.1 Cr Carter suggested that since the community owns the 2 x 3 m long picnic seating currently at the old bus stop, that these be relocated to Haylock Park on a shellrock base.
  - 1.1.2 I am getting some quotes for delivery and will be in touch with Parks (if we agree to proceed).
  - 1.1.3 I have a preliminary estimate and figure using our labour, and with some little effort, we can get the project under our annual budgeted funds (our limit for ONE project)
  - 1.1.4 Proposed location is immediately West of the present access gate off Johnson st. Will comprise 10 m x 6 m, will be clear of the tree and will mitigate the existing flooding issue there.
  - 1.1.5 This will complement any future playground development and not interfere with parks work (lawn mowing) or daffodil display.
  - 1.1.6 A preliminary plan attached.

**Attachments:**

1. **Preliminary Plan- Haylock Park** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

If needed:



NOTES:

1. AREA OF CRUSHED LIME: 10x6 METRES = 60 sqm  
FINAL DEPTH - 50 mm LIME BASE = 3 cum
2. TO LAY PAVEMENT
  - a) CLEAR GRASS TO ROOT LEVEL
  - b) COMPACT GAP40 MIN. 50 mm TO MAX. 100 mm
  - c) LAY SAND TO 20 mm
  - d) PLACE 50 mm CRUSHED LIME TO LEVEL

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PRICE EST. (EST. REL.)
BORDER	TIMBER 100x25 mm H4	32 m	\$115
GAP40	40 mm ALL PASSING RIVER ROCK (INC. DELIV)	3.0 cum	\$375
SAND	DUNE SAND	1.5 cum	\$60
FINISH	CRUSHED LIME OR SHELLROCK (20 mm)	3 cum	\$250
STAKES	1 PACKET H4 40x40	25	\$100
SLABS	4-500 mm DP WITH SS THRD RODS, NUTS AND CONC SLABS	12	\$180
HIRAGE	PLATE COMPACTER	1/2 DAY	\$53
	TOTAL		\$1133

**HAYLOCK PARK  
PROPOSED SEATING**

SCALE: 1:25 AT A4  
DRAWN: GDS 14/01/25

REVISION: 2  
ROCK PRICING UPDATED

**ITEM 10.5**

**10.5 Christmas Celebration Details**

**Author:** Greg Smith, Chairman

**1. Reason for Report**

1.1 The Chairman requested this item be included.

1.1.1 Noting Bulls has one Christmas banner up on a pole on SH1 end of Bulls.

1.1.2 Shall we start discussions about potential for making Bulls a more appealing town.

**Recommendation**

If needed:

**10.6 Community Patrol****Author: Greg Smith, Chairman****1. Reason for Report**

1.1 The Chairman requested this item be included.

1.1.1 It has come to my attention that there has been some increased criminal activity occurring lately including a new member of our community having his vehicle broken into immediately upon his family moving in.

1.1.2 Crims appear to be getting more open and blatant, and so it is time to re-build our Community Patrol numbers.  
Please consider joining (email address is bulls@cpnz.org.nz Wally), discuss with others and I hope to have Wally in the Public Forum if available.

1.1.3 To assist you in your decision, refer stats. There are no stats since Aug 2024, nothing sinister, just not uploaded.  
<https://database.cpnz.org.nz/stats/patrol/84>

**Recommendation**

If needed:

**11 Meeting Closed.**