



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 27 March 2025

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Chair: HWTM Andy Watson

Deputy Chair: Cr Dave Wilson

Membership: Cr Brian Carter
Cr Gill Duncan
Cr Richard Lambert
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa
Cr Coral Raukawa
Cr Jeff Wong
Cr Simon Loudon
Cr Greg Maughan
Cr Fi Dalgety
Cr Paul Sharland

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

Contact:	0800 422 522 info@rangitikei.govt.nz www.rangitikei.govt.nz (06) 327 0099			
Locations:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton </td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls </td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape
<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape		
Postal Address:	Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741			
Fax:	(06) 327 6970			

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of Council of the Rangitikei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitikei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Thursday, 27 March 2025 at 1.00pm.

Order Of Business

1	Welcome / Prayer	5
2	Apologies	5
3	Public Forum	5
4	Conflict of Interest Declarations.....	5
5	Confirmation of Order of Business	5
6	Confirmation of Minutes	6
	6.1 Confirmation of Minutes	6
7	Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings	19
	7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings.....	19
8	Mayor’s Report	21
	8.1 Mayor's Report - 27 March 2025	21
9	Chief Executive’s Report	57
	9.1 Chief Executive's Report - March 2025	57
10	Reports for Decision	66
	10.1 Adoption of The Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co for Consultation	66
	10.2 Analysis of Submission - Rātana Road Renaming.....	72
	10.3 Triennial Elections 2025	77
11	Reports for Information.....	80
	11.1 Marton Pool Update.....	80
	11.2 Project Updates Report - March 2025	83
12	Minutes from Committees.....	88
	12.1 Minutes from Committees	88
13	Recommendations from Committees.....	89
	13.1 Recommendation from the Assets and Infrastructure Committee	89
14	Public Excluded	91
	14.1 Public Excluded Council Meeting - 26 February 2025.....	91
	14.2 Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings.....	91
	14.3 Taihape Town Hall & Library - Concept Design	91
	14.4 Marton Offices & Community Hub.....	91
	14.5 Public Excluded Resolutions	92

14.6 Minutes from Committees (Public Excluded) 92

15 Open Meeting 93

AGENDA

1 Welcome / Prayer

2 Apologies

3 Public Forum

No 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 with 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 Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 February 2025 are attached.

Attachments

1. Ordinary Council Meeting - 26 February 2025

Recommendation

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 February 2025 **[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: ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 26 February 2025

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present

- HWTM Andy Watson
- Cr Dave Wilson
- Cr Brian Carter
- Cr Richard Lambert
- Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa
- Cr Coral Raukawa (Zoom)
- Cr Jeff Wong
- Cr Simon Loudon
- Cr Greg Maughan
- Cr Fi Dalgety
- Cr Paul Sharland

In attendance

- Mr Kevin Ross, Chief Executive
- Mrs Carol Gordon, Deputy Chief Executive
- Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer
- Ms Sharon Bennett, Group Manager - People and Performance
- Mrs Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager- Corporate Services
- Mr Warren Pedley, Manager Finance and Partnerships
- Ms Sophia Sykes, Communications Manager
- Mr Jarrod Calkin, Economic Wellbeing Lead
- Mr Graeme Pointon, Executive Legal Advisor
- Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

Order of Business

**ITEM 6.1
ATTACHMENT 1**

1	Welcome / Prayer	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	Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings	3
7.1	Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings.....	3
8	Mayor’s Report	4
8.1	Mayor's Report - February 2025	4
9	Chief Executive’s Report	4
9.1	Deputy Chief Executive's Report	4
10	Reports for Decision	5
10.1	Adoption of the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document.....	5
10.2	Sale of Kensington Road land - weightings	5
10.3	Project Updates Report - February 2025	6
11	Reports for Information.....	6
11.1	Hearing of Submissions - Rātana Road Renaming	6
12	Minutes from Committees.....	6
12.1	Minutes from Committees	6
13	Public Excluded	7
13.1	Public Excluded Council Meeting - 19 December 2024	7
13.2	Public Excluded Council (special) Meeting - 6 January 2025	8
13.3	Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings.....	8
13.4	Mayors Taskforce for Jobs - contractor appointment	8
13.5	Roading Maintenance Services Contract Approval - C1152.....	8
13.6	Marion Water Strategy Update	8
13.7	Chief Executive Appointment.....	8
14	Open Meeting	9

1 Welcome / Prayer

His Worship the Mayor opened the meeting at 1.00pm.

His Worship the Mayor thanked Mr Ross for his time as Chief Executive, noting his appreciation for the work he completed in his time as Chief Executive.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/001

That the apologies received from Cr Duncan be received.

Cr P Sharland/Cr R Lambert. Carried

3 Public Forum

Tuia Nyssa Nepe provided a report on the TUIA programme, this was included in the Mayor's report. Ms Nepe thanked the Mayor for this opportunity to be part of the programme.

Faenza Hiroti introduced herself to councillors as the TUIA for 2025.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

That the Hearing of Submissions - Rātana Road Naming was moved to the beginning of the meeting as Ricky Taiaroa was attendance to speak.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/002

That the minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 December 2024 **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.

Cr P Sharland/Cr B Carter. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings

Item 2 - Bulls Bus Lane

Mr Benadie updated councillors that there has been work on this supporting a single boom gate in the middle of the bus lane. There will remote controls sent out to bus operators and this should be a simple and cost effective solution. Councillors noted the importance for engagement with bus operators.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/003

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings' be received.

Cr R Lambert/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

8 Mayor's Report

8.1 Mayor's Report - February 2025

Councillors asked about the input from the Rangitikei in the Regional Deals document. It was noted that this a light touch proposal at the initial stages of the process. There are no financial costs committed as part of accepting this proposal. Councillors noted the importance of shared service agreements and that this is a great opportunity to start conversations.

Councillors supported the delegation of input into future regional deals discussion to a Council working group, but noted all elected members should be invited to any cross-council meetings held.

The appointment of Cr Loudon and Cr Wong to the Policy/Planning Committee was noted.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/004

That the Mayor's Report – 26 February 2025 be accepted.

HWTM/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/005

That the tabled late document be added to item 8.1 of the Mayor's Report under the heading "Regional Deals" and be dealt with as part of the agenda for the Council meeting on 26 February 2025. The item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting as Council needs to discuss and consider approving the Regional Deals document to be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs by Friday, 28 February 2025. The reason the item was not on the agenda is that the document was received after the agenda had been sent out.

HWTM/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/006

That Council approve the Regional Deals document, put together by Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council and Rangitikei District Council, and agrees that it be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs as a light touch proposal on 28 February 2025.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Wong. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/007

That Cr Dalgety, Cr Loudon, Cr Wilson, and His Worship the Mayor, be appointed members of the working group to work on collaboration opportunities with Whanganui District Council, Ruapehu District Council and Rangitikei District Council.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

9 Chief Executive's Report

9.1 Deputy Chief Executive's Report

Mrs Gordon highlighted that Ms Gray will be taking on the role as Deputy Electoral Officer.

McHardies Road

Councillors accepted the McHardies road name change, Mrs Gordon noted that there are number of inconsistencies and there are likely to be more of these coming to Council to confirm the spelling. It was highlighted that this road has two signs at the end of road with different spelling and this has caused issues. This resolution gives confirmation of the correct spelling that can be passed on to LINZ. Some councillors noted that this is inconsistent with the decision regarding the macron in Rangitikei and requested that this be noted.

Te-Waiu-o-Te-Ika Framework Governance Representatives

Cr Hiroa confirmed that this has been circulated to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā members who recommended that this should sit with the Mayor. It was highlighted that the qualities and knowledge that the Mayor has sits well with the role.

Officers confirmed that the position will be part of the triennial appointments which provides an opportunity to renew or replace the role, this includes the coming election.

Submissions

Officers highlighted that the Taumata Arowai Wastewater Services Bill was very recently released. Officers are working through the potential impact, noting that the changes are not confirmed as this is just consultation, but it may have some impact on consenting across the District.

Officers responded to concerns of missed opportunities to submit and encouraged councillors to pass on anything they see that they believe Council should submit on.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/008

That the Deputy Chief Executive's Report be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/009

That Council confirms the road name for road ID 178943 as **McHardies Road**.

Cr P Sharland/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/010

That Council note should resolution 25/RDC/009 be accepted by LINZ that this would be inconsistent with recent decisions regarding the addition of the macron naming of Rangitikei.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/011

That Council appoints the Mayor as the Rangitikei District Council representative on Ngā Wai Tōtā, the governance group associated with the Te Waiū-o-Te-Ika Framework.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

10 Reports for Decision

10.1 Adoption of the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document

Cr Raukawa left during this item at 2.30pm.

Councillors were concerned that the consultation document signalled price harmonisation which is not guaranteed. There were also concerns raised that there were a lot of assumptions through the document. It was considered important that councillors were aligned on their understanding of the document before this was sent out to the public.

Officers responded to questions, confirming that staff across Whanganui and Ruapehu councils have seen this document.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/012

That the report 'Adoption of the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr G Maughan. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/013

That Council adopts the Local Water Done Well Consultation Document (subject to minor editorial changes) for public consultation and the final approval by His Worship the Mayor.

HWTM/Cr D Wilson. Carried

10.2 Sale of Kensington Road land - weightings

Mr Calkin introduced the report noting that this is the opportunity for councillors to consider non-financial weighting considerations.

Councillors discussed the reason for a buy back clause. Mr Pointon explained that if Council was to sell a parcel of land for a use and that this does not eventuate within a specific period of time then Council can purchase this land back.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/014

That the report 'Sale of Kensington Road – weightings' is received.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr B Carter. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/015

That Council sets the weightings for non-financial considerations at 10%.

Cr D Wilson/HWTM Carried Against Cr Loudon.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/016

That Council will use the non-financial attributes as per the Disposal of Surplus Lands and Buildings Policy without amendment.

Cr G Maughan/Cr D Wilson. Carried Against Cr Loudon.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/017

That Council includes a buy-back clause in the Kensington Road sale agreement if development of the site does not proceed as outlined in the tender within 3 years of the land being sold.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr J Wong. Carried Against Cr Maughan

10.3 Project Updates Report - February 2025

The meeting adjourned 2.58pm and returned at 3.11pm.

Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation

Officers undertook to make sure that it is clear that the relevant party in these conversation is ANZCO Bulls.

Marton Water Strategy

Officers updated that there is substantial testing on the new bore site. There has been discussion in the community that the material feeds back into dams and not into the settling ponds. Officers confirmed that this information is incorrect.

Marton Offices and Library

The recommendation from staff is that the EOC build will be similar to the design by Ruapehu District Council in National Park. This will be located on the grass site that is currently not occupied with any buildings. This building can be changed from a public meeting space to an EOC very quickly.

Taihape Town Hall

The contractor will continue work as agreed by the scope and will provide an alternative as well. Officers intend on this coming to council by the end of March.

Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation

The Mayor left the Chair at 3.31pm and returned at 3.33pm during this item.

Councillors reiterated the desire for the pool to be open for the next season, and that this may include the sectioning off of the pool.

It was noted there has been a significant amount of misinformation in the Marton community on this topic.

Taihape Hautapu Bridges

Officers noted that this project is completed.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/018

That the report 'Project Updates Report – February 2025' be received.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr P Sharland. Carried

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/019

That Council authorise staff to proceed with preliminary design works for the new Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) independent of the Marton Offices and Community Hub project.

HWTM/Cr S Loudon. Carried

11 Reports for Information

11.1 Hearing of Submissions - Rātana Road Renaming

This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting after Item 3 - Public Forum.

Mr Taiaroa spoke against the renaming of the road and explained that the Ratana road name is of special significance.

Mr Taiaroa stated he had called a meeting with landowners and they are not in favour of the road name being changed and had spoken to the president of the Church who was also not in favour of this either.

Mr Taiaroa stated he did not want the road to be renamed to a weed or a crayfish, and that the road should continue to be named Ratana.

Mr Taiaroa responded to questions about the Rātana Community Board who have been part of the process, and stated that the topic should have gone to the Church President and then taken to Ratana landowners association in which Mr Taiaroa is the Chair of this.

Mr Taiaroa responded to questions about the issue is with the numbers and understands that there is a difference between the two sides of the roads, however he noted that mail is still received.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/020

That the report Hearing of Submissions - Rātana Road Renaming be received.

Cr F Dalgety/Cr G Maughan. Carried

12 Minutes from Committees

12.1 Minutes from Committees

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/021

That the following minutes are received:

- Finance and Performance Committee- 28 Nov 24
- Turakina Community Committee- 05 Dec 24
- Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Committee- 09 Dec 24
- Hunterville Community Committee- 09 Dec 24
- Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti - 10 Dec 24
- Taihape Community Board- 11 Dec 24
- Marton Community Committee- 11 Dec 24
- Bulls Community Committee- 22 Jan 24

Cr D Wilson/Cr R Lambert. Carried

13 Public Excluded

The meeting went into public excluded session 3.45pm.

Resolution to Exclude the Public

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/022

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

1. Public Excluded Council Meeting - 19 December 2024
2. Public Excluded Council (special) Meeting - 6 January 2025
3. Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings
4. Mayors Taskforce for Jobs - contractor appointment
5. Roading Maintenance Services Contract Approval - C1152
6. Marton Water Strategy Update
7. Chief Executive Appointment

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
13.1 - Public Excluded Council Meeting - 19 December 2024	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 19 December meeting.	S48(1)(a)
13.2 - Public Excluded Council (special) Meeting - 6 January 2025	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the Special Council meeting on the 06 January.	S48(1)(a)
13.3 - Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings	To consider the matters arising from previous public excluded meetings. s7(2)(a) - Privacy s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)
13.4 - Mayors Taskforce for Jobs - contractor appointment	To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations. s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities	s48(1)(a)(i)
13.5 - Roading Maintenance Services Contract Approval - C1152	To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations.	s48(1)(a)(i)

	s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities	
13.6 - Marton Water Strategy Update	To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations. s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position	s48(1)(a)(i)
13.7 - Chief Executive Appointment	To enable discussion on sensitive information relating to staff. To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations. s7(2)(a) - Privacy	s48(1)(a)(i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding or the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr B Carter. Carried

14 Open Meeting

The meeting went into open session 4.56pm.

Resolved minute number 25/RDC/034

That the public excluded meeting move into an open meeting, and the below recommendations be confirmed in the open meeting:

25/RDC/023 - 25/RDC/033

Recommendations from the Council to be released to the public

Agreed by Council:

That Council appoints James Towers Consultants Limited to deliver the Community Employment Programme (known as Mayors Taskforce for Jobs) for a contract period of 2 years, subject to external funding, starting 1 July 2025.

The Council confirms the appointment of Carol Gordon to the role of Chief Executive, for an initial term of three years commencing on 1 March 2025, on a total remuneration of \$281,188.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

The meeting closed at 4.56pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 March 2025.

.....
Chairperson

ITEM 6.1
ATTACHMENT 1

Unconfirmed

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Council Meetings

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Council meetings. Items indicate who is responsible for each 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 Council Meetings' be received.

Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	26-Feb-25	MOU Scotts Ferry	Carol / Kevin	Update is include in the projects report.	In progress
2	26-Feb-25	Install correct signage on McHardies road (noting that one end of the road is correct and the other end is incorrect)	Arno / Darryn	New signage has been ordered.	In progress
3	24-Apr-24	RDC please look at traffic calming options on Criterion St and Taumaihi St. From Bulls Community Committee	Arno	Council wants to progress this as soon as possible, noting the item was not included in the annual works programme and would either be unbudgetted and will stay on the radar to see if there is any funding available at the end of the financial year. Therefore this item will remain on the action list until the end of the financial year.	In progress
4	26-May-22	As per resolution 22/RDC/165 : That due to safety concerns around vehicles other than buses using the Bulls Bus Lane, Council staff be asked to investigate possible options around discouragement and enforcement practices.	Arno	Assets / Infrastructure Committee agreed on the installation of booms, the contractor will now be engaged to construct these.	Completed

8 Mayor's Report

8.1 Mayor's Report - 27 March 2025

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Local Water Done Well

Government has replaced the Three Waters legislation with Local Water Done Well (LWDW). This is National's version which is very similar to Labour's.

I am concerned that Council will end up voting on our position to form a regional CCO (Council Controlled Organisation) with very little knowledge of it by the community. The turnout at recent public meetings and interest in our consultation has been just about non-existent. This is the most important decision that our Council has faced over the last 40 years. So, a quick summary –

A. What is Local Water Done Well?

- The provision of waste-water (sewerage)
- The provision of drinking water (potable water)
- Dealing with stormwater (water run-off)

Council currently provides all of these services and that may change.

B. Why is this an issue now?

- All Councils have not spent enough money (under-investment) to maintain these services over the last 50+ years.
- The pipes that service these waters are at the end of their life.
- Our Council has invested over the last few year, but significantly more money is required (\$100m+).

C. What is the option for a Regional CCO?

- We pass on all of our water assets (sewerage, drinking etc) to an independent business.
- We retain ownership of them by way of shares in the business but they operate them.
- We also pass over the debt (loans) that we have for these plants.

D. What is different in National's version to Labour's 3W position?

- Very little difference
- New legislation which allows the new business (entity) to borrow large amounts of money over a very long term (many years)
- National has left the decision options to the community or Council.

ITEM 8.1

- But if Government doesn't agree with our decision they will decide for us!

E. What are our Council options?

- Continue as we currently do with Council providing the service (business as usual with no regional CCO).
- Form a regional CCO with Ruapehu District Council, Whanganui District Council and ourselves. **This is our preferred option.**

F. Why?

- A long term regional CCO will reduce the cost to ratepayers. It has been calculated that in 10 years time it will reduce the average cost for a household by over \$1000 per year compared to the cost of Council continuing to provide the service.
- The new entity will be more efficient and the operational costs are shared by more people (a scale).
- The significant costs of loans will be lower and spread over many more years.

G. What are the risks?

- There will be a loss of Council/community voice. The CCO entity will make business decisions for us. They will decide where money in the three districts is spent.
- The entity will decide on the costs that ratepayers face (they will set their own costs).
- It is possible that some parts of our district will face higher charges than other parts.
- It is likely that water meters will be required so that you pay for what you use.
- Will there will be a setup cost for the new entity – yes, and initially there will not be, in my opinion, direct savings because of this.

H. What is the process?

- We have already had many meetings between the three Councils to look at the plan and options.
- Costs have been worked out by using Long Term Plan costs that each Council currently has.
- Community consultation is now happening.
- The Council decision following consultation will be sent to Wellington.
- Government then makes a decision to accept our position or change it.
- The CCO becomes operational in 2028/2029.

Notes

If we have the CCO you will still get –

- a rates bill from Council for all other Council services which will include a charge for water that Council uses for parks etc.
- a rates bill from the entity for waste-water, drinking water and stormwater
- an Horizons bill as usual.

Please ask if you want further information or clarification – I cannot stress enough the importance of these decisions.

Kainga Ora Housing

Recently Graeme Broderick, Regional Director of Kainga Ora, met with me to announce a series of changes regarding housing. Government has re-set the direction for housing which includes –

- A refresh of the Kainga Ora Board and Chief Executive
- A pause in the construction programme
- A change in attitude where they will be prepared to evict tenants for poor behaviour after a process, i.e. a fair but firm process.
- A renewal programme for housing, the target of 3000 homes per year as a build/replace/demolition process.
- A large reduction in staff as directed by the Minister of Finance.
- Bad debts will be dealt with by way of payment plans which, if adhered to, may involve some write-offs.

For the Rangitikei, we note –

1. We currently have 48 people in need on the housing register, down from 69 in March 2022.
2. We have had new units built in Wellington Road and Pukepapa Road in Marton.

All of Government and Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting

I have included the presentation notes from the LGNZ Sector Meetings in Wellington on 27-28 March as an appendix to my report and I will provide comment if possible as a tabled item for this meeting giving my interpretation of the changes that are coming our way and how they will affect our district.

As everyone knows Council needs to replace our main office building in Marton under the earthquake prone legislation. As part of that process we need to have a modern Civil Defence building (technically referred to as an IL Level 4 building) separate to Council's main facility. It is our

ITEM 8.1

intention to build a building that can be used by the community as well but is absolutely ready to act as a Civil Defence centre for Marton. Some time ago I was at a meeting in Wellington where I questioned the Hon. Mark Mitchell – Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery - around whether Government should support the need for these buildings. He expressed interest at that time in possible Governmental support. As part of the process in deciding what type of building would best fit, myself and some councillors and staff visited the new buildings that have been built in Gisborne (as a standalone Civil Defence building) and National Park by Ruapehu District Council. The Ruapehu building was seen to be a preferred option and could be used as a community function as well. Given Minister Mitchell's public interest in this space I have written to him requesting a discussion and assistance and in the appendix I enclose the letter of request and the Minister's reply. Unfortunately the Minister's reply does not indicate support at this time.

With the election of Councillor Paul Sharland for the Southern Ward it requires another slight change where I have appointed him as an alternate for the Bulls Community Committee position and I enclose the recommendation as such.

Marton Pool

I continue to chase the future of Marton Pool and the work that will be required. Absolutely my aim is, if at all possible, to have the pool operating for next summer. The timeframe for that process is tight. Council cannot look at just repairing the damage to the roof in isolation. As a consequence to that Council now has a report on the total facility including the building strength and what is required structurally. The report also includes compliance with modern electrical and safety standards and potential options around heating replacements etc. The report is exhaustive. We are now waiting on information around each different aspect of that with the initial focus on the cost of repair to the roof and structures. I am hoping to be able to announce to the community what those options are and how they will be funded. I am also hopeful that we may be able to receive significant outside funding other than just relying on ratepayer source.

Marton Rail Hub

Recently there has been an article in Stuff News regarding the funding of the Marton Rail Hub by Kanoa which is the Government's Regional Economic Development and Investment arm. Originally we were awarded under Minister Jones' PGF Fund \$9.1m as support to the Rail Hub. We applied to have 217ha of land just outside Marton bordering State Highway 1 and Makirikiri Road to be zoned industrial. Council received approval for 40ha of industrial land. The next stage was that we were taken through an Environment Court process that lasted around 5 years. That process resulted in 65ha of land being approved as an industrial zone. It is now up to commercial interests as to whether that land is purchased and a rail hub established. The delay in the Environment Court process and the purchase of the land has meant the balance of the \$9.1m awarded under PGF that has not been spent has been withdrawn by Kanoa. There is still significant interest by commercial partners and industry who want to establish new business to the Rangitikei and operate a new railhead. Kanoa still sees this as a significant potential development for our region. However, funding will need to be through a different process. The interest is high and I am hopeful that the development proceeds in a reasonably short space of time. What we have is 65ha of industrial land bordered by State Highways 1 and 3 and adjacent to the principal rail junction in the lower North Island. This opportunity will be taken up by some businesses at some time and is a significant step forward for this district.

Horizons Ballance 2025 Farm Environment Awards & Ford Ranger New Zealand Rural Games

Recently I have attended the Ford Ranger New Zealand Rural Games held in the Square in Palmerston North on 8 March and the celebration at the New Zealand Rural Sports Awards on the night preceding the games. The Rural Games headed by Steve Hollander have built from strength to strength over the past few years and this year the games celebrated their 10th anniversary. We had a number of competitors from the Rangitikei in sports such as fencing and the gumboot throwing competition which is iconic to Taihape. Similarly, I attended the Horizons Ballance 2025 Farm Environment Awards on 13 March where the Regional Supreme Award was won by the Cousins family from Hiamoe Farm, operating just outside of our district in Whanganui. This year's event celebrated 20 years since the awards began in the Horizons region.

Rural Transport Committee

I represent the Rangitikei on the Regional Transport Committee at Horizons. There are a few points that the community may wish to be aware of –

- NZTA has taken over the speed camera function from the New Zealand Police. There will be 51 new cameras and enforcement will be a partnership between the Police and NZTA and these cameras will be in vehicles and/or trailers.
- There will also be the use of average speed cameras – this is where a camera uses photo recognition of number plates to record average speeds across the district.
- Unfortunately within our district we have had a number of fatalities in recent times. Speed is often a factor.
- NZTA has asked for a transition to a risk based approach of temporary traffic management. This refers to very high costs of up to 35% of work being done on roads attributed to the traffic management rather than the construction. This is something that we need to put onus on our contractors when they are doing road repairs. Consideration should be given to whether it is cheaper and more effective and faster to close roads rather than have traffic management or absolutely to consider the risk to the people and the need for significant traffic management processes.
- A very good example of road closures was nationally on the Desert Road between Waiouru and Turangi that had to be closed for a new bridge replacement. Extensive work on other roading aspects was also carried out during that closure. The closure enabled effective work to be done at far faster rates than would have happened if the road had have been operating. The road is now open and recently I have driven over it and huge areas have been resealed etc.

Infrastructure Symposium

I recently attended a one day summit meeting in Auckland on infrastructure. It was expensive as a one day programme with both travel and attendance charges however it was incredibly worthwhile. The presentations regarding climate change, sea level rises, potential closures of roads nationally in the future because of those things were very significant. We as a country need to absolutely look at these effects with a 10-20-30 year lens. The presentations by Minister Bishop and the Hon. Chris Faafoi ahead of the insurance commission were also really interesting. I will look to provide a tabled report at Council with regards to the symposium.

ITEM 8.1

Mayor’s Engagements

March 2025

1	Attended Hunterville 4WD Safari Fundraiser
3	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attending meeting with ratepayer Attended Accelerate35 Lead Team Meeting Attended Climate Action Joint Committee Meeting Attended Mayoral Forum
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Emergency Management Joint Standing Committee Meeting Attended Regional Transport Committee Meeting Attended Erewhon Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended Weekly Meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended meeting with Scotts Ferry residents
5	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended monthly Governor’s Q&A at Executive Leadership Team Meeting
6	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Annual Plan Workshop Attended online meeting regarding industrial land
7	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Local Water Done Well Mayoral Steering Group online meeting Attended fortnightly economic development meeting with staff Attended NZ Rural Sports Awards
8	Attended Official Opening of Ford Ranger NZ Rural Games
10	Attended Joint Discussion Meeting regarding industrial land
11	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Local Water Done Well Public Meeting in Bulls Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
12	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended LGNZ Online Focus Group for Mayors & Chairs Attended briefing on Manawatu/Rangitikei Health Meeting held 11 March Attended Bulls Community Committee Meeting
13	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended weekly meeting with Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor Attended Marton Office & Library Project Governance Meeting Attended Assets & Infrastructure Committee Meeting

	<p>Attended Policy/Planning Committee – TAB/Gambling Policies Hearing</p> <p>Attended 2025 Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards</p>
14	<p>Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Core Group Meeting in Wellington</p>
15	<p>Attended Child Cancer Foundation Street Appeal collection event</p>
17	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Governance Group Online Meeting</p> <p>Attended Oral Hearing to Parliament re RDC’s submission on Local Government Water Services Bill</p>
18	<p>Attended Infrastructure Symposium in Auckland</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
19	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Risk & Assurance Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Taihape Grandstand User Group Meeting</p> <p>Attended Local Water Done Well Public Meeting in Taihape</p>
20	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Leadership Group Online Hui</p> <p>Attended Local Water Done Well Public Meeting in Marton</p>
21	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended fortnightly economic development meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Manu Whenua Strategic Advisor</p> <p>Attended monthly meeting with Police</p>
24	<p>Attended Breakfast Meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys</p> <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended fortnightly meeting with Comms Staff</p>
25	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Zoom Catchup</p> <p>Attended NZTHA Local Planning online meeting</p> <p>Attended Citizenship Ceremony in Bulls</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
26	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p>
27	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Marton Office & Library Project Governance Group meeting</p> <p>Attended Finance & Performance Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Council Meeting</p> <p>To attend Business After 5 Meeting in Hunterville</p>
28	<p>To attend meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>To attend weekly meeting with Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor</p>

ITEM 8.1

	To attend Te Kopuka Quarterly Hui at Parakino Marae Whanganui
31	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend quarterly catchup meeting with National MP Suze Redmayne

Attachments:

1. Letter - Mayor to Hon Mark Mitchell - February 2025 [↓](#)
2. LGNZ All of Government and Rural & Provincial Meeting Presentations [↓](#)
3. LGNZ Four Monthly Report to February 2025 [↓](#)
4. Letter from Hon Mark Mitchell to Mayor Andy Watson - March 2025 [↓](#)
5. Councillor Attendance 2025 [↓](#)

Recommendation 1

That the Mayor's Report – 27 March 2025 be received.

Recommendation 2

That Paul Sharland be appointed as the alternate for the Mayor and Cr Carter to the Bulls Community Committee.

FROM THE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



12 February 2025

3-EP-3-8

Hon Mark Mitchell MP
Emergency Management and Recovery

mark.mitchell@parliament.govt.nz

Good Morning Minister

Last year at a Local Government Meeting you spoke regarding your role in Civil Defence. During question time I suggested that assistance with Civil Defence specialised IL4 buildings for Councils permanently set up ahead of major events would be a fantastic initiative and partnership between Central Government and Councils. At that time you indicated a general support for this concept which myself and other Councils saw as a positive step.

The Rangitikei District Council is in the process of building a new council centre which will most likely be scaled down in size to meet with cost and Government expectations. However, we have decided that we have a definite need for a separate building on the same site dedicated to Civil Defence. I have been Mayor of the Rangitikei District Council for 4 terms and Deputy Mayor for 2 terms prior to that, a total of 21 years in Local Government. During this time the Rangitikei has declared Civil Defence emergencies, largely for flooding, on numerous occasions. When these events occur both State Highway 1 and 3 are closed and it is difficult to get resources and equipment in and the need for a dedicated IL4 centre in Marton is high.

I have taken the time to travel to view both the National Park Civil Defence centre that I believe you opened and the purpose-built Civil Defence building in Gisborne. I believe the building at National Park would absolutely meet our District's needs.

I would welcome a conversation with you in Wellington around how we could potentially work together and note that I am in Wellington at a series of Local Government meetings on 27-28 February, but am happy to travel to see you at any time you may be available.

Yours sincerely

Mayor Andy Watson - Rangitikei
027 6177668

Making this place home.

06 327 0099 027 617 7668 andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz www.rangitikei.govt.nz 46 High Street, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741

ent: Monday, 10 March 2025 10:49 am
To: Andy Watson <Andy.Watson@rangitikei.govt.nz>
Subject: LGNZ's February All-of-local-government meeting: presentations and highlights

No images? [Click here](#)



ALL-OF-LOCAL-GOVERNMENT MEETING



THANK YOU

Thanks for being part of LGNZ's All-of-local-government meeting and individual sector meetings: you'll find slides, notes and more below.

Our next All-of-local-government meeting is on 1 May, followed by sector meetings on 2 May. Confirmed speakers already include Minister Chris Bishop and former Minister Steven Joyce – we'll be releasing the full draft programme and inviting registrations later in March.

SPEAKER SLIDES

All-of-local-government

- Mike Wakefield, Partner, Simpson Grierson – [Overview of the Government’s reform programme](#)
- Laura Cannon, Acting Assistant Auditor General and Andre McConnell, Deputy Auditor-General, Office of the Auditor General – [Improving how councils demonstrate value](#)
- Philippa Fourie, Manager Local Government & External Affairs, Fonterra and Mayor Grant Smith, Palmerston North City Council – [The power of partnerships](#)
- Clinton Jury, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government South Australia – [Lessons from across the ditch](#)
- Sarah Baddeley, Martin Jenkins, MC and Harriet Shelton, Director Advocacy & Strategic Partnerships, LGNZ – [Practical ways to demonstrate value](#)

Rural & Provincial

- Allan Prangnell, CEO, Taumata Arowai – [New wastewater standards](#)
 - Michael Lovett, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Te Tiriti, DIA – [Local Water Done Well](#)
 - Dr Grant Davidson, Chief Executive, Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network, Bill Eschenbach, CEO, Waitaha Primary Health and Mark Eager, CEO, Mobile Health – [Rural health](#)
 - Scott Necklen, Deputy Chief Executive, LGNZ, Andrew McKillop, Programme Director, Road Efficiency Group Te Ringa Maimoa and Dawn Inglis, General Manager, Waipā District Council – [Transport kōrero](#)
 - Katrina Casey, Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery Unit, DPMC – [Cyclone recovery](#)
 - Karen Mitchell, Principal, Deal Advisory, KPMG – [Funding infrastructure](#)
-



LINKS TO SPEECHES

- Parliamentary Under-Secretary Simon Court – [Political Address: 27 February](#)
- Housing Minister Chris Bishop – [Going for Housing Growth: 28 February](#)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary Simon Court – [Speech to LGNZ Metro, Rural and Provincial Sectors Forum](#)

AOLG – KEY TAKEAWAYS

READ THE TAKEAWAYS

RURAL & PROVINCIAL – KEY TAKEAWAYS

READ THE TAKEAWAYS

MEDIA COVERAGE

Last week’s LGNZ All-of-local-government meeting drew the attention of media outlets from across the country, on a range of topics from rates capping and four-year terms to a new stalking bill and housing growth.

Local Government Minister Simon Watt’s speech and LGNZ’s stance on [rates capping](#) took centre stage on Thursday, with [Newsroom](#) leading with a well-written piece alongside stories on [NBR](#), [BusinessDesk](#), [RNZ](#), [The Press](#) and [The Post](#).

[Four-year terms](#) for local government were also a hot topic, with LGNZ President Sam Broughton appearing on [Mike Hosking breakfast](#) on [Newstalk ZB](#) to discuss the issue, with his comments also included in [The Post](#) and [Waikato Times](#) – the topic also causing significant debate on both sides in various opinion columns.

LGNZ Chief Executive Susan Freeman-Greene and Invercargill councillor Alex Crackett also spoke with [Stuff/ThreeNews](#) and [Newstalk ZB](#) about the Government’s proposed [stalking legislation](#).

Housing Minister Chris Bishop’s announcement at LGNZ’s Metro and Rural & Provincial sector meetings on Friday caused a media scrum, with [1News](#) and [ThreeNews](#) running stories and [RNZ](#) livestreaming the Minister’s speech.

Analysis articles also ran on [Stuff](#), [NZ Herald](#) and [Gisborne Herald](#), with Stuff’s Luke Malpass penning an insightful piece appearing in [The Press](#), [The Post](#) and the [Waikato Times](#).

USING THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE TO ADVOCATE AGAINST RATES CAPPING

As part of our broader advocacy against rates capping, we’ve set up meetings between Local Government South Australia CE Clinton Jury and Minister Watts’ office. Minister Watts has also instructed his officials to connect with Clinton to get more information about the South Australian experience.

**Ngā manaakitanga,
The team at LGNZ**



[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Share](#) [Forward](#)

Local Government New Zealand
Te Kāhui Kaunihera o Aotearoa

ITEM 8.1
ATTACHMENT 2

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LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// November 2024 – February 2025





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.

Please consider putting this report on the agenda for your next council meeting so that all councillors can review it and provide feedback. Sam, Susan or other National Council members are very happy to join council meetings online to discuss the report or any aspect of it – just let us know.

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

- Introduction 4**
- Champion 5**
 - Government relations 5
 - Media 6
 - Local government funding and financing 7
 - Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS) 7
 - Infrastructure funding and financing 8
 - Regional deals 8
 - Rates capping 9
 - Water services reform 9
 - Resource management reform 10
 - Transport 10
 - Climate change 11
 - Electoral Reform Working Group 12
 - Other policy issues 12
 - Earthquake prone buildings 12
 - Update on 2024 remits 12
- Connect 15**
 - 2025 calendar 15
 - Vote25 15
 - All-of-local-government meetings 15

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 2



Metro Sector	15
Regional Sector and Te Uru Kahika	16
Rural & Provincial.....	16
SuperLocal25.....	16
Te Ao Māori.....	17
Iwi engagement	17
Te Maruata.....	17
Young Elected Members Network	17
Community Boards	18
Women in Local Government	18
Member visits	18
Support	19
Ākona	19
Te Korowai – CouncilMARK.....	19
Roothing Efficiency Group.....	20
Governance support	20



Introduction

This four-monthly report covers the summer holiday period when you hopefully had a well-deserved break. LGNZ continued to work hard on your behalf, delivering two All-of-local government events, meeting with Ministers, making submissions and producing resources for members.

January's Cabinet reshuffle meant a new Minister for Local Government, Simon Watts. LGNZ had dinner with the Minister on his first official day in the job, hosted him at February's All-of-local-government event and had our first formal meeting of the year on 6 March. As the Minister said at our February event, we have a positive relationship and want to work together. He acknowledged local government was fatigued by waves of reform and that a lot of the cost and burden that falls on local government is because of central government legislation (as LGNZ's research last year demonstrated). We're looking forward to working constructively with the Minister.

The political year unofficially starts at Waitangi, which offers many opportunities to mix formally and informally with Ministers, MPs and Iwi leaders. This year LGNZ stepped up our involvement and had a strong presence, including a number of National Council members, who were part of an official pōwhiri and delivered a prayer for the nation at the Dawn Service.

In the advocacy and policy space, in November we launched a set of [funding and financing tools](#) that could make a difference for local government. These tools, which include things like sharing GST on new builds, congestion charging and value capture from growth, gained strong media coverage. We also highlighted to media the potential negative implications of rates capping, with Australian guest speakers at both our November and February All-of-local-government events underlining the negative fiscal impacts for Australian councils and communities.

Other highlights of this period included:

- A range of quality submissions shared with members, including on resource management and water services reform.
- The launch of our Electoral Reform Issues paper, with the draft position paper launching 13 March. As well as four-year terms this covers the inevitable decline of post and how to respond.
- Members can now access for free more than \$1.2 million worth of professional development assets via our Ākona professional development platform (this is what it would cost councils to commercially develop the 15 Ako hours and 22 courses available).
- We distributed a free Vote 25 toolkit to all member councils just before Christmas – which you can use and adapt to promote voter registration, standing and voting.

We always welcome your comments and feedback.

Ngā mihi
Sam and Susan



Champion

Government relations

In January a reshuffled Cabinet meant a new Minister for Local Government along with other portfolio shifts relevant to local government, including a new Transport Minister. We have seized on the reshuffle and our already-strong relationship with incoming Local Government Minister Simon Watts to reset the relationship between central and local government. Sam and Susan had dinner with Minister Watts on his first official day in the job, we've locked in regular ongoing meetings, and the Minister spoke at our All-of-local-government meeting on 27 February. As well as staying as long as he could to answer questions, the Minister joined Mayors, Chairs and Chief Executives for morning tea ahead of his session.

As well as sending the Minister [an immediate letter](#) on key issues, we have developed a briefing for the Minister that sets out the state of play of local government issues, including where there are opportunities to work together in support of New Zealand's economic development. [Read the Briefing to the Incoming Minister.](#)

We have confirmed quarterly meetings with the Prime Minister throughout 2025. We also meet regularly with Infrastructure and Resource Management Reform Minister Chris Bishop, who now holds the Transport portfolio as well, with Regional Development Minister Shane Jones, and of course Minister Watts. During this four-month period, we met with Minister for Building and Construction Chris Penk and got a good insight into what he would like to achieve in the portfolio. He is keen to make changes work on the ground and, as he put it, "make life easier for councils not harder". We are in conversation with MBIE as to how options for the building consents regime might be received by councils and how they might work in practice.

We secured a strong line up of Ministers and representation from the Opposition at both the November and February All-of-local-government meetings and individual sector meetings.

Waitangi Day kicks off the political year and this year LGNZ had a strong delegation that included a number of National Council members. We held formal and informal meetings with local MPs and iwi leaders, and had the opportunity for conversations with a range of Ministers we would not normally meet with, like Education Minister Erica Stanford. Sam, Campbell and Susan attended the Waitangi Trust's dinner alongside with political leaders, including Minister Watts and the Leader of the Opposition. We had a particularly useful meeting with Northland MP Grant McCallum, who was sympathetic to our safety concerns relating for Māori elected members given the tenor of debate around Māori Wards referenda. He was action-focused and was keen to support neutral messaging that promoted safe and informed local elections. He was also interested in looking into working with us to brief National MPs on other local government issues such as funding and financing.

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 5



Media

Our media engagement means balancing standing up for councils with being seen as a constructive partner of the Government. LGNZ has gained proactive media coverage of our perspective on rates capping, and our launch of funding and financing tools, and the closure of regional newspapers. Our advocacy positions on all three topics tied into our wider strategy to make local government feel more relevant and improve ratepayers’ understanding of issues faced by councils.

Over the past 12 months, the media landscape has shifted significantly with the closure of major platforms, key newsrooms and culling of experienced journalists. These shifts made it harder to place proactive stories but we have intensified our efforts and continue to gain traction on major advocacy issues important to councils and our communities.

An example of these efforts coming to fruition was the coverage of LGNZ’s All-of-local-government meeting, which drew the attention of media outlets from across the country on a range of topics, from rates capping and four-year terms to a new stalking bill and housing growth.

We got coverage on our position on [rates capping](#), including [Newsroom](#) leading with a well-written piece alongside stories on [NBR](#), [BusinessDesk](#), [RNZ](#), [The Press](#) and [The Post](#). [Four-year terms](#) for local government was also a hot topic, with Sam Broughton appearing on the [Mike Hosking breakfast](#) on [Newstalk ZB](#) to discuss the issue, with his comments included in [The Post](#).

LGNZ’s CE Susan Freeman-Greene and Invercargill Councillor Alex Crackett also spoke with [Stuff/ThreeNews](#) and [RNZ](#) about the Government’s proposed [stalking legislation](#) and the need to increase safety for elected members.

On Friday, Minister Bishop’s announcement around new and improved funding and financing tools to reduce the disincentives for housing growth for councils made headlines. Analysis articles ran on [Stuff](#), [NZ Herald](#) and the [Gisborne Herald](#), with Stuff’s Luke Malpass penning an insightful piece on the financial conundrum facing councils that appeared in [The Press](#), [The Post](#) and the [Waikato Times](#).

Some other specific media highlights in the past four months include:

- LGNZ’s rollout of [a funding and finance toolkit](#) for councils got plenty of traction.
- We urged caution around central government’s proposed [rates capping](#) introduction in New Zealand.
- We advocated to the Government [to share IVL funding](#) with councils to reduce pressure on ratepayers.
- We [welcomed the new Minister of Local Government](#) and presented the reshuffle as an opportunity to collaborate more.
- Sam penned an [op-ed](#) for Stuff, talking about the benefits of a true partnership between local and central government.
- LGNZ spoke out about the proposed Government changes to the [water and waste levies](#).



- We [welcomed the move](#) towards benchmarking and more transparency, but pushed the Government to ensure any report card provides a 'full and accurate picture'

Local government funding and financing

In late November we launched a [set of 25 tools](#) to help councils better fund infrastructure and services – from sharing GST on new builds to value capture to improving councils’ ability to recover costs.

It’s a pragmatic list with three distinct tiers:

1. Tools that are on the Government’s agenda
2. Tools the Government has shown an interest in
3. Tools councils want but the Government isn’t interested in, so need longer-term advocacy.

While rates will always be local government’s primary funding tool, these tools could make a real difference to the challenges councils face. We are starting to see the fruits of this work with the Government’s announcement at our February All-of-local-government meeting on new tools that will see development contributions replaced with a development levy system, allowing councils to charge developers a share of long-term infrastructure costs – more on this below.

As well as the [set of tools](#), we developed some resources to support councils’ conversations with communities and central government:

- [A set of key messages](#) explaining why we need new tools
- [Slides](#) with key messages and data
- [A draft op ed](#) that you can repurpose
- [A draft letter to your MP](#)

Treasury has released advice to the Minister of Finance on funding tools available to councils. The Minister is seeking to reduce funding calls on the Crown. Treasury considers that council funding tools are generally fit for purpose. Their view is that the barriers to the full use of these tools relate to political economy, such as a general resistance to increasing rates. This is a valid point, but LGNZ believes these tools need improvement to allocate costs better, address affordability, improve efficiency, and align government objectives with local incentives.

The Government’s stance against rates increases and its consideration of rates caps risks deepening public resistance to existing funding tools and increasing pressure on Crown funding. LGNZ will continue to engage with Ministers on this issue and work to enhance public discourse on the relationship between the costs of services and infrastructure and rate rises.

Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS)

The new Local Government Minister has expressed interest in progressing the RAS. The RAS would allow ratepayers to cheaply borrow for specific improvements or ratepayer charges and in support of local and central government priorities. By leveraging the high credit quality of local government



rates, it accesses efficient capital market financing, passing savings to ratepayers. The RAS lends directly to ratepayers, keeping councils financially whole.

We are looking to capitalise on the Minister’s interest and secure the necessary financial commitment and legislative changes. Minister Watts is positive about the scheme and has identified potential alignment with his energy portfolio if the RAS could foster investment in rooftop solar generation. We are working with Rewiring Aotearoa, an electrification advocacy group, to develop this element of the scheme.

Infrastructure funding and financing

In November, the Government released an [infrastructure funding and financing framework](#). This framework outlines the principles and processes underpinning the Crown's funding and financing decisions. It will have implications across water, energy, housing, climate adaptation, and transport. The framework makes it clear that the Government intends to only fund or finance projects as a last resort (and in minimal viable quantities). The Government also expects user pays and private financing to play a greater role in infrastructure funding and financing. Local government is not mentioned in this framework.

LGNZ will engage with new government agency *Infrastructure Funding and Financing Ltd (NIFFCo)* to ensure this framework is operationalised with councils in mind. Operationalising the framework will be challenging, given the substantial investment required for future infrastructure and the limitations of user-pays models in some sectors, as highlighted by the Infrastructure Commission.

We are also engaging with DIA and MHUD on their current work on changes to the development contributions system.

The Minister for Infrastructure announced changes to New Zealand’s infrastructure funding and financing settings at February’s All of Local Government meeting. The Government will replace development contributions with a development levy system, allowing councils to charge developers a share of long-term infrastructure costs. There will be regulatory oversight of development levies to ensure charges are fair and appropriate. Councils will also have more flexibility to set targeted rates that apply to new developments. Finally, the Infrastructure Funding and Financing (IFF) Act will be improved for developer-led projects and expanded to support major transport projects like those led by NZTA.

LGNZ has welcomed these changes, which were in our funding and financing toolkit. We will await further detail and work to ensure these reforms work effectively on the ground for councils.

Regional deals

Instead of the initially announced approach of inviting five regions to participate, all councils were eligible to express interest in a Regional Deal by 18 December 2024.

The Minister was clear that councils should work together across a region when submitting an expression of interest. This meant providing a light-touch proposal with an outline of the drivers of economic growth in a region, what the region will do to unlock growth, and what the region needs



from central government to assist. These expressions of interest will be assessed, and the Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group will decide which regional deals proceed to the next steps, which involve a MoU process and final negotiation.

Our understanding is that new Minister may be interested in seeing more than one deal agreed by the end of 2025 (we will certainly be encouraging this), with more agreed by the end of 2026.

Rates capping

Rates capping was a significant topic at both the November and February All-of-local-government meetings. This included presentations on the operationalisation and impacts of rates capping from local government representatives from New South Wales and Victoria (in November); and on transparency as an alternative from South Australia (in February).

In Australia, while rates capping has been effective in terms of constraining rates increases, it has failed to deliver an optimal mix of local services and rates. It has degraded council delivery and left councils increasingly financially unstable. In every overseas jurisdiction that has implemented rates capping, councils are advising us to oppose it as strongly as we can because of its negative impacts on councils' ability to deliver for communities.

We raised concerns about rates capping in meetings with numerous ministers, highlighting this policy's risks for communities and advocating for alternative measures. We are suggesting performance reporting and benchmarking should be prioritised instead – and that these would better achieve the Government's aims.

Water services reform

The Local Government Water Services Bill was introduced in December, with submissions closing in late February. This piece of legislation will establish enduring settings for the new water services system and is expected to be enacted in mid-2025. The bill sets out arrangements for the new water services delivery system, a new economic regulation and consumer protection regime for water services, and changes to the water quality regulatory framework and the water services regulator (Taumata Arowai). To help members prepare their submissions, in December LGNZ shared an [explainer on the stage three legislation](#) with members, based on [proactively released decisions](#) on the future system. In January, we circulated a draft submission on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill for member input, and we expect to present our oral submission in March.

The Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) carried out a short consultation on levies to fund water services regulation, with submissions closing in late January. These levies will be collected from councils or their water organisations, and will fund or part fund the water services regulatory functions of Taumata Arowai and the Commerce Commission. These agencies are already empowered by legislation to charge levies in this way. Taumata Arowai proposes to recover \$20.658 million per annum for the next three years from local government through this levy, around 84% of its operating costs. The Commerce



Commission is seeking to recover \$6.5m per annum for the next two years from local government (or their water organisations) from their levy. They both propose to allocate these on a population basis, resulting in a total for both levies of \$5.44 per person per year.

Councils will soon start consulting on aspects of their Water Service Delivery Plans (WSDPs), which must be finalised by 3 September 2025. As councils consult their communities, for some councils it will become obvious how difficult it is for water services to be financially sustainable, especially if charges to consumers are kept low. We will support member councils by providing information, connecting members to support from DIA, and advocating for DIA to increase this support. The Minister was also clear when speaking at LGNZ’s All-of-local-government event on 27 February that councils should reach out for help now rather than wait till September.

Resource management reform

We are awaiting Cabinet decisions on the “blueprint” for new legislation to replace the Resource Management Act (RMA), which we understand was presented to the Minister Responsible for RM Reform last month.

In the meantime, the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act, and the Fast Track Approvals Act were both passed by Parliament.

In February, we submitted on the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill. This legislation progresses targeted amendments to the Resource Management Act to improve its performance while work on replacing the RMA continues. We are still awaiting the accompanying changes to National Direction, which LGNZ will also submit on.

Some councils have approached LGNZ seeking support for removing specific projects from the Fast Track process. For example, Waimate District Council has written to Ministers raising concerns about the inclusion of the proposed Waste to Energy Plant at Glenavy, primarily on the basis of environmental, health and economic impacts. While LGNZ can’t lobby central government about specific projects for individual councils, this serves as another illustration of the tension between central and local government decision making. The Fast Track Approvals Bill aims to speed up consenting for major infrastructure, but the inevitable trade-off is less input from local communities on significant proposals that affect their area. We will continue to reflect this broader concern in our advocacy work.

We are currently working on a plan for how LGNZ will respond to the significant volume of consultations expected in the RM space over the next 12-18 months.

Transport

We have surveyed Transport Forum members to get an idea of the cost of implementing the Government’s new policy of variable speed limits in school areas. While councils are at varying stages in terms of quantifying the impact of this policy, early indications are that this is having a



significant fiscal impact on councils that are already facing significant fiscal pressure as a result of funding decisions made in the NLTP 24-27.

Transport Forum meeting dates have been locked in for 2025, and following the letter from Sam and Neil to Simon Bridges, NZTA board members Paul Dougherty and Warwick Isaacs attended the Transport Forum meeting in February.

In November, the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi released a discussion document on increasing the private share (i.e. the portion of fares not subsidised by central or local government) of public transport operating expenditure, and wrote to regional councils suggesting specific targets for this share. This had been signalled in both the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and the National Land Transport Programme, both of which were released earlier in 2024. The Regional Sector and LGNZ have raised concerns about the impact on passenger fares in the media and with Ministers.

The new Transport Minister also holds the Housing, Infrastructure, and RM Reform portfolios, presenting significant opportunities for alignment. We have secured a meeting with Minister Bishop in March and also have briefed him in writing on the LGNZ Transport Forum, which met on 10 February and discussed how best to work with the new Minister.

The Government's 2025 Q1 action plan commits to passing the first reading of the Land Transport Management (Time of Use Charging) Bill. This bill, which was introduced last year, would enable time of use charging (aka congestion charging). This is one of our tier one funding and financing tools and LGNZ will be submitting on this legislation: the model adopted needs to give councils as much flexibility as possible.

Climate change

In November, the Office of the Auditor General has released a report [How well four councils are responding to a changing climate](#). The report highlights that climate change poses significant challenges for councils, requiring long-term strategies, governance clarity, and collaboration. While the four councils audited have taken steps to prioritise climate action, gaps remain in embedding these priorities into planning and resourcing. Recommendations include enhancing collaboration, setting clear climate objectives, strengthening performance measures, ensuring governance clarity, and improving public reporting. The Auditor-General encouraged all councils to consider these recommendations.

On 29 January, the Government published its [response](#) to the Finance and Expenditure Committee's inquiry into climate adaptation (which outlined high-level objectives and principles to guide development of New Zealand's climate change adaptation policy framework). The response signalled the Government intends to adopt a decentralised approach to climate adaptation, with decision-making and resource allocation occurring at the most-local level possible. This suggests residents and councils will generally bear the cost of adaptation. LGNZ will keep advocating for councils to be provided with adequate funding and policy tools to meet adaptation obligations. The Government has said it will consider the committee's recommendations as it finalises the adaptation framework and associated legislation, which is expected to be introduced this year.

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 11



Electoral Reform Working Group

Thank you for all your feedback on the Working Group’s issues paper, which has been taken into account by the group in developing a draft position.

Mayor Nick Smith will be launching the Electoral Reform Working Group’s draft position paper in March, including presenting to all zone meetings to get your feedback. As well as looking at a four-year parliamentary term, the group has also been looking at the unsustainability of postal voting and considering alternatives.

Other policy issues

Earthquake prone buildings

The steering group set up by MBIE to inform its comprehensive review of the seismic strengthening system has had its first meeting, with Nigel Bowen, Helen Craig, and Liam Hodgetts (all put forward by LGNZ) providing a local government voice at the table.

LGNZ has also set up our own informal Seismic Strengthening Group, chaired by Manawatū deputy mayor Michael Ford, which met for the first time in late November. This was a positive meeting that underscored what members want from the Government’s comprehensive review of the seismic strengthening regime. This group will meet on an as-needed basis to help guide LGNZ’s response to the Government’s review, and to support wider advocacy for the remit from Manawatū District Council passed in 2023.

Stalking

We produced [a submission](#) on the Crimes Legislation (Stalking and Harassment) Amendment Bill, which introduces a new stalking and harassment offence and other measures to reduce the harm that victims experience. In our 2022 survey of elected members, 43% had experienced harassment, prejudice, threatening or derogatory behaviours in their role. Aggressive and abusive behaviours can constitute stalking – or be a precursor to it – and we want to see elected members better protected.

Update on 2024 remits

Remit	Progress update
<p>Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives That LGNZ proactively promote and lobby for the development of a more equitable and appropriate funding model for central government initiatives.</p>	<p>This remit is being progressed as part of the wider funding and financing work programme (and is a core objective of this work).</p>
<p>GST revenue sharing with local Government That LGNZ be proactive in lobbying central government on sharing GST revenue with local</p>	<p>This remit is being progressed as part of the wider funding and financing work programme. We understand the Government is looking at</p>

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 12



<p>government, derived from local government rates and service fees related flood protection mitigation, roading, and three waters, for investment in these areas.</p>	<p>alternatives to this policy (such as more enabling changes) and will consider advice on this later this year.</p>
<p>Local Government Māori Wards and Constituencies should not be subject to a referendum That LGNZ lobbies central government to ensure that Māori wards and constituencies are treated the same as all other wards in that they should not be subject to a referendum. We oppose the idea that Māori wards should be singled out and forced to suffer a public referendum.</p>	<p>Now that legislation has been passed, we know that 42 councils will be holding a referendum on Māori wards. See the separate National Council paper on Māori wards, which discusses how LGNZ will support Te Maruata and the wider membership around the referendums and elections broadly.</p>
<p>Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings That LGNZ advocate to Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For legislative change enabling local authorities to compel building owners to remediate unoccupied derelict buildings and sites that have deteriorated to a state where they negatively impact the amenity of the surrounding area. • To incentivise repurposing vacant buildings to meet region-specific needs, for example, accommodation conversion. 	<p>Late last year we had an initial discussion with Gisborne District Council to determine the work programme for progressing this remit, which was also discussed at the first meeting of the LGNZ Seismic Strengthening Group. Information from GDC is currently being used to develop a work programme.</p>
<p>Representation Reviews That LGNZ advocate for changes that support the provision of timely and accurate regional and sub-regional population data to councils for use in council representation reviews.</p>	<p>Statistics NZ is reviewing the methodology for the 2028 census. We are monitoring this process in case it provides an opportunity to progress this remit. A move to a four-year term, which we are actively lobbying for, would require a change in the timings of representation reviews so this remit is also informing the thinking of the Electoral Reform Working Group.</p>
<p>Community Services Card That LGNZ advocate to Central Government to amend the Health Entitlement Cards Regulations 1993 so that the cardholder can use the Community Services Card as evidence for the purposes of accessing Council services which would otherwise rely on a form of means testing.</p>	<p>We wrote to relevant Ministers asking that councils be allowed to make use of the Community Services Card when offering discounts to council facilities. We have yet to receive a response. We also put out a media release, which got good coverage, and engaged via social media.</p>
<p>Graduated Licensing System That LGNZ advocate for changes to the fee structure for driver licensing, better preparing young people for driver licence testing, and greater testing</p>	<p>MTFJ has agreed to progress this remit because it relates to its work with the Driving Change Network.</p>

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 13



capacity in key locations throughout New Zealand, in order to relieve pressure on the driver licensing system and ensure testing can be conducted in a quick and efficient manner.	
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Connect

2025 calendar

We released a [final version of the 2025 calendar](#) in early December (though this remains subject to change if the need arises).

Vote25

In December, we shared our [free Vote25 toolkit](#) with member councils. This includes a set of creative assets that councils can customise, such as posters and social media tiles. The campaign covers all three phases: register to vote; stand for election; and vote.

All-of-local-government meetings

The November meeting, with a strong programme that focused on local government reform, drew more than 170 members. It was an opportunity to lay the foundations for stronger advocacy on key parts of reform in local government, such as rates capping. At that event we also launched the funding and financing toolkit discussed above, which gained strong media coverage.

February's All-of-local-government meeting focused on accountability and demonstrating value, with more than 180 members attending. Government speakers included Local Government and Climate Change Minister Simon Watts; Infrastructure, Transport, RMA Reform and Housing Minister Chris Bishop; and RMA Reform and Infrastructure Parliamentary Under-Secretary Simon Court. This was Minister Watt's first chance to address a large local government gathering in this role, and he set out his intention to work in partnership with local government while delivering on the reform agenda. Our guest speaker from South Australia's local government association shared how they managed to convince their government to not implement rates capping by implementing greater transparency; an advocacy approach that LGNZ is also taking.

The theme of the 1 May meeting is delivering infrastructure for growth. Confirmed speakers so far include Minister Chris Bishop and former Minister Steven Joyce – we'll be releasing the programme and inviting registrations in March. As usual, individual Regional, Metro and Rural & Provincial Sector meetings will happen on the following day.

Metro Sector

The Metro Sector meetings on 22 November and 28 February confirmed the group's focus areas for the remainder of the current electoral term, as follows:

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 15



1. Enabling and supporting economic development and growth by showcasing the role of cities as engines of the national economy and driving regional collaboration.
2. Lift LGNZ governance and accountability in order to improve LGNZ's impact.
3. Improve alignment of central and local government investment cycles to reduce inefficiencies and encourage more bipartisan agreement on key infrastructure decisions.

Regional Sector and Te Uru Kahika

The final meeting of the Regional Sector for the year included engagement with Hon Mark Mitchell, the Minister for Emergency Management, a discussion with Hon Simon Upton, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment on water and land use roles, and discussions on Taumata Arowai's stormwater performance standards and phase 3 of resource management system reforms.

LGNZ has met new Te Uru Kahika Executive Director Iain Maxwell to welcome him on board and build on the positive relationship we enjoyed with his predecessor Liz Lambert. We work closely to coordinate Regional Sector meetings and collaborate on policy work.

February's Regional Sector meeting included new Transport Minister Chris Bishop, Taumata Arowai on wastewater performance standards, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on significant natural hazard events and recovery settings. This meeting also welcomed new Taranaki Regional Council Chair Craig Williamson, with Cr Charlotte Littlewood recently standing down from the Chair position.

Rural & Provincial

February's R&P meeting canvassed a number of areas impacting rural and provincial councils, with Local Water Done Well a key topic on people's minds, as well as new wastewater standards. The Department of Internal Affairs and Taumata Arowai spoke at the first R&P event of the year and took questions. Rural health was also a big topic so we had speakers address growing concerns over access to health in our rural communities and provided some examples of the hands-on role some councils are playing to bridge the gap. The Roading Efficiency Group also delivered a presentation.

Minister Chris Bishop used our February event as a platform to announce some major changes to local government funding and financing as part of his Going for Housing Growth programme. The event wrapped up with a session with KPMG's infrastructure financing expert Karen Mitchell on infrastructure funding and financing options such as using debt and PPPs.

SuperLocal25

Planning for SuperLocal25, which is from 16-17 July at the Te Pae Convention Centre, is well underway: the conference's theme will be Brilliant Basics and Beyond. We are currently finalising the programme and will open registrations in April.



Based on feedback from SuperLocal24, we have compressed the programme so that the event starts much earlier on the first day (the AGM will be at 8.30am on the Wednesday) and wraps up with the awards dinner on the Thursday night. This leaves Friday for visits to the wider region or travel home. Te Maruata and Young Elected Member hui will be held on Tuesday, before the conference, and there will be a breakfast for Women in Local Government at 7am on the Wednesday morning before the AGM.

Te Ao Māori

Iwi engagement

Waitangi presented new opportunities for engagement, thanks to LGNZ's representation by National Council. The Iwi Chairs Forum held one of their conferences ahead of the Waitangi commemorations at Waitangi, which allowed us to continue building that relationship as well as with Northland Iwi, hapū and whanau. It was the first year we were formally included in a pōwhiri at Waitangi, alongside the legislature, diplomats and the Waitangi Tribunal.

Te Maruata

Te Maruata met early in November to reflect on 2024 and look forward to 2025. The Treaty Principles Bill and broader election-related issues, including how to support members, were also a hot topic. Te Maruata also provided support to LGNZ's participation at Waitangi.

Te Maruata Rōpū whakahaere will hold its first official meeting of the year at the beginning of March. The focus will be on fleshing out plans for Elections 2025, preparations for Te huinga o ngā roma – the in-person whānui hui in April – and plans for the Te Maruata hui at SuperLocal25.

Te huinga o ngā roma will be held from 3-4 April in Taupo. Te huinga o ngā roma acknowledges the tributaries of Lake Taupō and the role of water in the revitalisation and connection of people and place, which will ground the event. There will be a range of inspiring speakers, workshops and discussions to equip, support and inspire members.

Young Elected Members Network

The annual YEM Hui took place in Christchurch from 16-18 October. It was held there despite Christchurch City Council's decision to withdraw from LGNZ, because the YEM Committee had 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. We also had former YEM Lan Pham from the Greens and Cameron Luxton from the ACT Party give their perspectives on how to deliver for communities.

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 17



Tikanga sessions were organised to support members to prepare for the whakatau at the commencement of their hui.

Planning is now underway to work through how the YEM network want to address voter turnout and get more young people to stand in the next local election.

The YEM Committee met at the end of February to develop a plan for the elections – this includes how to get more young people to stand and vote, as well as induction material specific to supporting YEMs. We will also be holding a three-hour YEM hui before SuperLocal25.

Community Boards

The Community Board Executive Committee met in early November and again in February. The committee welcomed a new member, Ross Munro from Pleasant Point community board (who replaces Simon Britten who stepped down due to Christchurch City withdrawing from LGNZ).

The meeting reflected on discussions with the Remuneration Authority on the formula for setting community board remuneration and an option for recognising and compensating boards which have additional responsibilities.

CBEC is keen to strengthen alignment with both YEM and Te Maruata, and also discussed using Ākona for community board members and community board induction, and the impact of representation reviews and on community boards

CBEC is continuing to work on its Relationship Agreement guide for councils and community boards, with a draft available soon for consultation. CBEC is also working on a community board workshop session for SuperLocal25; providing support to boards going through representation reviews; and liaising with the Remuneration Authority ahead of its review of elected members’ remuneration.

Women in Local Government

Last year we brought women elected members together online and in person at SuperLocal24 (at a pre-conference lunch with keynote speaker Nicola Willis). We’ve had a lot of feedback that this work is valuable and should continue. As a result, we’ve developed a plan for this work that includes creating opportunities to connect; advocacy for system change that improves all elected members’ safety (like submitting in support of the stalking legislation currently before Parliament); and championing this work.

Member visits

Susan and Sam are on track to have visited all councils since Sam became President, with the last visits scheduled in early 2025. For the remainder of the triennium, we will have a structured programme of calling Mayors and CEs (by Susan and Scott) as well as ad hoc visits/calls as needed.



Support

Ākona

We are seeing an increase in users as members realise how comprehensive it is, and that they can use it to suit their needs. Ākona has about 500 active users, with 42 users choosing to engage with the platform over the summer break. Over 200 users have made use of the skills analysis tool and 483 members have enjoyed the top five e-modules.

Between November and February, we held six Ako hours attracting a total of 184 registrations – and many individual registrations were for groups attending together.

The value of Ākona to councils continues to grow. An interactive professional development platform with 15 Ako hours and 22 courses would cost about \$1.2 million if you paid for it commercially.

The Induction 2025 pre-elected package of learning is on track for release at the end of March. This package teaches people about what it means to be an elected member, including what councils actually do, and will include a series of animated videos, along with interactive e-modules. You'll be able to share this pre-elected package with anyone interested in standing for council (they don't have to be members).

The Mayor Induction Hui and EM Induction hui around the country have been booked and details released to councils, which have welcomed the early communication. We'll also be holding a Chair Induction Hui after regional councils have elected their chairs.

The Ako Hour Academy, which will provide post-induction learning for all elected members, is being built collaboratively with members, in our governance bi-monthly hui. The response has been very positive, with everyone we have spoken to committing to weaving Ākona into local induction activities. Our Learning and Development Manager is meeting with each council in turn to discuss what materials they could upload into the new Ākona platform so it's a one-stop shop for all elected member learning.

Te Korowai – CouncilMARK

Te Korowai has progressed from three successful trials to a soft launch.

We are now seeking registrations of interest for participation in Te Korowai in 2025. There are multiple ways to engage with the programme:

- **Full programme cycle:** This includes an independent assessment by external assessors, an evaluation by the independent evaluation panel, and a development workshop following the evaluation report.
- **Integrity survey:** This serves as a stepping stone for councils wanting to assess their ability to function with integrity. Similar to an engagement survey, it involves an organisation-wide



rollout — including elected members — followed by an in-person workshop to discuss the findings.

Roading Efficiency Group

LGNZ is a founding partner of the Road Efficiency Group Te Ringa Maimoa (REG) sector partnership, which is entering its 12th year. We welcome the continued collaboration with RCAs and support REG in rolling out a number of exciting initiatives:

- A new governance dashboard in the Transport Insights web portal that provides elected members with valuable insight into the performance and benchmarking of their road network and RCA – www.transportinsights.nz
- An extensive learning and development programme to continue to raise capability.
- Delivering the Consistent Condition Data Collection project, which captures surface condition data for all sealed roads for local authorities.

Learn more at www.nzta.govt.nz/reg

Governance support

The 2025-2028 edition of the LGNZ standing orders template was [published in late December](#). This version has been updated to include recent legislation and additional principles. It’s also been redrafted in plain English. As we have done previously, three templates have been developed, one for city and district councils, one for regional councils and one for community boards.

The 2025-2028 Guide to Standing Orders will be published in March. It has been updated and expanded with additional guidance, including:

- Advice on implementing the Ombudsman’s Guidance on public access to workshops;
- More information on delegations and setting agendas;
- Guidance on issues that emerged in the last term, such as using co-chairs and vacating the chair;
- Protocols for webcasting and people joining meetings remotely; and
- Templates for parental leave and childcare policies.

LGNZ continues to provide support to a number of councils experiencing tension between elected members and/or between elected members and CEs.

Hon Mark Mitchell

Minister of Corrections
Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery
Minister for Ethnic Communities
Minister of Police
Minister for Sport and Recreation



REF: EM COR 2024-25-067

March 6 2025

Mayor Andy Watson
Rangitikei District Council
Karen.Cowper@rangitikei.govt.nz

Dear Andy,

Thank you for your letter dated 12 February 2025 regarding potential funding for a new IL4 building in Marton. I can assure you that the Government is committed to strengthening New Zealand’s emergency management system. You will also know that the Government is operating in a tight fiscal environment and is balancing competing demands (e.g. health, education, law and order) on the funding it administers on behalf of New Zealanders.

Currently there are no dedicated central funds accessible to Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups for Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) or Emergency Coordination Centres (ECCs).

You will be aware that the Government released its response to the Government Inquiry into the North Island Weather Events (the Inquiry) in October last year. We are in the middle of developing new emergency management legislation and an investment roadmap to support this.

In response to recommendation 7 of the Inquiry we are committed to a series of priority actions to improve the emergency management system, including enabling system interoperability and fit-for-purpose ECCs in each region.

A key area for the Government is enabling the different parts of the system to work better together at the national level. This includes establishing a new National Emergency Management Facility (NEMF) in Wellington, and work on a backup in Auckland. We know that the NEMF must be able to link to regional ECCs, which must also be fit for purpose.

My specific focus is on making sure the Government delivers through building leadership, community capability and capacity, and clearer accountability. We are still working through options and are yet to consider or make decisions on the investment and implementation roadmap.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Mark Mitchell
Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand | +64 4 817 6809 | m.mitchell@ministers.govt.nz

ITEM 8.1 ATTACHMENT 5

Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
19-Dec-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
22-Jan-25	Bulls CC	CB		PR							AT	CB		
10-Feb-25	HRWS	PR			PR			AP						
10-Feb-25	Huntermville CC	PR			PR			AP						
11-Feb-25	TRAK Hui	PR				AP	PR					PR		
11-Feb-25	Ratana CB	PR					AP							
12-Feb-25	Taihape CB	PR				PR								PR
12-Feb-25	Marton CC	AP	PR											
13-Feb-25	AIN Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	AP	PR		PR	
13-Feb-25	Policy / Planning	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR		AP	
13-Feb-25	Turakina CC	PR		PR										
25-Feb-25	Hearings Committee	PR			PR					AT				
26-Feb-25	Finance / Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR				PR	PR	PR		PR	
26-Feb-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
4-Mar-25	ERWS	PR								AP				PR
6-Mar-25	Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
12-Mar-25	Bulls CC	PR		PR							AT	PR		
13-Mar-25	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	
13-Mar-25	PPL Hearing	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	
19-Mar-25	RA Meeting	PR	PR		PR		AP		PR					

Present (and is a member of the committee) PR
 Apology AP
 Absent - no apology received AB
 Not a member of the committee
 Not a member of the committee (but still attended) AT
 Not present as on Council business CB
 Attended via Zoom [this indicator is no longer used] ZM

9 Chief Executive's Report

9.1 Chief Executive's Report - March 2025

Author: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report provides Elected Members with an update on key activities across the organisation.

2. Events Held Across the District at Council's Facilities

- 2.1 16, 23, 30 January 6, 13, 20 February 2025 – Social touch rugby competition – Hunterville Domain – all fields
- 2.2 7 - 9 February 2025 – Taihape Show Jumping – Memorial Park, Taihape – All fields and Nga Awa Block
- 2.3 15 February 2025 – Fest-A-Bull – Te Matapihi – Village Green
- 2.4 16 February 2025 – Summer Music Festival – Village Green, Marton
- 2.5 17, 24 February, 3, 10, 17, 24 March 2025 – Community Touch Competition – Marton Park – Field 1
- 2.6 20 – 24 February 2025 – Camp fest – Bulls Domain – all fields and grass areas.

3. Staff Movements

- 3.1 In February, we welcomed the following employees:

- Paul Carlsson, Assets Manager
- Sheryl Jones, Cleaner

- 3.2 Council also farewelled the following team members in February:

- Mark Power, Animal Control Officer
- Alice Greenwood, Cleaner
- Trevor Williams, Parks Assistant
- Deb Haworth, Community Engagement Officer

4. 12-Month Exit Interview Summary, January – December 2024:

- 4.1 All permanent and fixed term employees leaving RDC are invited to participate in an exit interview. Exit interviews provide insights on the persons experience during their time at Council along with trends on primary reasons for leaving. Interim analysis of results is undertaken at the six-month point (January to June report), with a full year assessment undertaken after 12-months. A summary of exit data for January to December 2024 is provided below:

- 4.1.1 There were 16 exits during the 12 months to 31 December 2024; seven in the first six months and nine during the last six months.
- 4.1.2 RDC's annual staff turnover rate to 31 December 2024 was 11.5% compared with 24.3% for the previous year.
- 4.1.3 Six exit interviews were completed between January and December 2024.
- 4.1.4 Length of service: The highest number of exits occurred within the first four years of employment. Of the 16 exits in the year to 31 December 2024, four occurred between one and two years of service, and four occurred between three and four years of service.

Trends:

- 4.1.5 While it is difficult to assess trends due to low exit interview numbers, the most commonly reported highlight was RDC's organisational culture.
 - 4.1.6 The most commonly reported reason for leaving was career development.
 - 4.1.7 The above trends are consistent with previous reports.
- 4.2 Feedback gained from exit interviews is incorporated into continuous improvement initiatives.

5. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Dashboard

- 5.1 The Health, Safety and Wellbeing Dashboard for February 2025 is attached (Attachment 1).

6. Consultation Tracker Dashboard

- 6.1 Attached is the latest Consultation Tracker dashboard, refer to Attachment 2. This dashboard highlights the topic, staff lead and expected consultation period. This is provided to Council and our Community Boards and Community Committees.

7. Submissions

- 7.1 The updated list of current opportunities to submit on consultations run by external agencies is attached (Attachment 3).

A submission is being drafted for the Commerce Commission's consultation on the economic regulation of water services. This submission is due on 26 March 2025. Once it is submitted it will be able to be found on Council's website [Submissions made to other Organisations](#)

Submissions will also be prepared to Taumata Arowai consultation on New Zealand's wastewater system, Parliament Justice Committee's Enabling 4 year terms, and LGNZ's election reform draft position paper.

There have not been any significant updates to any upcoming consultations that Officers are aware of.

8. Fund for Projects that Support Survivors of Abuse in Care

- 8.1 In June 2024 the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry delivered its final report Whanaketia – Through pain and trauma, from darkness to light. One of the report's recommendations was for the New Zealand Government to set up a (\$2M) fund for projects that support survivors of abuse in care and their whānau. The fund is

administered by Community Operations Hāpai Hapori in partnership with the Crown Response Office (CRO), who will provide additional support and advice.

- 8.2 The Survivor Support & Recognition Fund (SSRF) opened on 19 February 2025, is non-contestable and each grant is limited to \$50,000 or until the fund is depleted, by the closing date of 30 June 2026.
- 8.3 Rangitikei District Council's eligibility involves the memorialisation, remembrance and honouring of those who died in care (in former psychiatric hospitals within their territorial boundaries) and are buried in unmarked graves in ways that are appropriate for local communities. We are aware that there are unmarked graves within the Mt View and Clifton Cemeteries that fall into this category.
- 8.4 As directed, we have advised the Hāpai Hapori administrators that RDC will be applying to the fund so we can have access to the online grant management system. Gaylene Prince will be the primary contact and be responsible for the preparation of the application, we will keep Council informed as we progress through the process.

9. Rubbish Collection Services

- 9.1 Central Waste (operating as Rangitikei Wheelie Bins (RWB)) went into liquidation earlier this year. In mid February Council was made aware that rubbish across the district had not been picked up. Staff worked with an alternative provider – Smart Environmental to put in a temporary solution to pick up rubbish left behind by RWB.
- 9.2 There are alternative providers in the District and these companies names have been made available to the public on Council's website and social media channels, as well as front office staff giving this advice to customers if they receive enquiries.
- 9.3 The temporary arrangement with Smart Environmental will come at a cost to Council, this is expected to be around \$10,000 – this will show as an unbudgeted expense to the solid waste budget.

10. Cooks Wall Update

- 10.1 Officers are working with the tenant and building owner on timing for completion of works.

11. Broadway / High Street, Marton Buildings Sale

- 11.1 Officers are continuing to work with the interested party around their due diligence process.

12. Financial Implications

- 12.1 The temporary arrangement with Smart Environmental means Council will incur an unbudgeted cost of approximately \$10,000 to ensure rubbish is collected following the liquidation of RWB.

13. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 13.1 Legal and political environment requires excessive resources / changes to governmental legislation are transformational:
 - Tracking external submissions ensures Council is aware of upcoming legislative changes which may require resources.

13.2 Obligations with health, safety and wellbeing are not met:

- The Health, Safety and Wellbeing dashboard is attached. There is a strong focus on Health, Safety and Wellbeing within the organisation.

14. Strategic Alignment

14.1 Council has a social and wellbeing responsibility to ensure our environment is looked after, assisting with a temporary solution for the collection of rubbish meets this.

15. Mana Whenua Implications

15.1 Members of the Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti receive the submission list and, if time allows, asked for input into specific draft submissions.

15.2 There are no other known mana whenua implications associated with this report.

16. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

16.1 There are no other climate change impacts associated with this report.

17. Statutory Implications

17.1 There are no statutory implications associated with the updates in this report.

18. Decision Making Process

18.1 There are no sections of this report that are considered to be a significant decision according to the Council's Policy on Significance and Engagement.

Attachments:

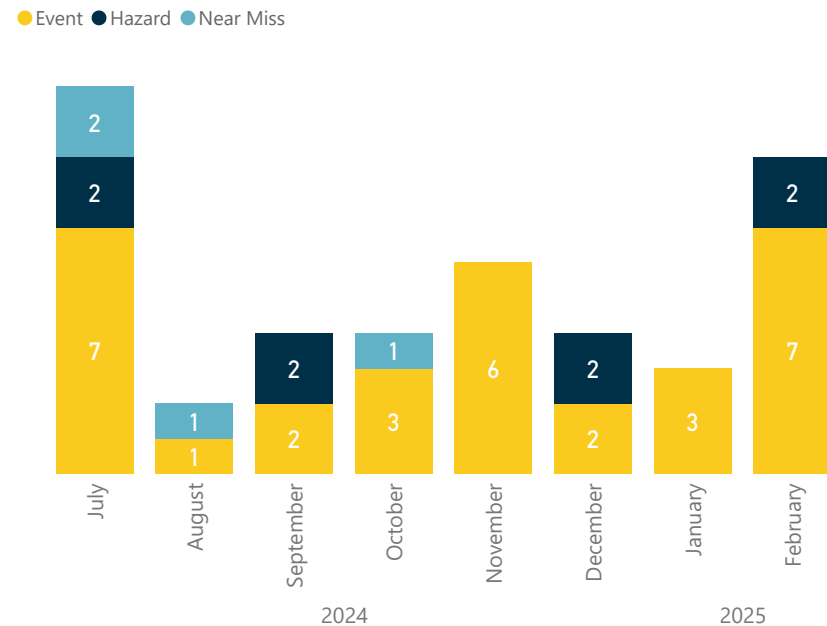
1. **HSW Dashboard February 2025** [↓](#)
2. **Consultation Tracker - March 2025** [↓](#)
3. **Submissions - March 2025** [↓](#)

Recommendation

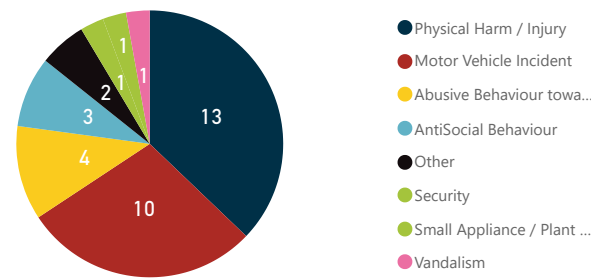
That Chief Executive's Report – March 2025 be received.

RDC Health and Safety Dashboard February 2025

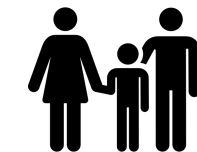
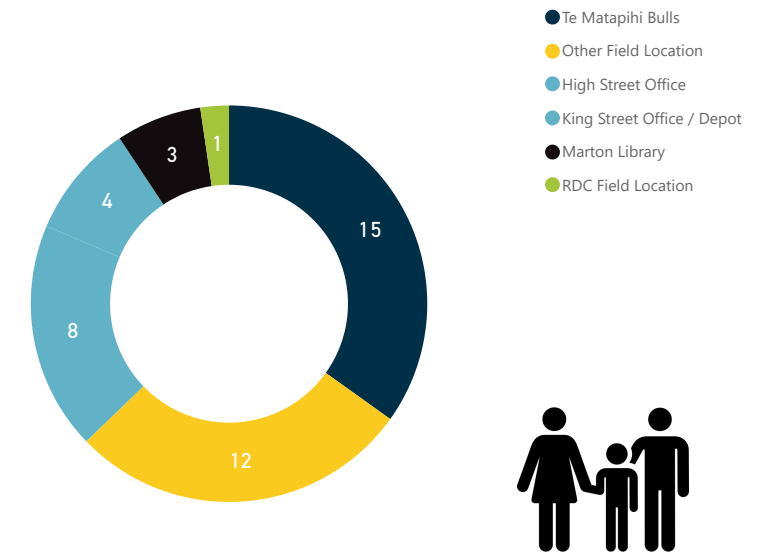
Events, Hazards and Near Misses 01 July 2024 to date



Event/Near Miss Category 01 July 2024 to date



Location Events, Hazards and Near Misses



Summary of Month

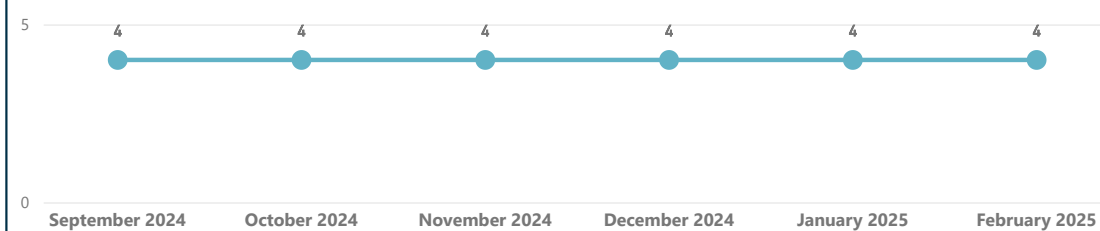
7 Events
0 Notifiable Incidents
0 Notifiable Illness/Injuries

0 Near Misses
2 Hazards

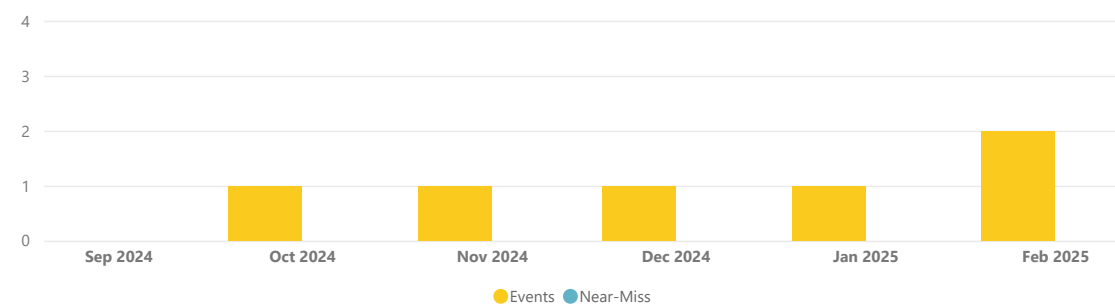
Average Driver Ratings

Ratings from E-Road Dashboard (Overspeed / Harsh Braking & Harsh Acceleration Events)

53% Completed Driver Safety Training



Vehicle Incidents



February Wellbeing News

Vitae – Employee Assistance Services

As part of Hauora Ake – Wellbeing Programme RDC staff have access to Vitae. These services may be accessed for any reason, whether the matter is work related or personal. Vitae provides nationwide assistance and has experienced professionals and onsite specialist that can assist with a wide range of workplace issues, relationships, financial & family problems.

The services RDC staff can access are:

- Counselling (managing conflict, coping with change, stress, grief, career transitions, relationship issues, gambling, alcohol / substance abuse, parenting, conflict, pain, trauma, anxiety, depression and more)
- Couples Counselling
- Menopause Support
- Financial Wellbeing
- Rongoa Māori

You can access Vitae by phoning their 24/7 helpline on 0508 664 981, or by emailing assistance@vitae.co.nz You can check out Kapua for more information on the services available by clicking on the Health, Safety & Wellbeing link, then selecting the "Wellbeing" page.

2025 Consultation Tracker

Rangitikei District Council



Project	Staff Lead	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
Gambling Policy / TAB Venues	Janna	Consultation 27th Jan - 21 Feb		Hearing - 13 Mar									
Local Water Done Well	Arno	Adoption of Consultation doc - 26th Feb		Consultation 5th March - 2nd April		Deliberations - 22 May							
District Plan Review Urban Growth Plan Change	Tiffany	Engagement Mar - Apr							Notification				
Annual Plan Fees & Charges	Janna Janna	Adoption of CD & draft annual plan - 27 Mar		Consultation 4 April - 5 May		Hearing - 15 May		Deliberations - 5 June					
Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy	Janna/Bryan	Adopt of draft consultation - 27 Mar		Consultation as part of Annual Plan		Hearing - 15 May		Deliberations - 5 June					
Waste Minimisation Plan	Arno/Raj	Adoption of draft WMMP - 27 Mar		Consultation as part of Annual Plan		Hearing - 15 May		Deliberations - 5 June					
Marton-Bulls Wastewater Strategy	Arno					Adoption		Consultation					
Local Body Elections Māori Wards Referendum	Katrina Katrina					National, regional, local campaign			Pre-election period - no campaign comms		Election		
Rātana Road Naming (landowners only)	Katrina	Consultation											
Bulls Recreation Master Plan	Katrina	Engagement											

Current Consultations

Name of Initiative	Agency Engaging	Due Date	Description	RDC Action
Currently Open for Submissions				
Economic regulation of water services – information disclosure	Commerce Commission	26 March	The Information Disclosure (ID) Discussion Paper is the Commerce Commission's first step in engaging with water sector stakeholders to understand their views on how they could develop a new performance reporting regime (ID) for water service providers.	Submit
Local water done well PNCC	PNCC	30 March	The Council's preferred water services delivery model is to form a joint CCO with Manawatu, Horowhenua and Kapiti District Councils.	None
Consumer Guarantees (Right to Repair) Amendment Bill	Parliament - Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee	03 April	The Bill will require manufacturers to: reasonably ensure that facilities for repair of goods and supply of parts for the goods are reasonably available for a reasonable period after the goods are supplied, provide the consumer with, upon request, information, spare parts, software, and other tools used for diagnosing, maintaining, or repairing goods.	None
Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment	NZTA Waka Kotahi	04 April	The Amendment Rule sets out proposed changes to the Rule to reduce: (a) Warrant of Fitness check frequency for vehicles over 40 years old from every 6 months to every year, and (b) Certificate of Fitness check frequency for privately owned heavy motorhome vehicles from every 6 months to every year.	None
Updating New Zealand's engine fuel specifications	MBIE	04 April	The proposal is to move to align with the current European Euro 6d standard by 2028. Options are assessed against the following criteria: (a) Emissions reduction — including keeping pace with international vehicle harmful emission standards, and facilitating adoption of low-carbon emissions fuel, (b) Ensuring consumer protection - ensuring that fuel is fit for purpose; (c) Avoiding disproportionate economic cost to consumers (taking into account impacts on fuel prices and difficulty in sourcing fuel products from overseas refineries), and (d) Optimising government administration (taking into account fuel quality monitoring costs and regulatory burden).	None

ITEM 9.1 ATTACHMENT 3

Public feedback on Government Procurement Rules	MBIE	08 April	The Government Procurement Rules set minimum expectations when spending public money on goods and services. Value thresholds are \$100,000 for goods, services and refurbishment works and \$9 million for new construction works. The revision has a focus on delivery in the post contract award stage, through new Rules on supplier and contract management, and they emphasise visibility of contracts. Local government is 'expected and encouraged to apply the new Rules'	None
Term of Parliament - Enabling 4-year Term	Parliament Justice Committee	17 April	This bill would create an option to extend the Parliamentary term to four years at the start of each term. The term could be extended to four years only if the overall membership of Parliament's subject select committees was proportional to the party membership in the House of Representatives of the non-executive members.	Submit
Referendum Frameworks Bill	Parliament Justice Committee	17 April	The Bill focuses on the mechanics of a referendum for the next two general elections (potentially 2026 and 2029). The legislative framework for the conduct of referendums will be the same as applies to the conduct of the general election; the Bill replicates the regulatory regime that applies to third-party promoters in respect of election advertisements to apply to any promoters of referendum advertisements.	None
New Zealand's future wastewater system	Water Services Authority - Taumata Arowai	25 April	The four proposed national wastewater standards cover the most common consenting topics (discharging treated wastewater to water or land, safe biosolid use, and managing overflows and bypasses) – with requirements tailored to appropriately manage the level of risk to public health and different environments.	Submit
Land Transport Management - Time of Use Charging	Parliament Transport and Infrastructure Committee	27 April	This bill would enable local authorities to identify areas of high congestion, propose indicative scheme areas, and set out potential charging zones for approval by the Minister of Transport.	None
Reviewing the Biosecurity - Meat and Food Waste for Pigs	Ministry for Primary Industries	27 April	Requirements for feeding meat and food waste to pigs are in the Biosecurity (Meat and Food Waste for Pigs) Regulations 2005. The regulations provide important protection against exotic diseases entering New Zealand that would affect pigs and the livestock sector. The discussion paper outlines four options: (a) Keep the status quo: meat food waste cannot be	None

			fed to pigs unless treated, (b) Prohibit feeding food waste to pigs that contains meat (or has come into contact with meat), (c) Require food waste producers to treat it before it can be distributed and (d) Prohibit feeding any food waste to pigs.	
LGNZ local election reform draft position paper	LGNZ	28 April	Working group position paper on LG electoral reform	Submit
Survivor Support and Recognition Fund	Internal Affairs	30 June 2026	Eligible organisations include local government authorities that have unmarked graves relating to former psychiatric hospitals or other former care institutions within their territorial boundaries.	Will seek funding

10 Reports for Decision

10.1 Adoption of The Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co for Consultation

Author: Janna Harris, Corporate Planner

Authoriser: Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co. document and supporting information to Council for their consideration and adoption for consultation.

2. Documents for Consultation

Annual Plan 2025/26

- 2.1 Every three years Council is required to prepare a Long Term Plan (LTP). In the years that a LTP is not prepared, an Annual Plan must be prepared. An Annual Plan provides a work programme for a particular financial year. Public consultation is required only when there will be significant or material changes to what was identified for that year in the relevant LTP.
- 2.2 Council has held a number of workshops on the 2025/26 budgets and has not identified any significant or material changes. However, Council still wanted to share with the community what it has planned for the 2025/26 financial year and provide an opportunity for formal feedback to be provided. Officers have prepared the Annual Plan & Co document to provide this opportunity for community discussion.
- 2.3 The Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 is attached (under separate cover) and the Annual Plan & Co document will provided prior to the meeting.

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

- 2.4 Council has a legislative requirement to review its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) every 6 years. This plan sets out the vision, objective and goals for minimising and managing waste in the Rangitikei.
- 2.5 A waste assessment was completed in 2024 which provided the background information to support the development of the draft WMMP. Through workshops, Council considered potential options for increasing the effectiveness of waste management and minimisation throughout the district.
- 2.6 The proposed approach to managing and minimising waste is not significantly different from the 2018-24 WMMP. The proposed vision has been updated to better reflect the New Zealand Waste Strategy. This proposed vision is *'To maintain a healthy and protected environment for Rangitikei by reducing our impact on the environment.'* Three new goals have also been drafted to help Rangitikei achieve this vision.
- 2.7 The Draft WMMP and Statement of Proposal are attached (under separate cover).

Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26

- 2.8 Council reviews its Schedule of Fees and Charges every year. Some fees and charges are set by legislation and therefore remain unchanged. Other fees and charges have been

increased to reflect the actual cost increase of delivering that service. The remaining fees and charges have been increased by 2.3%, the CPI index provided by BERL before being rounded.

- 2.9 In addition, a number of changes outside this scope have been proposed as outlined below.

Cemeteries

2.9.1 A full review of the cemeteries fees and charges has taken place. The price of purchasing plots and interment fees have increased to cover the costs of creating and maintaining these plots. Of note stillborn and infants up to the age of one will now receive a plot free of charge and will continue to be interred for free. Children over one years old are proposed to be charged under an “All Plots” category. The Rose Berm Mt View and monumental permit are also proposed to be removed.

Regulatory

2.9.2 New seizure and rehoming fees are proposed to cover the cost of seizing and rehoming animals.

2.9.3 A charge has been included to allow alcohol licensees to put their public notice on Council’s website instead of going in the newspaper, providing them a cheaper option.

Three waters connection

2.9.4 A new connection fee will be charged to cover administration and inspection costs for any new water, stormwater and wastewater service connection.

2.9.5 A new bond will also be added for any new connection. This bond would be fully refundable if this work does not damage Council roads or footpaths.

2.9.6 The definition of extraordinary water users has been updated to capture any residential property with a pool.

Roading

2.9.7 A new bond is proposed for new vehicle crossings. This bond will be fully refundable if this work does not damage Council roads or footpaths.

Hall Charges

2.9.8 The structure of the hire costs of the hall and meeting rooms at Te Matapihi has been simplified.

2.9.9 All other meeting rooms and halls for hire in the district have been updated to have the same discount structure for multi hour and not for profit bookings.

2.10 The Statement of Proposal and the Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26 is attached (under separate cover).

Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Building Policy

2.11 The Building Act 2004 requires Council to review its policy on dangerous, affected and insanitary buildings every 5 years. This policy provides Council with a means to ensure that dangerous and insanitary buildings are improved to meet building code standards, and affected buildings do not pose a risk to occupants.

- 2.12 The Policy/Planning Committee was presented with the draft policy and made the following recommendation

Resolved minute number 25/PPL/005

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that the Draft Dangerous, Affected, and Insanitary Policy' is adopted for consultation with minor amendment.

Cr P Hiroa/Cr D Wilson. Carried

- 2.13 The proposed changes made to this policy are considered to be minor. The current policy approach is reactive, meaning that Council will only assess a potentially dangerous, affected or insanitary building if a complaint or other information is received. This approach is proposed to continue. The changes that have been proposed aim to clarify the intent of the provisions, improve the flow of the policy to improve readability, and incorporate changes in legislation and the wider environment.

- 2.14 The Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanity Building Policy and Statement of Proposal is attached (under separate cover).

3. Discussion and Options Considered

Annual Plan 2025/26

- 3.1 Option 1: Adopt the Annual Plan & Co document under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 for consultation. This option should be chosen if Council wishes to consult with the community on what Council is proposing for the 2025/26 Annual Plan 2025/26.
- 3.2 Option 2: Council recognises that there are no significant or material changes between year 2 of the LTP 2024-34 and the Annual Plan 2025/26 and that there is no requirement to consult on the Annual Plan 2025/26. This option should be chosen if Council is content that the LTP consultation last year adequately informed the community of Council's priorities for the next financial year and provided the community with the opportunity to have their say.

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

- 3.3 Option 1: Adopt the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan for consultation. This option should be chosen if Council believes the draft WMMP it is ready to be consulted on.
- 3.4 Option 2: Request that Officers make significant changes to the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and bring back to Council to adopt for consultation. Note: Council has reviewed the draft WMMP through workshops and therefore clear direction should be given around what additional changes are needed.

Fees and Charges

- 3.5 Option 1: Adopt the Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26 for consultation. This option should be chosen if Council believes the fees and charges are ready to be consulted on.
- 3.6 Option 2: Request that Officers make significant changes to the Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges before bringing them back to Council to adopt for consultation. This option is not recommended as Council needs to consult on and adopt the fees and charge prior to the end of the financial year.

Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Building Policy

- 3.7 Option 1: Adopt the Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Building Policy for consultation. This option should be chosen if Council believes the policy is ready to be consulted on.
- 3.8 Option 2: Request that Officers make significant changes to the Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Building Policy before bringing them back to Council to adopt for consultation. Council is required to review and consult on any proposed changes to this policy every 5 years, therefore Council should only choose this option if Council wished to make significant changes to the draft policy.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The draft Annual Plan 2025/26 contains the draft budget for the 2025/26 financial year.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 The strategic risk trust and confidence is tarnished is relevant if communications results in the community misunderstanding the content of the consultation material and the key questions Council is consulting on. This risk has been mitigated by preparing consultation material in plain English.

6. Strategic Alignment

- 6.1 Council's strategic framework was decided during the development of the Long Term Plan. All projects within the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 align with Council's strategic framework.

7. Mana Whenua Implications

- 7.1 The draft Annual Plan 2025/26 includes all budgets, including any budget or work programme associated with engaging with mana whenua, as well as performance measures involving Te Rōpū Ahi Kā.

8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

- 8.1 The draft Annual Plan 2025/26 includes all budgets, including the budgets associated with the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy. As Officers develop any plans they are also required to take climate change into account.

9. Statutory Implications

- 9.1 Council is required to identify and consult on any significant or material changes between year 2 of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 and the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26. As there are no significant or material variations, a consultation document cannot be drafted and adopted under section 95A of the Local Government Act 2002. Instead, an Annual Plan document has been drafted that can be adopted under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002. Section 82 sets out principles of consultation that can be used to engage on the Annual Plan 2025/26.
- 9.2 The Waste Minimisation Act 2008 requires Council to consult on the Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan in accordance with the special consultative procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act. Consultation has been designed to meet these requirements.

- 9.3 Some fees need to be consulted on using the special consultative procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act, therefore the Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges document will be consulted on using this process.
- 9.4 The Building Act 2004 requires Council to consult on the Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Building Policy in accordance with the special consultative procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act. Consultation has been designed to meet these requirements.

10. Decision Making Process

- 10.1 Once adopted, the community will be provided an opportunity to share their views on the consultation topics in the form of a written submission during a one month long consultation period.
- 10.2 Post consultation there will be an opportunity for those who provided a written submission, to speak to Council in person at an oral hearing.
- 10.3 Following the hearing, Council will consider all written and oral feedback before adopting the Annual Plan 2025/26, Schedule of Fees and Charges, Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and the Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Building Policy by the end of the financial year.

Attachments:

1. **Annual Plan & Co Submission Form (under separate cover)**
2. **Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 (under separate cover)**
3. **Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (under separate cover)**
4. **Statement of Proposal Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (under separate cover)**
5. **Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Building Policy (under separate cover)**
6. **Statement of Proposal Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Building Policy (under separate cover)**
7. **Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26 (under separate cover)**
8. **Statement of Proposal Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26 (under separate cover)**

Recommendation 1

That the report 'Adoption of the Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co for Consultation' be received.

Recommendation 2

That Council confirms that there are no significant or material differences proposed between year 2 of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 and the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26, therefore it will not consult on the Annual Plan 2025/25 in accordance with section 95A of the Local Government Act 2002.

Recommendation 3

That Council adopts the Annual Plan 2025/26 & Co document and the Draft Annual Plan 2025/26 for community consultation under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 and that Council gives the Chief Executive authority to make minor editorial and formatting changes to these documents prior to publication for consultation.

Recommendation 4

That Council adopts for consultation, using the special consultative procedure outlined in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, the:

- Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
- Draft Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy
- Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26

and the associated Statements of Proposal. That Council gives the Chief Executive authority to make minor editorial and formatting changes prior to publication for consultation.

10.2 Analysis of Submission - Rātana Road Renaming

Author: Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy

Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of the submission received on the proposal to rename the rural section of Rātana Road to Papa Kōura to inform Council’s deliberation.

2. Context

2.1 The Rātana Community Board has been working through developing an option to address an issue with the naming/numbering along Rātana Road. The numbering on Rātana Road south of Kiatere Street follows the urban addressing standards. The numbering on Rātana Road north of Kiatere Street follows the rural distance based addressing standards (RAPID numbering), starting from the intersection of State Highway 3 and increasing towards Kiatere Street. This means entranceways that fall within 520m of the SH3 intersection will require RAPID numbers between 1 and 52, which already exist within the urban section. Currently there are three existing RAPID numbers that fall within this range, two of which are duplicated numbers



2.2 Following a recommendation from the Rātana Community Board (who consulted with the Church Committee directly), Council approved consultation with landowners along the rural section of Rātana Road on the proposal to change the name of the road to “Papa Kōura”.

2.3 Consultation ran from 29 November 2024 to 20 January 2025. Landowners along the affected section were sent a letter and submission form.

3. Submissions

3.1 One submission was received from Ricky Taiaroa, and he spoke to this submission at the 26 February Council meeting (Attachment 1). The submitter raised a number of points in opposition to the proposal including:

- Road naming is significant to the Church and every name is significant.
- Opposed to the renaming, suggested the road remain named as Rātana Road or provided alternative names - Rātana Tiriti for residential and Rātana Road for the rural section.
- Considers the interpretation of the name Papa Kōura is a willow herb (weed).

4. Recommendation from the Rātana Community Board & letter from Komiti Matua o te Haahi Rātana

4.1 At the Rātana Community Board meeting on 11 February 2025, the Board considered the submission and provided advice back to Council. The Board raised the following points when reconfirming their recommendation of the renaming to Papa Kōura:

- The meaning of the name is not a weed. The proposed name is significant to the Church. The name is what the founder of the Church, Tahupotiki Wiremu Ratana named the area.
- The Rātana Community Board followed correct process that aligns with local customs.
- The name was taken to the Church Komiti for approval and approved.
- The Tumuaki supports the proposed name.

Resolved minute number 25/RCB/001

That the Rātana Community Board recommend to Council in relation to the renaming of Rātana Road to Papa Kōura.

Ms G Taiaroa/Ms W Hamahona. Carried HWTM abstained. HWTM did not participate in the discussion of this item.

4.2 The Minister from the Church was present at the Rātana Community Board meeting, and a letter was submitted from the Komiti Matua o te Haahi Rātana, supporting the name Papa Kōura and the process undertaken by the Community Board. This letter is attached (Attachment 2).

5. Options Considered

5.1 Option 1 – renaming of Rātana Road as Papa Kōura

- This option would have Council rename the rural section of road from Rātana Road to Papa Kōura. Consultation has been completed, and the next steps would be notifying landowners and changing the sign. This option is the option recommended by the Rātana Community Board. The Rātana Community Board has investigated a range of options in making this recommendation to Council.

5.2 Option 2 – request staff to work with the Rātana Community Board on an alternative option

- This option would have Council provide direction to staff on an alternative option for addressing the numbering/naming issue along Rātana Road. This option is not recommended as the Rātana Community Board has put extensive time into

providing Council with a recommendation to address the issue. The status quo is not an option due to issues with safety, and inconsistency with road naming and numbering standards.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are limited financial implications. Consultation undertaken has been met under existing staff resources. The cost for changing a road sign is minimal and can be met from existing budgets.

7. Impact on Strategic Risks

7.1 There are no anticipated impacts on Council's strategic risks.

8. Strategic Alignment

8.1 The topic aligns with the community outcome of cultural wellbeing as road naming can contribute to the sense of place for a community.

9. Mana Whenua Implications

9.1 The Rātana Community Board has led the conversation within the community and had direct discussions with Church Committee.

10. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

10.1 There are no relevant climate change impacts for consideration.

11. Statutory Implications

11.1 There are no relevant statutory implications for this decision. Council has followed an appropriate consultation process that aligns with the Significant and Engagement Policy and relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 2002.

12. Decision Making Process

12.1 The recommendation below is aligned with the recommended from the Rātana Community Board. Council may choose to provide guidance on an alternative approach.

Attachments:

1. **Submission - Rātana Road Naming - Mr Taiaroa** [↓](#)
2. **Letter - Kōmiti Matua o te Haahi Ratana** [↓](#)

Recommendation 1

That the report Analysis of Submission - Rātana Road Renaming be received.

Recommendation 2

That Council renames the rural section of Rātana Road (north of Kiatere Street) to Papa Kōura.

From: Ricky Taiaroa
Sent: Monday, 20 January 2025 10:24 am
To: Katrina Gray; Andy Watson; Graeme Pointon
Cc:
Subject: renaming " Ratana Rd " to " Papa Koura "
Follow Up Flag:
Flag Status:

tena koe katrina

i have spoken with the president of the church, major land owners affected by the proposed name change.

It is the intent of this email to enlighten you and RDC Council being New Zealanders as to the national significance that occurred 100 years ago.

“ our people were on the brink of annihilation, the maori indigenous population reduced from 140k to a mere 40k by the epidemic influenza 1918 “ TW Ratana was a faith healer used mightily of God to heal OUR and YOUR people of that time

1. every name of every street and road in ratana bares significance relative to the church, movement, its adherents, ratana family and land owners
2. renaming a road after a willow herb (weed) can only be seen as an abomination to one of only (2) indigenous aboriginal registered churches in Aotearoa
3. none of the 10 new residential homes block 110 would like to be named after a weed
4. the proposed renaming diminishes the name of ratana rd thru tokenism by suggesting its is still there but significantly reduced

may i suggest

1. Ratana Tiriti for residents (residential zoning) in the settlement, to include the 10 new residential homes (block 110) and no 162
2. Ratana Road for rural (rural zoning) after 162 to SH3 that would include the access to the urupa, our home and blocks, the new Water Treatment Plant, additional blocks owned by Ratana Orakeinui and Rana

Naku Noa Na
 Ricky Taiaroa

nb your letter was addressed to Myself and Sonny Tamou

Kia Whai Korōria, Hōnore, Hareruia ki a Ihoa o ngā mano
Matua, Tama, Wairua Tapu me ngā Ānahera Pono me te Māngai, Aianeī,
Akeneī Ae.



Tari o te Kōmiti Matua o te Haahi Rātana
National Church Executive of The Ratana Established Church of NZ.

24th Pepuere 2025,

Rangitikei District Council,
Marton.

Proposed Name Change, Ratana Road

Tēnā koutou,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Kōmiti Matua o te Haahi Ratana.

Komiti Matua o te Haahi held a meeting on the 5th May 2024, at the Church Office in Ratana Paa, and discussed the proposed name change for Ratana Road.

Hekeretari Piriwiritua Rurawhe suggested, consultation back to the Community of Ratana Paa was recommended and we also reserve the Right to be consulted on any historical names to be changed in the future.

A name suggested for Ratana Rd, was Papa Koura because historically, that's what the founder of our Church, Tahupotiki Wiremu Ratana named that area.

The name Papa Koura was supported by the membership and a recommendation to the Community Board was to be submitted and presented to the Rangitikei District Council.

If you require further information please don't hesitate to make contact.

Ngā Manaakitanga ki a koe.

Nāku iti nei

Wikitoria Waitai Rapana

Hekeretari Āwhina o te Haahi Ratana

10.3 Triennial Elections 2025**Author: Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy****Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive****1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To provide an overview of timeframes for the 2025 local body elections and establish the order in which candidate's names will be shown on the voting documents.

2. Context

- 2.1 The triennial elections for Rangitikei District Council will be held on 11 October 2025.
- 2.2 Council has contracted electionz.com to manage its 2025 elections, with Warwick Lamm as Electoral Officer and Katrina Gray as Deputy Electoral Officer.
- 2.3 The 2025 elections will be conducted using the First Past the Post electoral system.
- 2.4 Council may decide whether candidate names are to be arranged on the voting documents in either:
 - Random - Random order is where all candidate names are randomly selected by computer, and the order of names is different on every voting document.
 - Pseudo-random - Pseudo-random order is where all candidate names are randomly selected, and the order selected is the order appearing on all voting documents relevant to that issue. The names are randomly selected by a method such as drawing names out of a hat.
 - Alphabetical - Candidate names are listed alphabetically by surname on all voting documents.
- 2.5 In the absence of any Council resolution approving another arrangement, legislation provides for a default position of alphabetical order of surname. Rangitikei District Council used 'Random Order' for the 2022 election.
- 2.6 Voting papers for the 2025 election will contain elections for the following issues (or will advise who has been elected if the number of candidates does not exceed the number of vacancies for any particular position):
 - 2.6.1 Mayoral election
 - 2.6.2 Election of councillors for the general wards – Northern, Central, Southern or election of councillors for the Māori wards – Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) and Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal)
 - 2.6.3 Ratana Community Board and Taihape Community Board
 - 2.6.4 Rangitikei District Council Māori Ward Poll
 - 2.6.5 Election of constituency councillors for Horizons Regional Council
 - 2.6.6 Horizons Regional Council Māori constituencies Poll
- 2.7 The issues 2.6.1 – 2.6.3 are all subject to decision on candidate order by Rangitikei District Council. Horizons Regional Council will make their own decision.

2.8 For the 2022 triennial election, approximately 73% of Councils used the random order, 24% alphabetical, and 3% pseudo random. Throughout the region, the use in 2022 was as follows:

- Random: Whanganui, Manawatu, Tararua, Palmerston North, Horizons
- Alphabetical: Ruapehu, Horowhenua

3. 2025 Triennial Election - Key Dates

3.1 Officers are preparing a communications plan for the election which will be timed for three key stages – Enrol / Stand / Vote.

3.2 Key dates are shown below:

Candidate handbook on website	30 May 2025
Candidate briefing evening	30 June 2025
Pre-election report	11 July 2025
Nominations period	4 July 2025 – 1 August 2025 (12 noon)
Voting period	9 September 2025 – 11 October 2025 (12 noon)
Declaration of results	16 October 2025
Inaugural meeting and swearing in	23 October 2025

4. Options

4.1 Option 1 – Random order of candidate names

4.1.1 Random order is where all candidate names are randomly selected by computer, and the order of names is different on every voting document.

4.2 Option 2 - Pseudo-random order of candidate names

4.2.1 Pseudo-random order is where all candidate names are randomly selected, and the order selected is the order appearing on all voting documents relevant to that issue. The names are randomly selected by a method such as drawing names out of a hat.

4.3 Option 3 – Alphabetical order of candidate names

4.3.1 Candidate names are listed alphabetically by surname on all voting documents.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The costs associated with elections are mandatory. Due to an input error there is insufficient budget in the 2024/25 year to cover expected costs. This has been addressed for the 2025/26 financial year.

6. Impact on Strategic Risks

6.1 Trust and confidence is tarnished – the Triennial Election in accordance with legislative requirements. A communications plan is being developed to ensure the community understands the importance of voting at the election. Protocols will be distributed to

elected members that provide clear guidance for any incumbent elected members that seek re-election.

7. Strategic Alignment

7.1 There are no relevant aspects of strategic alignment for consideration.

8. Mana Whenua Implications

8.1 As part of the 2025 triennial election, a poll will be held on the Māori Ward. This is a legislative requirement.

9. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

9.1 There are no climate change impacts associated with this item.

10. Statutory Implications

10.1 Elections are held in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001. The Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024, enacted on 30 July 2024 requires a poll to be held at the 2025 election.

11. Conclusion

11.1 The triennial election is scheduled for 11 October 2025. This report has provided an overview of key dates and asks Council to decide on the order of names of candidates on the ballot paper.

12. Decision Making Process

12.1 This decision is not considered to be significant.

Recommendation 1

That the report 'Triennial Elections' be received.

Recommendation 2

That the names of candidates for the 2025 Rangitīkei District Council triennial elections, and any subsequent by-elections, be arranged on the ballot paper in the order chosen below:

- Random
- Pseudo-random
- Alphabetical by surname

11 Reports for Information

11.1 Marton Pool Update

Author: Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive

Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 Phase 2 of the detailed asset condition assessment of the Marton Pool facility has now been completed. This report summarises the information detailed in phase 2 and proposes next steps.

2. Context

- 2.1 During August 2024 the Marton Pool roof structure experienced a partial failure of one of the Glulam laminated beams.
- 2.2 RDC engaged structural engineers to visit the site and to advise next steps. Temporary scaffolding was installed to prop the roof up and make it safe while further investigations were undertaken.
- 2.3 The Marton pool has been closed to the public for the 2024 – 2025 swim season.
- 2.4 Rangitikei District Council (RDC) engaged the services of a structural engineer specialising in the use of laminated beams to complete a site visit followed by a desktop review of the structural capacity of the beams and the roof. This review was completed in October 2024.
- 2.5 The original report proposed a repair to the roof that would reinstate the facility to the condition it was in before the failure. Council agreed that it would be prudent to get a more detailed view of the asset condition of the rest of the facility to assist in better decision making regarding future capital investment.
- 2.6 RDC engaged Create Architects & Engineers to conduct a detailed condition and compliance assessment of the entire Marton pool facility. Phase 1 of this work included the detailed condition and compliance assessment and was completed by the end of January 2025.
- 2.7 The detailed asset condition assessment identified all assets that needed to be renewed or upgraded to allow the facility to comply with modern standards. It also identified old equipment that should be replaced with new technology that would be more efficient and cost effective to operate.
- 2.8 Phase 2 of the work included creating an asset renewals and enhancement programme. Phase 2 made use of the output from Phase 1 to provide a list of building elements, plant and equipment and estimated cost of renewals. The Phase 2 work has now been completed.

3. Discussion and Options Considered

- 3.1 The work completed in Phase 2 identified four options to consider. The renewals and enhancement programme groups all the asset renewals and upgrades together into the 4 options that will achieve different outcomes.

- 3.2 Council will be able to make use of this information to select one of the proposed options or create a bespoke solution that would suite the required outcomes, timelines and funding capabilities.
- 3.3 The four options identified are the following:
 - 3.3.1 Short Term Options 1A and 1B
 - 1A – Do minimum

Immediate quick fix solution that will return the facility to the condition it was in before the partial failure of the laminated beam.
 - 1B - Base recommendation

This option will strengthen the facility to 67% of NBS, replace whole roof and all laminated beams, new HVAC and heating systems, improved fire safety system and replace pool pipework.
 - 3.3.2 Mid Term Future Upgrades - Option 3

Further Enhancement/Upgrades that can be programmed over 2-5 years. This will include additional items such as updating main switchboards, replace roof to change rooms, change away from DE filtration to Sand Filtration system and address accessibility shortcomings.
 - 3.3.3 Alternative Consolidated pool facility - Option 4

This option provides a consolidated facility asset that utilises key aspects of the existing facility and enhances it to reinstate a 50-year vision, with the widest community engagement. This option proposes to reconfigure the existing 50m pool into a 25m Lap pool and 3 additional warm water pools.
- 3.4 The four potential solutions range in cost estimate from less than \$1 Mil to around \$12 Mil.
- 3.5 Create Architects & Engineers will attend a workshop session on 10 April with Elected Members, this will be part of the Assets / Infrastructure Workshop and will be open to the public. The engineers will outline the information contained in the asset renewals and enhancement phase in more detail and step through the four options identified. Alternative bespoke solutions can also be considered at this workshop to assist Council in exploring all possible options and funding solutions.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There is no financial implication at this stage of the project. Future decisions might have financial implications that are unknown at this stage.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 There could be material impact on reputational risk if the Marton pool remains closed for an extended period of time or if the repair of the facility has an impact on rate rises and affordability.

6. Strategic Alignment

- 6.1 Repair of the Marton Pool facility is aligned with Council’s priorities.

ITEM 11.1

7. Mana Whenua Implications

7.1 There are no Mana Whenua implications.

8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

8.1 There are no climate change impacts and considerations.

9. Statutory Implications

9.1 There are no statutory implications.

Recommendation

That the report “Marton Pool Update” be received.

11.2 Project Updates Report - March 2025**Author: Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer****Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive****1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This is a monthly report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council's Project Office.

2. Key Highlights from Current Projects**Wastewater Projects****2.1 Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation (Project Manager – Steve Carne)**

- 2.2 Investigative work on the five shortlisted options previously identified involving disposal scenarios related to land only (1 No.), land-river combination (3 No.) and deep bore groundwater recharge options. (1 No.) is well advanced with a programmed completion of these investigations in late April 2025.
- 2.3 The late February publication of new Draft National Wastewater Discharge Standards by water industry quality regulator Taumata Arowai now means we can incorporate its contents into project considerations. Initial review indicates waterway discharges will require a far lower treatment standard than the current Horizons OnePlan requirements. Further clarity has been obtained on requirements for land discharge although the draft Standards are silent on groundwater discharges.
- 2.4 Consideration of rationalisation of the short-listed options is currently being given, with a river discharge option likely to be investigated as a result of the Standards.
- 2.5 It is proposed Steve Carne facilitate a discussion at the next Assets / Infrastructure Committee workshop on 10 April to outline implications of the standards on RDC's wastewater networks and treatment plants district wide.
- 2.6 Prioritised investigative works carried out by the team thus far have concluded that the RDC purchased land will not be able to dispose of more than 65% of current design flows. A land disposal solution will require more land, adding to its costs. This is currently being assessed by the project team.
- 2.7 Other current works are investigating the feasibility of retaining some treatment capability of the existing ponds at Marton and Bulls by way of their refurbishment and better understanding the feasibility of the groundwater discharge option.
- 2.8 Our contracted planners, Good Earth Matters (GEM), is continuing work on preparing for the consent application to follow the site investigations. The new consent application will be dependent on the findings of these investigations.
- 2.9 Dialogue with ANZCO Bulls is ongoing to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of incorporating their discharge into the Bulls plant inlet. ANZCO Bulls would become a trade waste customer of RDC under this scenario. Iwi have indicated that a single discharge at this point would be viewed more favourably by them as part of the consenting process.

- 2.10 Value engineering inputs on the shortlisted options have considered demand management scenarios involving inflow/infiltration reduction and reduction of water consumption.
- 2.11 Identification of a preferred option is programmed for mid-May 2025.
- 2.12 A community awareness and engagement campaign is currently being formulated which will have preparatory information released in the 2025 calendar year but needs to be coordinated with other campaigns around Local Water Done Well reforms.
- 2.13 Agreement from the 2 relevant Iwi has been gained for the pipe bridges on the Marton-Bulls pipeline. This will permit finalisation of the consent and then construction of these pipe bridges by RDC.

3. Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land (Project Manager – Blair King)

- 3.1 The project is in a holding pattern awaiting approval to proceed with track pricing and hard stand construction, needed to enable the pipe materials to be delivered. Work on designing the large dam that will store the treated wastewater, up to Building Consent status, continues with WSP and external experts.
- 3.2 Horizons Regional Council have booked in a pre-hearing in early March to consider the three submissions on the proposed land-based storage and wastewater irrigation.
- 3.3 Delays in construction mean the pricing considered by Council in late 2023 might need revision, and the expected increase in unit rates for power transformer, earthworks, dam liner material and irrigation equipment could be significant and potentially a risk to the viability of the consents being sought.

Water Projects

4. Marton Water Strategy (Project Manager – Steve Carne)

- 4.1 A draft contract and warranty conditions has been tabled to contractor GFS. The finalised warranty condition will be presented to Council for consideration. Contract negotiations are underway.
- 4.2 The trial pilot plant is shortly going to be relocated to the reservoir Bore site. Further testing of pre-treatment and the proposed waste stream recycling regime will be a key part of this phase of the pilot testing.
- 4.3 Queries and clarifications submitted by Council officers and agents are providing further detail on GFS' offer and reduce RDC risk exposure due to insufficient detail around various items. Responses to these clarifications and queries have been obtained and are being considered.
- 4.4 A design consultancy with WSP has almost completed design of the inlet work. This is inclusive of a permanent pump for the new Reservoir Bore.
- 4.5 Details of the waste stream from the proposed plant are being evolved and are likely to involve recycling this steam through partial use of the existing clarifiers and filters infrastructure. The intent of this recycling is to reduce the overall waste discharge down to a level that is near that of the existing discharge and in doing so, reduce the amount of water taken from the bores. Additional works associated with this solution may be the subject of negotiations with the GFS contract.

- 4.6 Details of the proposed warranty and guarantee of plant performance are being finalised with the contractor.
- 4.7 Consent application approval for the water take has been received in preliminary form.
- 4.8 Staff are working towards a communication strategy.

Community Facilities

5. Marton Offices and Library (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)

- 5.1 Council has authorised staff to proceed with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) as a separate project independent of the Marton Offices and Community Hub.
- 5.2 Staff have engaged Planning Engineers and Independent Urban Design Review consultant for the EOC project. Both these teams will work towards a holistic approach for the project but keep the reporting independent for the two developments.
- 5.3 An initial site inspection and discussion with RDC took place on Thursday 20 March 2025.
- 5.4 Staff had discussions with Team Architects regarding their impending appointment for the EOC project.
- 5.5 From the tender responses for the Marton Offices and Community Hub project, staff have identified a Geotechnical Specialist and a Soil Contamination survey specialist to conduct detailed investigations for Soil Contamination and to identify buried tanks. These surveys will be directly managed by RDC, and the findings shall be forwarded to the final selected Design and Build Contractor.
- 5.6 Staff provided a project progress update via email to Len Hetet from Baked Design.
- 5.7 The tender process for the Marton Offices and Community Hub concluded on 17 March 2025 with staff are in the process of selecting the preferred Design and Build contractor. A separate report will be brought to Council seeking approval to enter into a contract with the preferred contractor.

6. Taihape Grandstand (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)

- 6.1 Staff presented a report during the November 2024 Council meeting indicating the anticipated costs for all three concept seismic designs.
- 6.2 Council requested that the community identify their requirements for the lower floor. This needs to include engaging required specialists to design these requirements and fundraising for any work that falls outside Councils remaining budget for the project. Staff are working with the users on a date to meet and discuss these requirements.
- 6.3 A meeting was held on 19 March 2025, there was good attendance from the Memorial Park User Group and Taihape Heritage Grandstand Subcommittee, there has been agreement to meet again within the next three weeks.

7. Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)

- 7.1 Staff presented the Concept Seismic Strengthening design along with estimated costs during the December 2024 council meeting. These costs were limited to the works associated with seismic upgrade works including meeting code compliance (fire and accessibility) requirements.

- 7.2 Staff also presented an option to retain the front two-storey building along with the library but demolish and rebuild the hall at a similar estimated cost. It was noted that this option does not allow for a separate stage area or the supper room but had considered a demountable stage.
- 7.3 Staff have since had further meetings with the Maycroft team and a comprehensive Concept Design estimate will be presented at the end of March 2025 Council meeting.
- 7.4 Maycroft is also expected to present their amended alternate proposal which should now include the stage and supper room along with estimated costs for this option.

8. Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation

- 8.1 RDC engaged experts to complete a comprehensive asset condition assessment of the entire Marton pool facility.
- 8.2 This condition assessment includes all the buildings, the pool, the pool pipework and all associated filter and heating equipment. The engineers completed a two-day site investigation that covered all the items mentioned above.
- 8.3 This work has now been completed and a comprehensive asset condition report has been received early in February. The report identifies all asset renewals and upgrades that will be required to get the facility to comply with current requirements, and identified asset that will need upgrades in the short, medium and long term.
- 8.4 Phase 2 of the investigations will add costs to all identified upgrades and then prioritise the upgrades to clearly group them in like for like renewals or refurbishments of the facility for increased customer experience and a long-term vision of what the facility could be to reduce operating costs and increase use of the asset.
- 8.5 The Phase 2 work has now been completed and a more detailed summary report on the findings of the work will be presented to Council at this March 2025 Council meeting.

Miscellaneous

9. Scotts Ferry

- 9.1 Council staff are working on finalising the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will determine the activities, responsibilities and conditions when the Council owned tractor will be used in conjunction with the pump owned by a local farmer to reduce the risk of flooding at Scotts Ferry.
- 9.2 A draft has been created and is currently being reviewed. The finalised draft will then be presented to the Scotts Ferry group for consideration.
- 9.3 The Scotts Ferry firefighting group have expressed concerns about the lack of sufficient communications regarding progress with the project. RDC staff contacted the group representative and discussed progress with them. More regular updates to the group will follow.

10. Financial Implications

10.1 This report does not identify and financial implications.

11. Impact on Strategic Risks

11.1 No impacts on strategic risks

12. Strategic Alignment

12.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

13. Mana Whenua Implications

13.1 All Mana Whenua implications are managed by the individual projects.

14. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

14.1 There is no climate change impact.

15. Statutory Implications

15.1 There are no statutory implications.

Recommendation

That the report 'Project Updates Report – March 2025' be received.

12 Minutes from Committees

12.1 Minutes from Committees

ITEM 12.1

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 Committee and Board minutes are attached for Council's receipt. These are under separate cover due to size.

Attachments

1. R/A - 05 Dec 24 (under separate cover)
2. HRWS - 10 Feb 25 (under separate cover)
3. HCC – 10 Feb 25 (under separate cover)
4. RCB – 11 Feb 25 (under separate cover)
5. TCB- 12 Feb 25 (under separate cover)
6. MCC-12 Feb 25 (under separate cover)
7. TCC- 13 Feb 25 (under separate cover)
8. F/P- 26 Feb 25 (under separate cover)
9. AIN- 13 Mar 25 (under separate cover)

Recommendation

That the following minutes are received:

- Risk and Assurance Committee – 05 Dec 24
- Hunterville Rural Water Scheme Committee – 10 Feb 25
- Hunterville Community Committee – 10 Feb 25
- Rātana Community Board – 11 Feb 25
- Taihape Community Board – 12 Feb 25
- Marton Community Committee – 12 Feb 25
- Turakina Community Committee – 13 Feb 25
- Finance and Performance Committee – 26 Feb 25
- Assets and Infrastructure Committee – 13 Mar 25

13 Recommendations from Committees

13.1 Recommendation from the Assets and Infrastructure Committee

Author: Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive

Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 To consider the recommendation from the Assets / Infrastructure Committee regarding the request for Council to not approve payment of \$12,000 to the contractor that submitted the claim for the Taihape Town Hall procurement.

2. Officer Comment – Taihape Town Hall Procurement Claim

- 2.1 The recommendation was from the Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting on 13 March 2025.
- 2.2 The context from the report that was provided to the Assets/Infrastructure Committee is included below:
 - 2.2.1 *RDC initiated a procurement process for the upgrade of the Taihape Hall and Library development early in 2024.*
 - 2.2.2 *The procurement process was abandoned after receiving legal and industry best practice advice from relevant experts.*
 - 2.2.3 *Due to RDC requesting the termination of the procurement process, an offer was made to reimburse contractors for staff time committed to creating the proposal to all contractors that submitted a tender.*
 - 2.2.4 *One contractor made use of this opportunity and submitted a claim. The total value of this claim is \$12,000.*

Resolved minute number 25/AIN/007

That the committee moves into open meeting and confirm the below resolutions at 10.45am:

That the Assets / Infrastructure Committee recommends to Council they do not approve payment of \$12,000 to the contractor that submitted the claim.

Cr D Wilson/Cr B Carter. Carried

3. Public Excluded

- 3.1 Council can consider moving into public excluded during this item.
- 3.2 There are some details that are still in public excluded due to commercial negotiations with the contractor.

ITEM 13.1

Recommendation 1

That the Recommendation from the Assets / Infrastructure Committee be received.

Recommendation 2

That, following the recommendation from the Assets / Infrastructure Committee, Council do not approve payment of \$12,000 to the contractor that submitted the claim for the Taihape Town Hall procurement process.

14 Public Excluded

Resolution to Exclude the Public

The meeting went into public excluded session [enter time](#)

Recommendation

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

1. Public Excluded Council Meeting - 26 February 2025
2. Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings
3. Taihape Town Hall & Library - Concept Design
4. Marton Offices & Community Hub
5. Public Excluded Resolutions
6. Minutes from Committees (Public Excluded)

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987* for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
14.1 - Public Excluded Council Meeting - 26 February 2025	To consider the minutes relating to matters that were the subject of discussion at the 26 February meeting.	S48(1)(a)
14.2 - Follow-up Action Items from Council (Public Excluded) Meetings	To consider the matters arising from previous public excluded meetings. s7(2)(a) - Privacy s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)
14.3 - Taihape Town Hall & Library - Concept Design	To enable commercially sensitive information to be discussed without impacting any negotiations. s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)
14.4 - Marton Offices & Community Hub	To enable commercially sensitive information to be	s48(1)(a)(i)

	discussed without impacting any negotiations. s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	
14.5 - Public Excluded Resolutions	To consider previous public excluded decisions and bring these into the open. s7(2)(a) - Privacy s7(2)(b)(ii) - Commercial Position s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)
14.6 - Minutes from Committees (Public Excluded)	To receive public excluded minutes. s7(2)(a) - Privacy s7(2)(h) - Commercial Activities s7(2)(i) - Negotiations	s48(1)(a)(i)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding or the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

15 Open Meeting