



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

MARTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 11 December 2024

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: 18 Humphrey Street
Marton

Chair: Ms Carolyn Bates

Deputy Chair: Mr David Christison

Membership: Ms Lyn Duncan
Mr Peter Farrell
Ms Jennifer Greener
Ms Belinda Harvey-Larsen
Ms Sally Moore
Mr John Whittaker
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr Greg Maughan (Alternate)
HWTM Andy Watson

Purpose of the Committee

- To provide a local link and point of contact for Council liaison with the community.
- To provide for the exchange of information, communication, and to assist with the Council's consultative processes.
- To exercise delegated authority for the annual allocation of \$1.00 per rateable property for "defined small local works" in line with the guidelines provided¹.
- Particularly, to help ensure that any minor remedial or renewal works are brought to Council's attention through the Request for Service procedure, by promoting its use and advising community members on how to use it.
- To be the first point of contact (prior to Council) for community groups. Where this is not possible, the Committee will be informed of the approach by the community group to the Council.
- To engage with wider/small communities of the ward represented.

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

¹ Appended to the Delegations Register

Notice is hereby given that a Marton Community Committee Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the 18 Humphrey Street, Marton on Wednesday, 11 December 2024 at 6.00pm.

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AGENDA

1 Welcome

2 Apologies

3 Public Forum

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

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

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

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

6 Confirmation of Minutes

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The minutes from **Marton Community Committee Meeting held on 9 October 2024** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Marton Community Committee Meeting - 9 October 2024**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Marton Community Committee Meeting held on 9 October 2024 [**as amended/without amendment**] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES



UNCONFIRMED MARTON COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 9 October 2024

Time: 6.00pm

**Venue: 18 Humphrey Street
Marton**

Present

Mrs Carolyn Bates
Mr David Christison
Mrs Lyn Duncan
Mrs Belinda Harvey-Larsen
Ms Sally Moore
Mr John Whittaker
HWTM Andy Watson
Cr Greg Maughan

In attendance

Mrs Melanie Bovey, Manager – Heritage and Culture
Mrs Deb Haworth, Minute Taker
Mr Greg Smith, Chairman, Bulls Community Committee
Mr David Yates, Bulls Community Committee

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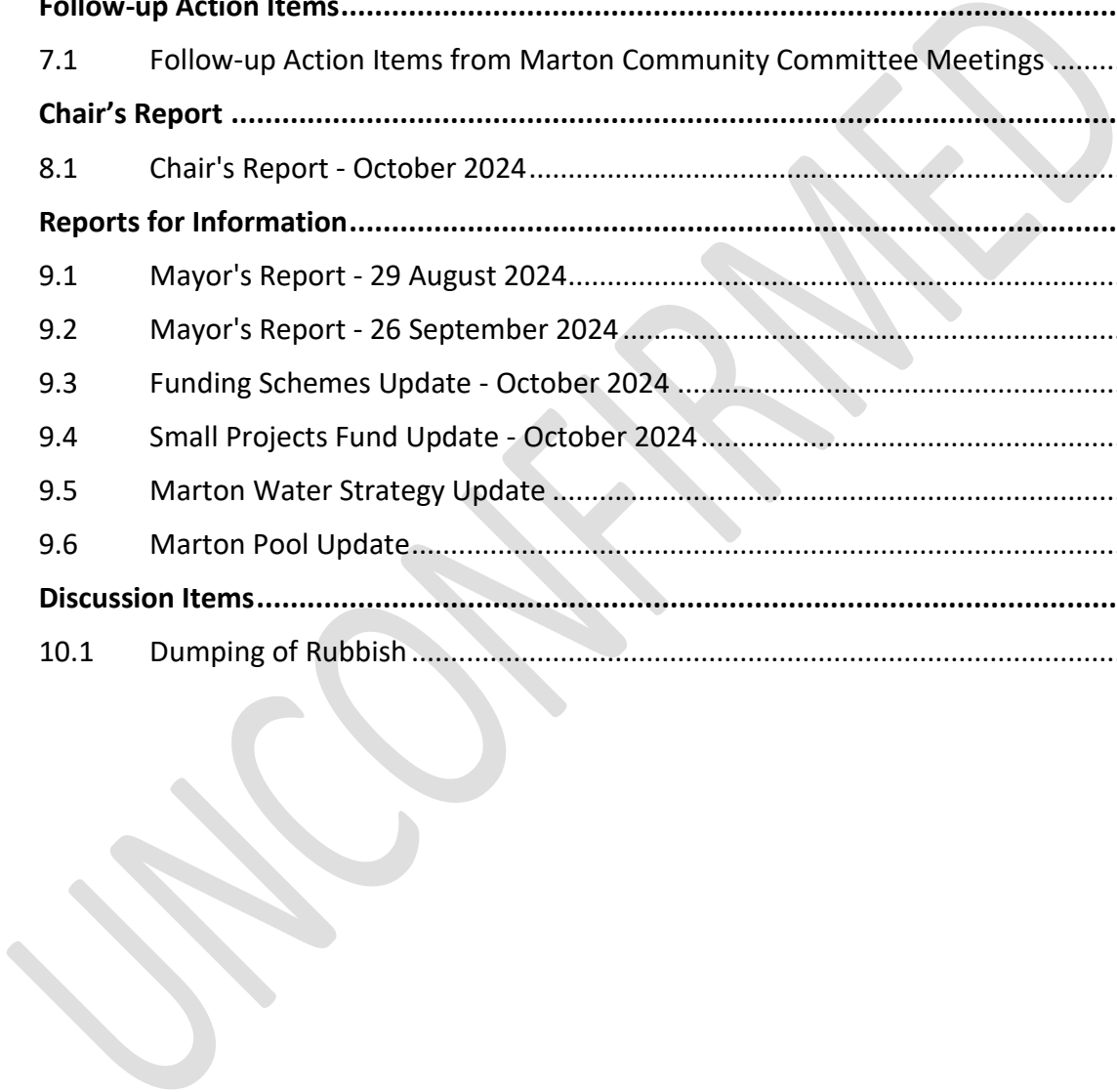
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1 Welcome

2 Apologies

Apologies received from Cr Dave Wilson, Mrs Jennifer Greener and Mr Peter Farrell.

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/032

That the minutes of Marton Community Committee Meeting held on 21 August 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.

Mrs C Bates/Mr D Christison. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Marton Community Committee Meetings

Tutaenui Water Access

Mrs Bates has spoken to Chloe who runs the Tutaenui Play Group and the last she heard was the plumbers were going out to scope the options and she had been asked by Ms Srhoj the location of a tap if they had any preference. She responded that as long as there was access to water outside, that is good.

Calico Line Footpath installation

Mrs Bates hasn't heard anymore since Cr Wilson said they were marking the boundaries, any update on that?

HWTM Watson had no real update on it except to say the more they started to mark out the boundaries, the more expensive it looks and the more intrusive it is on people's property rights.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/033

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

Ms S Moore/Mrs C Bates. Carried

Cr Maughan, Mr Smith and Mr Yates arrived at 6.10pm

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - October 2024

Mrs Bates went to the Regional Economic Growth Summit in Bulls and was there just after 11am, it had started at 10.00 am.

HWTM Watson noted that Minister Jones talked about what could be applied for under that fund. We can't do water related things, and tourism is out, it's very specific, you can go to websites from Government providers. In question time, he asked the Minister, one of the biggest expenses is that council provide services for a very small community called Ratana and that the Minister's successive Governments have promised to assist. He gave an undertaking that the Minister of Māori Affairs would help fund Ratana. What that means is yet to be clarified.

Mrs Bates said the bits she heard, it seemed they were sharing information but they were in the wrong location because they kept talking about Whanganui and Palmerston North and it felt like, you realise you are in the Rangitikei.

HWTM Watson said this was a regional discussion with the Horizons region and Accelerate 25. We provided the venue. There were people invited from Accelerate 25 to present and he was disappointed they weren't given a real opportunity.

Mrs Bates was asked about putting a banner out the Village Green for promoting organisations or events and she directed them to talk to the Council, was that the right thing to do?

HWTM Watson said that is right.

There was general discussion about other places to promote events including the Library foyer, New World and Fresh Choice.

Mrs Bates shared that for the aim of communicating, if you want an entry in the printed white pages with a mobile phone number, you can do that for a cost and include just the street name. For an entry in the online white pages, you must have your full address.

Mrs Bates spoke to Toaiva Launano-Tunai, who works for the Runanga and is based two days at Stewart Street Surgery and two days at Bulls Medical Centre. She is looking at running some healthy living courses including walking, cookery demonstrations type of thing.

Mrs Bates talked a while ago about potentially doing a session on scamming, that is likely to happen February next year.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/034

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

Mrs C Bates/Mrs B Harvey-Larsen. Carried

Mr Whittaker arrived at 6.35pm

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - 29 August 2024

HWTM Watson said Council made the decision that we would close the pool this season, it was a close vote with a number of concerns around whether we could do it safely and whether the operators wanted to operate it. We will focus on a long term permanent solution as quickly as we can, that may speed things up, concentrating on the end game rather than two things at once. He understands the disappointment especially around Learn to Swim classes so they are working hard to find alternatives for the schools.

HWTM Mayor said the Chief Executive role, we are going out publicly asking for expressions of interest in that position. Kevin Ross was always an interim solution and didn't want it to be a long term permanent position. We have appointed a recruitment agency hoping to appoint someone by the end of this year, which would mean the position might not be taken up until February/ March 2025 presuming they are employed and have to give notice.

HWTM Watson had explained to the community his disappointment that \$5 million has been taken from the roading budget and now another \$12 million has been taken. He is really concerned that the roads will continue to deteriorate quickly. The road budgets are set by NZTA because they are the biggest funder. We have put money into our budgets for our share of that \$12 million and we could say we could put that money in but that would mean we are funding without subsidy. It's a really tricky position and a huge number of his enquiries are trying to sort out the roading issues.

HWTM spoke about the Cooks Wall and said Council are wanting to resolve this. Essentially it is a common wall between Cooks and what used to be the White Hart Hotel. The Hotel was under the Church and started to demolish it but not using the correct process. It wasn't built on the correct boundary. Council of the day probably approved a building consent then you get the situation of where is the responsibility of Council doing it. There will be commercial discussions between Council and the owners but they really want to solve it because it's an eyesore and it is getting more expensive. He said it leaks badly, water ends up in Cooks, it's not weather tight, it's not structurally sound, hence the bracing on the outside. The Chief Executive is working hard to achieve an acceptable resolution.

Cr Maughan said there may be an opportunity if the wall is ever rebuilt to put something on it if you want to make it look nice. The Community Committee could get involved in what is done with the Wall, when and if it is reconstructed.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/035

That the Mayor's Report - 29 August 2024 be received.

Mrs C Bates/Mr D Christison. Carried

9.2 Mayor's Report - 26 September 2024

HWTM Mayor asked if there were any questions

Mr Smith noted in the Mayor's engagements in the Report, there was nothing between September 10 and 18. He asked where the Mayor was between those two dates.

HWTM Watson said for the first time in four years he took a holiday and went to the South Island, but he did do some Council work. He looked at the hydro storage plan for the South Island and visited each one. Because we have businesses closing, we have lost 100 people and the argument was there was insufficient power and he wanted to have a look. He also went to Tiwai Point, the aluminium smelter, but it was a holiday. He needed a break.

HWTM Mayor said for our District we have three significant wind farms being fast tracked, we have already approved three solar farms, with another two potentially and we are talking about some of the biggest solar farms in NZ. We will have an area, if it all goes ahead, from between Pukepapa Road, down Whales Line and another area down Wellington Road, hundreds of hectares.

Mrs Bates noted in HWTM Watson's reports, he reports who attends what meetings. Mrs Bates said she appreciates over the triennium any Councillor will have other commitments and a whole range of different things but from her point of view Cr Raukawa has responsibility for Marton. A while ago Cr Raukawa approached Mrs Bates about coming to a meeting and she said you are more than welcome. At the Bulls Community Committee meeting last month she raised with Cr Raukawa, asking when she will be going to turn up to a Marton meeting. Cr Raukawa said she would be here tonight. Another instance of some people not turning up when they say they are.

HWTM Watson said he will pass Mrs Bates comment on.

HWTM Watson said the Committee knows all about the 3 Waters Labour version. He would have to say the National version is very similar. There are some funding differences but essentially what the Council is required to do, within the year and it's already ticking, is provide a plan on two fronts. The first is how are we going to deal with wastewater and drinking water over the long term up until the time where we are encouraged to form regional CCOs (Council Controlled Organisation which is a technical term for a separate body to Council). There are a number of options, Council could form its own CCO or it could join with other Councils into a regional CCO. If we submit a plan and Government doesn't like it then they can tell us which body we would be joined with. The chances of doing it alone are virtually nil. The Horizons Councils are Horowhenua, Tararua, Manawatu, Whanganui, Ruapehu and ourselves, that's the Horizons region. There has been discussion at Mayoral and Chief Executive level trying to analyse the costs that each Council faces. It's a question of who would you want to get into bed with. We are doing the assessment of all Councils in the Horizons region forming a regional entity to deliver Local Water Done Well. Trying to understand the costs everybody faces and the honesty of the cost estimates is tricky. The initial figures say there is very little difference to who is in or out. The plan is that by December to have made our Council

ITEM 6.1
ATTACHMENT 1

preferred option which is a Council decision, that would then in the beginning of next year go out for consultation as our preferred solution and what other options could possibly be looked at. Each Council is deciding that independently at the same time. The problems are, there is another tranche of legislation heading our way in December at the time we are making this decision, so we won't have that knowledge. That is the economic regulation side of it and the new standards of water. Say we are sitting at the Council table and Horowhenua says our preference is to go with Wellington which is quite possible. They will be having their own independent discussion with Wellington as well as the discussion within the Horizons region. Tararua potentially is in the same sort of position. It's hard to estimate everybody's real costs because they are taken out of the Long Term Plan. We have worked on the basis that we will be providing those services in the Long Term Plan so we have been quite honest with our potential costs. If you take a city like Palmerston North, their waste water solution could be incredibly expensive and originally it was given a figure not much shy of \$1 billion. Council decided they wouldn't put that figure in the LTP and there is honesty about that because they now believe they can still discharge to the river instead of having to find a land based solution. So we are not sure of those standards, yet to be set by Government. What is very clear is we will be required to join up with some other Council entities to form a CCO. It is not a decision but where it's heading. If Councils decided the governance arm of the new entity would be each Council getting one seat at the table, and that governance arm then appoints the water entity so the operation for the water entity would be based 100% on expertise. It is independent of the Council even though the Council will have a shareholding in it, that's why it's called a CCO. CCO's are reasonably common, Palmerston North will have several already, we used to have one that delivered roading in the northern part of the district that has been disbanded.

Mrs Bates said she heard there was talk of one being set up for the Rail hub.

HWTM Watson said the Rail hub is a potential, it could be formed if it goes ahead under either a CCO or an SVP (Special Purpose Vehicle) which is a type of CCO. They are certainly not rare but essentially the CCO won't take effect until 2027/2028 so Council is still responsible for providing those three water services until 2027/2028. They were provided by the shared service from Manawatu and we have disbanded that shared service and those staff have transferred to Rangitikei which made sense. There are so many permutations and things which it affects. Stormwater is a very big thing because we are not sure where that fits or the rural water schemes fit but they will probably transfer to the new entity then have the right to be able to opt out in some shape or form. Remember that stormwater in particular is closely associated with roading so it's very hard to separate each individual function out. It will be poorly understood by communities. HWTM Watson had said to staff he wants public meetings in Taihape and Marton to explain the time frames we have to make decisions by and also as public meetings and a drop in opportunities for that day so people can come along and ask questions.

Mr Christison asked "How far away as in the time frames for the meetings?"

HWTM Watson said he has asked staff to look at diaries as to when they can be set up, but he is hoping they can be set up

Mrs Bates asked "As in this year?"

HWTM Watson said it won't be about whether Council opts in or who, it will be outlining in the first instance the process we are faced with. Then when Council makes the decision about the preferred option, then we go out through consultation as a formal process to say this is what we want to do

and if there are any other viable options, or does somebody else have an option we haven't thought of.

Mr Whittaker asked "The Government wants this done by?"

HWTM Watson said the time frames are horrible. Government wants to see action within its electoral time frame and Ministry officials and Councils, not just 3 Waters, it's the RMA processes and all sorts of things. People say why haven't we been told about it by Councils, but we have only been told about it last week. We only started briefing our Councillors 10 days ago. One of the things HWM Watson has argued for a couple of years under Labour and National, it is unlikely the economic regulation will be standardisation of prices. So the entity that is formed could potentially say it's really tricky providing these services in Taihape so Taihape can pay more or Rangitikei people pay more for the service than Palmerston North. None of that is set in stone. With standards, the Government could say no waste water should go into waterways.

Mr Christison asked "If it was true human water would be going onto land?"

HWTM Watson said the preferred solution across the country is where you can, to dispose to land. There are some companies that limit what that pasture can be used for, for instance Fonterra have a stance they don't want to take milk from a farm that has human waste put on it and that may be the way it goes. But equally you can plant trees and harvest the trees, do all sorts of things. Manawatu discharges most of the time to land and they grow baleage and sell it off. What you want is a plant that takes up waste water and it will have gone through treatment.

HWTM Watson attended a dinner meeting in Wellington, the Prime Minister was very aggressive about how all Councils should be amalgamated into huge mega councils, you should not be doing anything at all with the four wellbeings which are being repelled by Government. Should we be involved in economic development, have libraries, swimming pools, those sorts of social functions are wellbeings. Wellbeings have never been clearly defined. For instance just about every Community would say libraries do cost Councils money but are a core function of Council. The four wellbeings, do they include provisional sports fields to play sports on or cemeteries? So ahead of time, he will be asking for public meetings and part of that will be a drop in facility during the day.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/036

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

Mrs C Bates/Mrs L Duncan. Carried

9.3 Funding Schemes Update - October 2024

Mrs Bates noted in the Community Initiatives Fund, there is still \$17,500 to be allocated in the second round. It's good so many organisations are getting support.

Cr Maughan said "The original applications we got for the first Round of funding before the Councillors did their deliberations was something like \$48,000." Councillors do their deliberations to say yay or nay how much money to give, then that is moderated so there are some funds left for the second Round.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/037

That the Funding Schemes Update –October 2024 be received.

Mr J Whittaker/Mrs L Duncan. Carried

Mr Smith noted there is an error on page 36 Item 343 BCDT, it is supposed to be the Bulls & District Community Trust. And 348 as well.

Mrs Bates said it makes sense when you see what the Topics are.

9.4 Small Projects Fund Update - October 2024

Mrs Bates said there is \$3,317.19 in the fund. She has had a conversation with Toaiva Launano-Tunai about her Ladies Church Group, she asked if it would be appropriate to put in an application to the Small Projects Fund for them to run some weaving sessions and Mrs Bates got the impression it was continuing the weaving and giving an opportunity for the Samoan children to improve their Samoan language. Mrs Bates personal view was it wasn't something the Community Committee should be funding but wanted to bring it up for input.

Mr Christison said it's important that people have come to New Zealand to help our economy and they also keep their culture and language. Mr Christison has no issue with this.

Mrs Harvey-Larsen said children are taken back to their country to learn their culture but not all of them can so to have that in our community would be ideal, no different to someone wanting to learn Māori or Japanese to go into the work force. There is a four generation family where Samoan is used all the time, there are some families where that doesn't happen. It's important, they are in our community and we can help them.

Mrs Bates wondered whether she was missing the point, should we be supporting a Samoan group to learn a non-New Zealand language but it hadn't occurred to her they were here to help our economy, they are here to help us in one way, we can help them in a different way.

HWTM Watson said regardless of all that, can they apply, absolutely. If you get a group of people wanting to join together for whatever function, the Rose Society to be a communal voice in some way, they can apply.

Mr Whittaker asked how relevant this was to this small Community Committee.

Mr Christison said we have money which is hard to get rid of so if someone comes up with a reasonable community idea, every part of the community is important.

Mr Yates said is the way going forward to get them to put an application in, if they are eligible.

Mr Smith said it sounds a wonderful idea but was singly focussed on a particular community that asked for it. Bearing in mind there were other communities around that also contribute significantly, Fijian being another one, he wondered if it might be fairer on the overall community to create a fund and open applications from all communities who want to improve their cultural language.

Mr Yates asked if this is more of an educational issue within the community rather than a Council issue.

Mrs Harvey-Larsen said what they are wanting to do is children who live here that do not speak Samoan, they want to teach them. There are several tribes with their own tongue.

Mr Christison feels whatever we can do that is positive for the community is positive for the community as a whole. And they are a positive part of our community.

Mrs Bates talked about the Men's Group. She caught up with Mark Pringle who advised they won't be using the Small Projects Fund money as he is going back to Australia. If anyone hears of that group trying to make it happen again, please approach the Committee as the \$200 was not claimed by him. At the time she talked to Mr Pringle, he hadn't found anybody willing to take responsibility for making the sessions happen. That may have changed, but that was at the time she talked to him.

Mrs Bates spoke to Fiona regarding the thefts at the Marton Community Garden and asked if we could help at all. They are going to improve security because it's not going to be the way it was. Someone in the team had investigated and are waiting for quotes. They will get back to Mrs Bates by Sunday with more information, if she didn't, they had managed to solve the problem with other funding. The Community Garden does amazing things to help feed and educate so many people in the town.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/038

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

Mrs L Duncan/Ms S Moore. Carried

9.5 Marton Water Strategy Update

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/039

That the Marton Water Strategy Update be received

Mr J Whittaker/Mr D Christison. Carried

9.6 Marton Pool Update

Mrs Bates said when she read through this she noted down how and why did the issue with the roof not get picked up before it became a problem, in a normal building check. Has that been identified yet?

HWTM Watson said it had been identified but the issue was the staff didn't think it had a degree of urgency. It had been identified some time ago. There are beams with very small cracks and we are yet to receive what will be the answer but he anticipates the roof needs to come off, all the beams replaced and extra strengthening. If that happens, inevitably talking in the millions.

Mrs Bates thought with normal building warrants of fitness and the checking goes on, should there be some responsibility with whoever has done that, say for example I reported on this last time and nothing has happened.

HWTM Watson said there were things that were programmed to happen but they didn't expect the failure that happened. It's not ideal and there are all sorts of questions being asked around understanding the strength of the building and how it complies with structural standards. What is pleasing is there are some members of the community asking how they can help. He would like to see them do some serious fund raising so it doesn't necessarily come out of ratepayer pockets. There are conversations happening.

Cr Maughan said there is some discussion at Council that if they are going to spend a couple of million dollars on the pool, why don't they look at spending more and improving it so it can be open all year round and some other things.

HWTM Watson said so it is fit for purpose for the next 50 years.

Mrs Harvey-Larsen asked that with the flooding, earthquakes and trucks, would that have had an effect on it?

HWTM Watson said he has asked questions around a range of issues and we will come back and have an answer as to whether there is an underlying issue with ground movement. He noted it was not a new building, it about 30 years old. The pool is older than that. There are also questions being looked at as to how well it was complying with plans at the time put into the mix to understand what the solution will be.

Cr Maughan said where they are at is the Council decided it be shut for the year at least.

HWTM Watson said the people talking to him say it should be fit for purpose for the next 50 years.

Resolved minute number 24/MCC/040

That the Marton Pool update be received.

Mrs C Bates/Mrs B Harvey-Larsen. Carried

Mrs Harvey-Larsen left at 7.50pm

10 Discussion Items

10.1 Dumping of Rubbish

Mrs Harvey-Larsen said the New World in Christchurch collects soft plastic so is in the process of getting a response back from them to see where they send it to.

Ms Bovey noted Countdown and Pak n Save do it in Whanganui.

Mrs Harvey-Larsen asked why that can't be done here.

Ms Moore said in the Recycle Centre in Marton, there is a Plastics bin. Soft plastics can go into that and it is taken to Feilding to be sorted.

Ms Moore confirmed Raj Khadka, Solid Waste Officer, is the person to talk to at Council. A lot of people are under the misconception in Marton that everything going into the bins is just lifted up and goes to the landfill. It is not the case, she has seen it herself. Soft plastics are usually recycled separately, they don't have that facility in Marton but it does get sorted in Feilding. It is easier to take them to Feilding to be sorted.

Mrs Harvey-Larsen asked where soft plastics are being put at the moment.

Ms Moore said it goes in with all the other plastics and it gets sorted in Feilding.

Mrs Harvey-Larsen asked why, as a committee, do we approach the local paper and see if they would put something in there, publicise it. If you are already doing it, why change something that is already happening. And get the schools on board, perhaps we put something up for the schools.

Mr Smith spoke with Raj Khadka today and there is a meeting later this week regarding tyres. He has been trying to find a registered tyre drop off point in the Rangitikei, that is old tyres you might find on the side of the road, and there are not a lot. It has been discussed that the Marton Landfill might register to become a registered drop off point. As a registered drop off point under the law, members of the public can drop off 5 free tyres per day. They get shredded and used for fence posts.

Ms Moore said they don't take tyres at Marton for free.

Mr Smith said they won't be free at the Transfer Stations because there is a cost, only at the tip.

HWTM Watson said you will effectively pay for recycling in the future, Cr Dave Wilson is the best person to give advice around that.

Mrs Duncan wanted to discuss the dumping of rubbish under the Bulls Bridge. No can tell her who paid for the two truckloads of rubbish picked up and taken to the Transfer Station. They had addresses which have been given to the Council and she has been told it wasn't done by Council but Horizons, she is not sure about that.

Cr Maughan said they have had discussions about this at Council regularly, Cr Carter brings it up.

HWTM Watson is not sure if this is the latest cleanup but he spent a whole day down there with his Ute and trailer and filled them with disgusting rubbish. That was paid for, not by the ratepayer or Horizons, there was a national week where there was a special deal.

Mr Smith did some of it, he took a Ute load away, the bags were paid for but since then Cr Sharland has taken a couple of Ute loads, Mr Smith has taken a three of Ute loads away from the area, it's just constant. It's easily a Ute and trailer load every month.

Mrs Duncan said this was a house lot of rubbish and two trucks were hired from Andrew Morris' outfit to take it away, it was dumped at the Transfer Station, addresses were found and passed on to Council and she also found them and passed them on to the Council. Council say we as ratepayers never paid for any of that. This was just household rubbish. The house had been owned, sold and there were two different names to that address.

HWTM Watson said if they can trace who deposited it with enough proof, they take them to court as it is a Police matter and we should be doing that. He said the reality is we take people to court for things and it costs more money than is imposed in fines.

Mrs Bates asked if there are any security cameras that monitor under the Bulls Bridge.

HWTM said no there aren't.

Mr Smith said this has turned into a discussions of remedies but a question for the Mayor, would Council be amenable to a community response as to proposals on how to mitigate that? There could be a number of measures, one might be closing it off at night, but he understands people do camp there. There is the issue of putting some sort of security, cameras, trail cams as a short term measure. And to discourage this fly tipping, do we have open collections from the Council where you put your old mattresses or whatever out on the street. The first thing they do is the second hand merchants go through and take out what they can sell and the rest of it is to offset the costs of running it.

HWTM Watson said he has taken this to Council once before, he is aware and looked at the south Auckland one. You also get people who will save up all their rubbish, they won't take it to the Transfer Station, they will just dump it. You are right people do take to the streets and take some things that can be of use, but it is also a nightmare.

Mr Harvey-Larsen said Palmerton North and Christchurch designate a park one either side of town, Lions do one side and Rotary do another and people are allowed to take their unwanted items they can't get rid of through the dump. They pay a gold coin and Rotary sell them for a gold coin or more, what is left over Council donates to an Op Shop or dumps it. It has to be usable and not rubbish, they can say it's not sellable.

HWTM Watson said the Marton Op Shop is the base for that, this year it has given \$260,000 back to the community. They have come to Council saying there is a whole lot of stuff they get in they don't like, so would Council pay the dump fees. This is also a cost to them doing business, they could be better in trying to recycle it. It could be good gear but they are not accepting it because it doesn't fit with what they are trying to sell.

Mrs Bates said its often dumped at the door when they are not open, which people shouldn't leave there because it's not reusable quality.

MWTH Mayor said there are also sorts of services, there are trucks that go up and down NZ taking clothing and they take the buttons and zips out and shred the clothing, and it has an insulation use. He will have a discussion before it goes further, in terms of Council's decisions, about how well they recycle not just saying we haven't got storage, they will say they haven't got storage.

Mrs Bates commented even though they are a lot bigger than they were, they still have storage.

Mrs Duncan noted she was at Fresh Choice today when the truck was emptying the bins. There was some absolutely filthy rubbish in there. The rubbish coming into Marton on Wellington Road and Wings Line in the gutters, it's shocking. People are chucking it out their windows. She asked what happened to the Higgins guys who use to go out.

HWTM Watson said Council paid for that service, it is very expensive, so every so often it is done. Now Traffic Management process is crippling. Under the Bulls Bridge, there is also a demarcation, is it our land or is it Horizons' responsibility, it's probably Horizons technically. We suffer though.

Mrs Duncan said she isn't sure about Bulls and their Community Patrol, but they do go down there from time to time. Would it be worth Council talking to their Chairperson and put that on their agenda that they should go down to the River. They do go down once a month in Bulls but they can do it more often if its requested.

Mrs Bates asked shouldn't that be the responsibility of Bulls Community Patrol?

Mrs Harvey-Larsen said they don't have a big enough one and they use their private cars where we have a car.

Mr Smith noted they are on the track of getting another member and he has a Ute that gets down their quite happily so it's a question of time, however Bulls hasn't done a lot of patrolling in the last few months due to loss of staff. They are trying to get more members.

Mrs Duncan said they do go down there.

Mrs Harvey-Larsen said if Bronwyn gets a formal letter from somebody, it can be put on their budget to go down there. If the Bulls people are happy with that.

HWTM Watson noted he was nervous around the security of the people going down there.

Mrs Harvey-Larsen said they can let the Police know when they are going down and when they are out of there, they will be nearby won't they, knowing it's a hostile?

Mrs Bates asked if it was worth taking the opportunity to raise this with relevant staff to say this has been discussed, is there something that can be done to improve things and staff can could get in touch with Bronwyn if necessary,

Mrs Bovey said HWTM Watson is right, it is a risk to people and they certainly wouldn't be condoning that.

HWTM Watson said to first talk to the Police as to whether they are comfortable.

Mrs Harvey-Larsen said Bronwyn would probably do that.

ACTION: Mr Whittaker moved that something goes to Council.

Mrs Bovey said it might be something around publicity around dumping of rubbish and the cost and just raising awareness to people so if they see someone driving down there with a Ute full and coming back without one, please ring us. Rather than sending someone down there in the middle of the night. Mrs Bovey will talk to the Team to see what ideas they can come up that doesn't involve sending someone down there.

10.2 Bulls Community Committee Meeting and Town maps

Mrs Bates said she attended the Bulls Committee meeting last month and Jarod Calkin talked about town maps. Council had received funding that they are using to produce Maps. She has asked Jarod

to send a soft copy. This year Council are looking at producing maps for Bulls, Taihape and Marton are on the list for next year. Whether that translates into getting a new Map on Fresh Choice might be something that works in.

Mrs Duncan asked if the map on the front of the Supermarket will be funded by Community Committee like last time.

Mrs Bates said it potentially could. She talked to Lucretia at Marton print and it was in terms of the map being done when Peter York put it together, what are the options. She said Marton Print wouldn't be doing anything like that, they are closing.

HWTM said before they assume, make sure they talk to Linda at Fresh Choice as the new owner.

Mrs Bates said that is way down the track. After talking to Lucretia, she went to H&A Print with the information from Lucretia based on what had happened before, she got a price for that. Then Jarrod talked about these maps. She thinks just put it on hold until next year and they will have more information whether Jarrod can tap into some funding or the Committee pay for a new map.

Mrs Bovey said Council are holding a public drop in session on 17 October, details yet to be sent out, around the Marton Streetscape and the vision. The map might be part of that.

Mrs Bates said the current map is missing some new streets and areas, along with a mistake when it was originally done. So if it was going to be redone, they would capture that.

Mr Christon asked would it be an idea to upgrade the map with a QR code and have a digital map on the phone which could be part of it.

Mr Smith did have a conversation with Jarod and raised that with him. It was unofficial at the time, but it's unlikely the new wayfaring signs would be placed outside the Fresh Choice site. The sign is probably there to stay and probably worthwhile investing in it, even putting a sticker on it showing the new areas rather than doing the whole sign in the short term.

Mrs Bovey said the drop in session will be at the Village Green if it's a nice day or at the Library if it's wet, no details but that is the planned date for the town revitalisation session. No time yet, that is being finalised. So if you have any ideas about the signs or clarifying about the map. This is about visions people want for the town.

10.3 Marton Civil Defence Plan

Mrs Bates and Mr Whittaker had a discussion about the Civil Defence Plan and she said to him the last one she had was 2021. When she looked on the Council website she came across a 2024 version. And when she went into Council to get the key for tonight, there were 4 copies of the Marton Civil Defence Plan.

Mr Whittaker said things are happening but can we let the public know? 2024 is just about finished now. It is a good effort.

HWTM said it won't be refreshed every year either. He raised this issue at another Community Committee meeting where Paul Chaffe was at it. What we are seeing in NZ is there will be far more high intensity Civil Defence issues, last year was flooding. There were a number of occasions where initial thoughts had indicated what could be cataclysmic event but staff have looked at it and

thought it doesn't look to be true, he would wait and see. What he is saying to staff is he would much rather he declared and bring teams of people together then stand them down. With Cyclone Gabrielle, we measured the flood waters routinely at a number of places on the Rangitikei so they know 8 or 9 hours ahead of time, what is coming our way. In 2004, which is regarded at the 200 year type flood, it hit 8.5 metres at Mangaweka. The initial information for Cyclone Gabrielle was to say it could hit 10.5 metres. This would have taken most of the bridges in the Rangitikei, flooded substantial parts of Bulls, Scotts Ferry, stop banks could not cope with a 10.5 event. It didn't look as though it was plausible so he was told late at night that was the early figure so he said they will review at 6am first light and declare if didn't play out that way. Cyclone Gabrielle for other districts had similar sorts of things and they didn't take action early enough. He would far rather they declare and get people together and get into the mindset then say sorry its changed you can go home. There were a whole heaps of issues.

Mr Whittaker said this is something to think about and this has got the ball rolling.

HWTM Watson said from his point of view, say it had passed over the top and come around, there would have been lives lost and communities destroyed so he takes the view, staff please tell him earlier enough the worst case scenario and we will take action accordingly. Removing people out of Scotts Ferry, Koitiata, Turakina Beach is problematic.

Mr Christison asked shouldn't our communities in flood zones and problem areas already know that and there must be an electronic way to communicate to say we have looked at these weather patterns and it's not looking good, I really wouldn't be there for the next few days.

HWTM Watson said the way that is done electronically now is you can go and be listed as a person of interest free of charge through Horizons. They are the ones that say here is the actual rain fall and here are the predicted river heights and anyone can say at such and such a level, say the Mangaweka Bridge is 6 metres is going to be an issue for you, and if its projected it's going to hit 6 metres, you will get an automatic call and it will tell you this is the prediction and you have asked to be called.

Mr Smith said it is on their website. It doesn't work for the Tutaenui but there is a method of monitor the levels of rainfall and the stream. He asked HWTM Watson regarding, when he says declaring, does he mean getting the people together and not declaring a state of emergency, or you can't do that without declaring a state of emergency?

HWTM Watson said if you have an event, the process is staff go to him and say they are concerned, then he can ask questions, but it is his decision to declare. The Mayor is who declares. Once he declares, it then passes to the area Controllers and other people who have their responsibilities. Short of him declaring, there is also a process where they can start to warn people, this is what we are monitoring and this is what we are seeing and not requiring a formal declaration. A declaration is done when he thinks they haven't got processes in place therefore people or property are at risk. Often you can say, staff are comfortable you can handle this without outside assistance, sometimes they will say we have it all in hand and here is what we are doing, we have warned these people, we don't think you need to declare. HWTM Watson can override that, he can say no I don't like your explanation and I am declaring.

Mr Smith said there is also the intermediate area where they are concerned, they know there will be some level of flooding but people like himself are effected by that are not warned by any system. He is basically on his own, as well as his neighbours. Referring in particular to the May 2023 flood

that went through Bulls. They were effected, he had contact with the Council in the morning that the road was flooding he had no further communication and made the singular decision to evacuate, then the Fire Brigade turned up. It didn't work, so they need an intermediate system where it's not a full declaration but where people are at risk and Council knows it's going to be flooding like 2 hours further down the Tutaenui, are warned.

HWTM Watson said that routinely happens, there have been a number of occasions where they have been told there are going to be very high river levels or that an event is playing out. The reason for declaring is it gives the staff powers to do all sorts of things.

Ms Moore left at 8.05pm

10.4 Sale of the Marton building

Mr Whittaker asked if there had been any updates on the sale of the building in town.

HWTM Watson said there have been three or four expressions of interest with them. They are public excluded because they are talking financial figures. So yes, there is interest and Council will engage with the parties and try to understand and answer their questions.

10.5 Main Street upgrade

Mr Whittaker asked what about the \$200,000 proposal for the main street.

HWTM Watson said that was part of the Long Term Plan consideration.

Mrs Bovey confirmed this was what the drop in session on 17 October was about.

10.5 Capital Expense Review

HTWM Watson has also asked for a review of capital expense because there are a number of unexpected costs, potentially the Marton Pool, roading etc. Also because the Prime Minister and Government have come out very strongly and said they will scrutinise the budgets and if we are doing work they deem not to be needed or under the four wellbeings, they may say they are going to restrict the budgets. Everything we do also get scrutinised in terms of how Government are positioning themselves.

10.6 Significance and Engagement Policy

Mrs Bates said the Significance and Engagement Policy talks in terms of things being categorised as low, medium and high. What warrants those decisions to put something low versus high.

HWTM Watson said there is a type of matrix where you tick boxes as to significance. If it is of low intensity and effects a limited number of people it would tend to be of low significance. If it is very highly significant the effect on people is extremely high even though there is a small number of people, it may well say it is very significant.

Mrs Bates asked if that matrix is something she can have a look to better understand how the process works?

HTWM Watson said there are matrix risks that were public documents under Order to Risk.

Mrs Bates asked if she searched on the Council website, what is she looking for. She asked if someone could email her the link to the right document.

ACTION: Mrs Bovey will email this information to Mrs Bates.

Mrs Bates said this topic could potentially be on the next Order Paper.

10.7 Local Water Done Well

HWTM Watson said with Local Water Done Well, if any individual group or person, if he can timetable it, he is more than happy to spend time answering questions. The reality is people are not going to understand this.

10.8 Shop Local Rangitikei Campaign

Mrs Bovey presented the poster to preview this campaign to the Committee on behalf of Jarod Calkin. Spend \$20 at any store in the Rangitikei and go into the draw starting 20 October. This can be promoted from now and any receipt from a local business in the Rangitikei can be submitted. Click on the QR code for the terms and conditions.

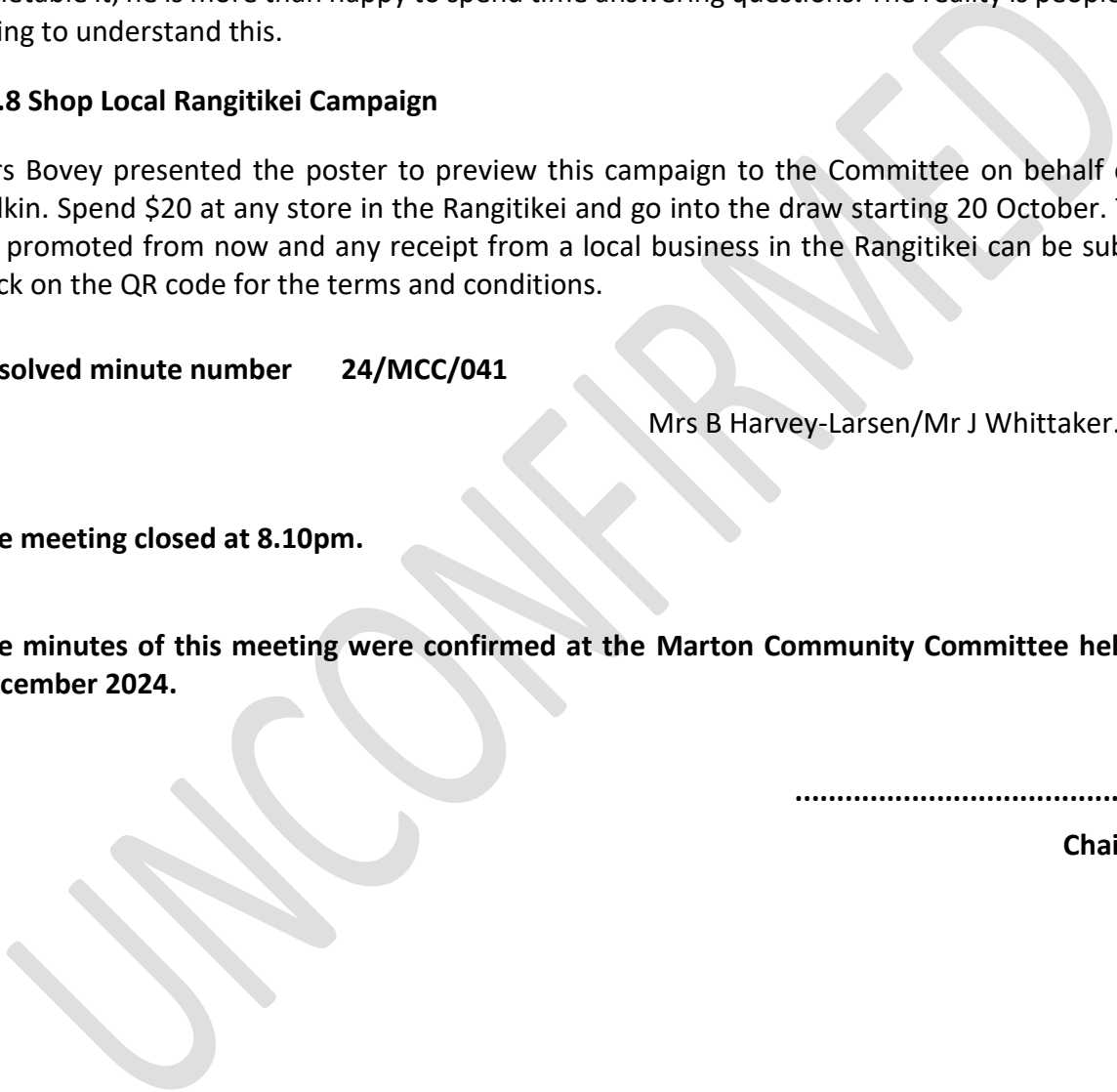
Resolved minute number 24/MCC/041

Mrs B Harvey-Larsen/Mr J Whittaker. Carried

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Marton Community Committee held on 11 December 2024.

.....
Chairperson



7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Marton Community Committee Meetings

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

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

2. Decision Making Process

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

Attachments:

1. Follow-up Actions Register [↓](#)

Recommendation

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

Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	21-Aug-24	The Marton Community committee endorses and supports the addition of water access on the deck of the Tutaenui Hall.	Sheryl S	This Tutaenui Hall committee have this on their to-do-list and have been passed on to staff.	Completed.
2	14-Feb-24	Update on Calico Line footpath installation	Arno	Staff are investigating options. Staff will continue to update this item for the committees information.	In progress

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8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - December 2024

Author: Carolyn Bates, Chair

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 A verbal report will be provided during the meeting.

Recommendation

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

9 Reports for Information

9.1 Mayor's Report - October 2024

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Good afternoon

1. There are a number of events both nationally and locally that I want to comment on and I will try for brevity.
2. Recently I attended the AGM of the Marton Christian Welfare (Op Shop). This is a fantastic committee made up of the membership of each church, service clubs such as Lions and Rotary and supporters. Financially it is an outstanding business with a \$400,000 income and a profit of \$310,000. What it does with that profit is exceptional - this last year it returned \$260,000 by way of grants to the community. It also provided welfare support and essential food to many families in need. The shop is essentially staffed by volunteers and they deserve support from the community and welcome donations of clean clothing etc.
3. On 2 October I attended a dinner with 20 people in Wellington organised by the National Party Chair. It was billed as a unique opportunity to question the Prime Minister and we were asked to provide subjects that we wanted to speak to him on in advance so that his staff could have the opportunity to research these. The reality was that the Prime Minister was there for a relatively short time and little research had been done. He took the opportunity to vent his frustration on the performance of Local Government, the performance of Rail and why we shouldn't be supporting them.
4. On Saturday 2 November Hunterville needs to be everyone's destination. The Hunterville Shemozzle is such a unique, iconic event where the country comes to town. The junior, intermediate and team races run from 10am to 12pm with the shepherd's races starting at 3pm followed by the speed shear at 5pm. The adult party runs from 7pm until late-late. Shops and stalls will be there to tempt you, there is much to see, watch and buy. An event of this nature and scale does not happen by chance. The organisation of the next Shemozzle starts the day after the event. I have added in a Committee photo to my report to recognise this effort.
5. On 2 October myself and several Councillors attended a walk-through at the Taihape Community Health Centre. The provision of health services for our district is an issue that I have raised within the Long Term Plan process, really wanting to be able to provide financial support for these services. With the withdrawal of the four well-beings by Government, this will be incredibly challenging and may have to be paused at the moment. I applaud the work that is being done in Taihape within the community and in particular the amount of effort that Cr Piki Te Ora is involved with under Mokai Patea Services. Where we are able, we should be supporting these initiatives. I will ask Cr Piki Te Ora if there is an update that she can provide for in the next Mayoral Report.
6. The Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ), funded by the Ministry of Social Development, has been incredibly successful for Government and Local Government. In the times of Government cutbacks we continue to receive \$9-10m a year to find jobs for people. The success of our team headed by James Towers and Louise McCoard is always at the top of the results nationally. On 4 October Mayor Max Baxter from Otorohanga stepped down as Chair. Max has been the driver for the success and his farewell was attended by Minister Upston,

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LGNZ staff and many of the mayors. Thankyou Max for a job well done. I am one of four mayors who form the Governance Committee and I declined nomination for Chair instead suggesting that Alex Walker Mayor of Central Hawkes Bay should be elected, which duly occurred. Alex is already on the LGNZ Board and is deeply involved in the Mayor’s Taskforce and will lobby for continued support. To illustrate the success of MTFJ for the Rangitikei I have included a Job Outcomes Report.

7. Over the last few Mayoral Reports there have been a number of references to the Three Waters space. Most of this work has been done by Mayors and Chief Executives in understanding the Government direction, which is always subject to change, and looking at options for our Councils. We are now at the stage where we can talk to the community and Iwi around the process and our options. I have asked staff to schedule a series of drop-in and public meetings in Marton, Taihape and Bulls and I am also happy to talk to any individual or group provided I can timetable it. These meetings will be about explaining the process and timeframes. Early next year there will be a chance to more fully consult with the community.
8. The Three Waters is significant, but what is sliding under the radar is the reform of the RMA (Resource Management Act) and Fast Track Legislation. Minister Bishop has written to Mayors with what is a very good description of why the legislation is being changed and why the fast track process has been put in place, along with which New Zealand industries are being targeted. His letter is concise so I have added it to my report. A fast track process is needed in my opinion - we are seeing factories such as the Tangiwai Mill close and we desperately need the power resources to keep them open. However, fast track comes at a risk environmentally and socially. Yes, it provides much needed infrastructure and jobs but communities now have very little say in what happens around them and to them.
9. Cr Piki Te Ora also attended the recent Local Government Conference in Wellington and I attach her report to Council on this. I will ask Cr Piki Te Ora if she wishes to explain anything further as part of her report.

Mayor’s Engagements

October 2024

1	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Mayors’ Taskforce for Jobs online meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
2	Attended monthly meeting for Governor’s Q&A with Executive Leadership Team Attended walk-through Taihape Rural Health Centre Attended Christopher Luxon National Party Dinner in Wellington
3	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Meeting with Kanoa following Manawatu-Whanganui Regional Growth Summit Attended meeting with Jackson Stone Recruitment Agency – CE Recruitment Attended Council Workshop – Local Water Done Well Attended Turakina Community Committee
4	Attended Mayors’ Taskforce for Jobs Core Group meeting in Wellington

	Attended Mayors’ Taskforce for Jobs Farewell to Mayor Max Baxter
7	Attended Mayors’ Taskforce for Jobs Chair: Candidates Address online meeting Attended Comms Media Video Shoot to promote the Shemozzle Attended Hunterville Rural Water Scheme
8	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meeting Attended Relationship Meeting with Horizons Regional Council Governors Attended Linton BA5 Meeting
9	Attended site visit at Rangiwai to look at roading issues Attended Taihape Community Board Meeting
10	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Assets & Infrastructure Committee Workshop Attended meeting with Manager of Whanganui Community Foundation
11	Attended meeting with Taihape Community Development Trust Co-ordinator Attended 253 Project River Interview Meeting
12	Attended Open Weekend for Marton Historical Society Attended Rangitikei/Whanganui Multicultural Feast & Festival in Marton
15	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended meeting with TUIA Nyssa and teina Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
16	Attended Communications in a Crisis Civil Defence Workshop Attended Reuben Pokiha’s tangi at Kai Iwi Marae
17	Attended Meeting with Chief Executive Attended Council Workshop Attended Massey University Blues Awards Online
18	Attended meeting with Chief Executive
21	Attended Breakfast Meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys Attended Fortnightly Economic Development Meeting with staff Attended local funeral
22	Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended Zone plus LGNZ online catchup meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
23	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended monthly meeting with Comms Staff Attended meeting with NZDF Housing Staff

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	Attended Gorges to See Cycleway Information Evening in Taoroa
29	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Omatane Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
30	Attended 2024 Manfeild Annual General Meeting Attended Ratana Wastewater Update Hui
31	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting To attend Council meeting

Attachments:

1. **Super Local Conference 2024 LGNZ- Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa** [↓](#)
2. **National Dinner with Christopher Luxon - 2 October 2024** [↓](#)
3. **Letter from Minister Chris Bishop** [↓](#)
4. **Shemozzle 2024 Committee Members** [↓](#)
5. **Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs - September 2024 Report** [↓](#)
6. **Elected Member Attendance** [↓](#)

Recommendation 1:

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

Super Local Conference 2024 LGNZ

20 August

Te Maruata

- **Wharewaka, Ponoke**
-

21 August

Powhiri, AGM

- **TAKINA, Ponoke**
-

22-23 August

Conference

- **TAKINA, Ponoke**

Piki Te Ora Hiroa

Tiikeitia Ki Uta Maori Ward Councillor

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Kaupapa korero

*He mihi mahana ki te Kaunihera o Rangitikei mo tou tautoko ki ahau mo tenei kaupapa whakahirahira!
He whakaaro rangatira!*

Firstly, an acknowledgement and thanks to our Council and Andy for your support in allowing me to attend Te Maruata and Super Local Conference 2024. I was fortunate to attend the Te Maruata Hui that was held on Tuesday 20 August at Wharewaka on the Taranaki Wharf just two minutes' walk from TAKINA.

TE MARUATA

The Te Maruata "Roopu Whakahaere" (Listed below) for this triennium, did a fantastic job of hosting our Hui. I was impressed with the caliber of the presenters, the content of their korero, and felt that manaakitanga and kotahitanga was displayed by all.

- **Metro Sector:** Moko Tauariki, Hamilton City Council
- **Regional Sector:** Toi Kai Rākau Iti, Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- **Young Elected Member:** Bridget Bell, Manawatū District Council
- **Māori Wards Tāne:** Karam Fletcher, Taupō District Council
- **Māori Wards Wāhine:** Toni Boynton, Whakatāne District Council
- **Members elected at large:** Bonita Bigham (co-chair) Taranaki Regional Council, Iaeen Cranwell (co-chair), Environment Canterbury, and Dinnie Moeahu, New Plymouth District Council

New Plymouth District Councillor, Dinnie Moeahu was our MC for the day, and his wit and humor just added to his ability to keep our hui moving, where people felt comfortable, included and engaged. Our hui participants were made up of Maori elected members from across the motu, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, CEO's and LGNZ support staff. The day was well planned out, relaxed and inclusive where we worked through a number of different activities that included a panel review, guest speakers from political parties representing the Greens and Labour, a session that encouraged people to share their thoughts on the three items listed below.

- Nawe, what are your awangawanga or issues?
- Rawe, what do think is working well
- Kawe, what is your self-reflection on the future

This exercise was done as a group activity and I was fortunate to share my table with long standing Rotorua District Councillor, Trevor Maxwell, Taranaki Iwi Representative, Pita Moehau and our very own Coral Raukawa. We had an excellent day sitting with these two Koroua who have both been around the block many times and faced many challenges. Trevor is the longest standing councillor having been elected in for the first time in 1977. He is softly spoken, has a mind as sharp as a tack, is definitely up with the play but sees the benefit of bringing a younger cohort of knowledgeable and hardworking people around the council table. Pita is the father of Dinnie and after only a very small

amount of time in his presence you could see where his son got his “ihi me wehi” from. Pita is no stranger to politics at any level and has been a staunch advocate for his Taranaki Iwi for many years. I felt very privileged to be in their presence.

The other thing I’d like to acknowledge, was the space that was afforded to Coral at the Hui to lay a kaupapa on the table. Coral had an existing Hui booked on the day with National Party President, Sylvia Wood to garner her support around the retention of Maori Wards. Other people within the Te Maruata Hui learned what Coral intended doing that day and encouraged her to get up. After her impassioned speech a tono was put to the Hui that Coral take a recommendation from the Te Maruata Hui to support the retention of Maori Wards. The biggest learnings I take away from this Hui was the whakawhanaungatanga opportunities, being able to support Coral and meeting those two wise old Koro.

Some of the recommendations that came out of the Te Maruata Hui included

- Youth and how we engage with them
- Strengthening partnerships
- Cultural training for councilors

Ultimately, despite the many “nawe” issues that were brought up during the hui, I feel that we all had a sense of hope that with determination and hard work we will get through our issues, come out the other side hopefully stronger as a people that have something to contribute for Te Iwi Maori but also all of those people we represent in our many communities across the motu.

“Ma whero ma pango ka oti te mahi”!

Super Local Conference

Our two days at the Conference were jam packed with keynote speakers on a myriad of subjects, political parties touting their current solutions to the woes that are sitting in the Local government landscape, thought provoking and at times pointed verbal barbs thrown at speakers by MC Kim Hill and the very funky and gay performances by our “wake up and move crew”!

The TAKINA event center housed us, fed us and looked after us all from “powhiri to poroporoake”

There were a number of key issues or themes that were talked about throughout the conference that included

- Community Engagement
- Financial sustainability
- Water management
 - o Examples given by speakers around this kaupapa, and systems being used overseas
- IT

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- The importance technology will play in the future
- Environment
 - The impacts of policies on our environment
 - Just to name a few!

The themes that I was interested in and resonated with me included

- Models of engagement
 - We had presentations that were able to give living, working examples of how councils were engaging with their communities. An overseas example spoke about the creation of a community committee whose make up was determined by the community itself. This process involved analyzing the many cohorts of people or groups that made up their community i.e.
 - % of Youth, % of elderly, % of Business owners, % of ethnic peoples etc...
 - The overall group was made up of 100 people who were the voice of the people
 - This was of real interest to me and showed that if people had the inclination to do something differently that things could work
- Partnerships with Iwi Maori
 - This was talked about by a number of speakers but came through loud and clear from Ngai Tahu CEO, Justin Tipa and Ngati Kahungunu Chair, Baydon Barber (former Hastings District Councillor) Both Justin and Baydon talked about Iwi willingness to work alongside their councils for the betterment of all people. They talked about Iwi being cashed up and ready to invest in areas such as housing which is a big issue across the country.
- Solutions
 - I was impressed with many of the speakers being solution focused despite the feedback that had been forthcoming from central government
 - I don't think it was lost on anyone at the conference that the fiscal responsibility that all councils are currently facing is front and center of everything we do. In many cases the decisions that are being made by councils are being driven by our communities and the "nice to have things" are absolutely what ratepayers are asking for. This of course is a two-way street, and we acknowledge the long-term impacts of our decision making.
 - The feeling of "hope" was portrayed and acknowledged by speakers but also in the conversations I had with Councillors from other areas. Without that positive light the local government platform would be a very sad and unhealthy place for anyone to be part of!

Having had the benefit of reading Mayor Andy, Councillor Loudon and Councillor Dalgety's excellent reports, I don't need to regurgitate or cover what they have, but would like to acknowledge and thank Councillor Fi Dalgety for accommodating me for 3 nights (saving our council money) and also mihi out

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to the Wellington District Council for the huge amount of work that was put into the coordination and planning for the Super Local Conference 2024 and despite kick back around the building of TAKINA feel that it is an excellent venue and was a decision that would have been contemplated over I'm sure with all angles covered.

I'd also like to finish my report by saying, that the attacks being made on many fronts towards elected local body members has become a normal day to day occurrence and this can be a thankless mahi, despite that it was a pleasure and a privilege to be part of the Local government whanau during the conference and I again mihi to our council, staff and individual Councillors for being the staunch advocates you are for the Rangitikei!

“Ma whero ma pango
Ka oti te mahi”

With the front and the back working together, the work will be done!

ITEM 9.1 ATTACHMENT 2



Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance



CB-COR0836

14 October 2024

Tēnā koe,

I am writing to inform you of the progress we have made to improve the resource management system and meet the Coalition Government's objective for a faster growing, more productive economy.

It is widely accepted that the resource management system is not fit for purpose. Consensus on that point was reached almost a decade ago. We need a resource management system that protects the environment not by resisting growth but by setting clear rules, so growth occurs within limits.

Progress to date

I would like to update you on the progress we have made over the last year.

We have divided our reform into three phases.

The first phase, repealing the Natural and Built Environment Act and Spatial Planning Act, was completed in December 2023. We did not take the decision to repeal those Acts lightly, but they would not have achieved the objectives needed for New Zealand to grow and thrive.

The goal of Phase Two is to improve the performance of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) by removing unnecessary regulations for primary industries and barriers to investment in development and infrastructure while maintaining environmental protections.

Phase Two includes:

- The *Fast-track Approvals Bill* to create a one-stop shop for approvals, consents and permissions to speed up the delivery of regionally and nationally significant projects. This Bill is currently in front of the select committee and we expect it to be passed into law by the end of 2024. You can find more information about this process here - [Fast-track Approvals Bill | Ministry for the Environment](#)
- Targeted amendments to the RMA will relieve the most significant issues in the Act through the:
 - *Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Bill*
 - *Resource Management (Freshwater and other Matters) Amendment Bill* which includes changes to freshwater management, stock exclusion and winter grazing rules, marine farming consents, and Significant Natural Areas. This Bill also streamlines the process for changes to national direction. It is currently before select committee, and we also expect it to pass by the end of this year.
 - *Resource Management Act Amendment Bill* (RMA Amendment Bill Two) is currently in development. We expect to introduce it before the end of 2024 and passed into law by mid-2025.

- A package of National Direction – including amendments to 14 current National Policy Statements (NPS) and National Environmental Standards (NES), as well as seven new national direction instruments. We will consult on these in early 2025 and along with the second Bill they are expected to be passed into law in mid-2025.

We have focused our changes to the RMA on the things that will have the largest impact in the short term and contribute to the Coalition Government's priority programmes: Electrify NZ, Infrastructure for the Future, Going for Housing Growth and the Primary Sector Growth Plan.

The second RMA amendment bill and the new national direction package gives effect to these coalition commitments and changes to the RMA will unlock development and drive a more efficient and effective resource management system. These changes will transition into the new system once it is in place.

The changes can be grouped in four distinctive packages. These are:

- Infrastructure and Energy
- Housing
- Farming and primary sector
- Emergency response and natural hazards

Infrastructure and Energy

This package will develop further national direction to enable a range of productivity-boosting energy and infrastructure projects, including a new NPS-Infrastructure. It will also provide a consistent approach to quarrying and extend the duration of port coastal permits by a further 20 years. Changes to the NES-Telecommunications Facilities will keep up to date with technological developments and give telcos greater certainty and reduced consenting costs as they upgrade their infrastructure. The Government's Electrify NZ reforms will make it easier to consent and re-consent renewable energy.

More information on our Electrify work programme is available here - [Next steps on Electrifying New Zealand | Beehive.govt.nz](#).

Housing

The housing package will contain reforms needed to enable the first pillar of the Government's Going for Housing Growth policies. These changes will require councils to provide for 30-years' worth of housing growth while providing flexibility for councils to opt out of the Medium Density Residential Standards. Changes are also being made to the National Policy Statement on Urban Development and the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land, along with guidance for effective heritage management and developing new national direction to enable granny flats and papakāinga housing.

More information on our Going for Housing Growth work programme is available here - [Going for Housing Growth speech | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

Farming and the Primary Sector

The primary industries package will contain changes to drive primary sector productivity. This package will mainly give effect to National Party Manifesto promises and coalition agreements. We are amending the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land to make it clear that indoor primary production and greenhouses are permitted on highly productive land, as well as specifying that farmers are also allowed to build new specified infrastructure such as solar farms on that land.

More information on our Farming and the Primary sector work programme is available here - [Government confirms RMA reforms to drive primary sector efficiency | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

Emergency Response and Natural Hazards

This package provides a comprehensive, nationally consistent framework for addressing the risks posed by natural hazards, including risks from climate change. Rather than a two-step process as previously intended, we have decided to progress this work as a single instrument. This will provide direction to councils on how to identify natural hazards, assess the risk they pose, and how to respond to that risk through planning controls. The RMA Amendment Bill Two will include improved emergency provisions to better enable rapid responses to disasters.

A list of specific items under these four areas is available in Appendix One. You can find out more about Phase Two in my recent [Speech to the Local Government New Zealand Conference | Beehive.govt.nz](#).

Replacing the RMA

The reforms of Phase Two will carry over into the long-term replacement for the RMA which is the focus of Phase Three of the RM Reform programme. This phase advances the Coalition Government's commitment to replace the RMA by a new system that will be rules-based and embed respect for property rights and the rule of law.

Cabinet has agreed the new resource management system will have three core tasks:

- unlocking development capacity for housing and business growth
- enabling delivery of high-quality infrastructure for the future, including doubling renewable energy
- enabling primary sector growth and development (including aquaculture, forestry, pastoral, horticulture, and mining)

It must achieve these objectives while also:

- safeguarding the environment and human health
- adapting to the effects of climate change and reducing the risks from natural hazards
- improving regulatory quality in the resource management system
- upholding Treaty of Waitangi settlements and other related arrangements

There are ten principles that underpin the new system. These will be tested and refined by a Resource Management Expert Advisory Group (EAG). The EAG will develop a blueprint of the new system over the next three months – a workable and practical plan that officials can quickly turn into new legislation. This blueprint is due back to me before Christmas.

The EAG will bring fresh thinking, expertise and practical knowledge, working closely with officials from across government to make sure Ministers can make the decisions needed to draft the new legislation as quickly as possible. It will be chaired by Janette Campbell and comprises experts with relevant technical knowledge ranging from resource management law to planning and te ao Māori. Members are Christine Jones, Paul Melville, Rukumoana Schaafhausen, Kevin Counsell, Gillian Crowcroft and Mark Chrisp.

Public consultation on the proposals will occur primarily through the select committee process.

Key aspects of the resource management system

Principles guiding the development of the new system are the following:

- narrow the scope of the resource management system and the effects it controls
- establish two Acts with clear and distinct purposes – one to manage environmental effects arising from activities, and another to enable urban development and infrastructure
- strengthen and clarify the role of environmental limits and their development
- provide for greater use of national standards to reduce the need for resource consents and to simplify council plans, such that standard-complying activity cannot be subjected to a consent requirement
- shift the system focus from consenting which happens before the event to strengthening compliance, monitoring and enforcement
- use spatial planning and a simplified designation process to lower the cost of future infrastructure
- realise efficiencies by requiring councils to jointly prepare one regulatory plan for their region
- provide for rapid, low-cost resolution of disputes between neighbours and between property owners and councils
- uphold Treaty of Waitangi settlements and the Crown's obligations
- provide faster, cheaper and less litigious processes within shorter, less complex and more accessible legislation.

I have instructed my officials to test these principles with key partners and stakeholders in parallel with the EAG and I will report back to Cabinet on this feedback too.

Key aspects of the new resource management system will go to Cabinet for agreement at the beginning of 2025, and legislation will be introduced and passed before the next election.

You can find out more about these principles in the [Speech on replacing the Resource Management Act](#) and [Replacement for the Resource Management Act takes shape | Beehive.govt.nz](#).

Looking forward

I know our timeline is ambitious, but we have critical issues to solve if we are to turn New Zealand's economy around, increase productivity and make things easier to do. I am acutely aware of the need to reset the resource management system in a way that is pragmatic and targets the most significant issues first.

The instruments from Phase Two, and other important elements of the existing system such as plans will transfer over, with a “switching off” of any elements incompatible with the new system.

This is critical to accelerate and smooth the transition, lightening the load on councils and those who use the resource management system, and avoiding long implementation times. Some RMA settings will be retained for this work to be carried forward with minimal disruption, and to uphold Treaty settlements.

The proposed Phase Three changes will be designed to be implemented as quickly as possible and to minimise disruption on those who use the system. By limiting scope and targeting council effort to more complex issues, the replacement system will deliver reduced costs to both councils and ratepayers.

Our goal is to replace unnecessary regulation with clear rules to unlock the double dividend of higher growth and better environmental outcomes.

By redirecting only a fraction of the resources consumed by RMA processes, we can protect the environment and provide clear pathways for investment and growth within environmental limits.

We look forward to your working with you as we do this.

Yours sincerely



Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

Appendix One: Detailed items under RMA Amendment Bill 2 and the National Direction Package

The national direction policy proposals described below are still in development. We have provided this content to support engagement and to seek your initial thoughts on the direction of travel. We expect to formally consult on more detailed policy proposals in early 2025.

RMA Amendment Bill 2
Fisheries Act and RMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce regulatory overlap between the RMA and the Fisheries Act 1996 to provide certainty for fishers
Port permits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of port permits duration – section 384A of the RMA
Consenting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the RMA to require renewable energy generation consents (excluding hydro and geothermal) to be decided within one year of application. Establish a one-year limit to re-consent existing renewable electricity generation assets Require resource consents for wood processing facilities to be decided within one year Improve flexibility and encourage innovation for existing marine farms by providing more certainty for change of consent conditions Enable Councils to recover cost for reviewing consent conditions when the review is a result of national direction Amendments to provide greater clarity on the scope of further information requests and requirements for consents Progress default 35-year consent durations for renewable energy and long-lived infrastructure Increase the lapse period for designations from 5 to 10 years to provide more time to progress infrastructure projects Increase the default lapse period so the time to give effect to a renewable energy consent is 10 years or longer Provide certainty for discharge rules under section 70
Housing Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratification vote and allowing relevant councils to opt-out of the Medium Density Residential Standards (MDRS), provided they demonstrate 30 years' worth of housing growth Intervention powers to ensure compliance with National Direction

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning change processes for opting out of the MDRS and for councils still undertaking intensification streamlined planning processes (including Auckland Council)
<p>Heritage management</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage management (focusing on approaches to listing and de-listing heritage buildings)
<p>System improvements</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend part 9A of the RMA to provide more flexibility for farm plan regulations • Improvements to compliance regime, including increased penalties and limiting access to insurance • Technical improvements to DOC functions to manage discharges, compliance and enforcement
<p>Natural Hazards and Emergency Response</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement to emergency provisions, including a new regulation-making power for emergency responses and clarification of notification of entry requirements • Ability to decline land-use consents, or attach conditions, where there are significant risks of natural hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New plan rules relating to natural hazards have immediate legal effect from notification
<p style="text-align: center;">Integrated National Direction Package</p>
<p>Infrastructure and Energy</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NES Telco Facilities • Update the maximum pole heights in residential areas to reflect requirement for Medium Density Residential Development through the NPS-UD • Update cabinet sizes in residential areas to support infrastructure resilience and the roll out of 5G technology • Update antenna dimensions (eg, size and height) to reflect 5G technological developments and to avoid larger radio frequency fields from entering the public domain • Consider the expansion or amendment of some permitted activities under the NES-TF, in particular to accommodate temporary facilities or emergency activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Infrastructure (new) • NPS to provide consistent consenting pathways for enabling the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure while managing its effects across a range of natural environments • The interface between infrastructure activities and other activities and people, including in the built environment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Renewable Electricity Generation • NPS Electricity Transmission

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New content for National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation (NPS-REG) • New content for National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission (NPS-ET) • These amendments will create more directive and enabling national direction for renewable electricity generation, transmission and distribution. • Work on national environmental standards for renewable electricity generation, electricity transmission and distribution will follow the national policy statements. The national environmental standards will include nationally consistent rules for these activities, such as specifying activities that can be undertaken without consent, provided the standards are met. • The standards will replace the rules in Regional and District Council, meaning that consent processes will be more certain, and due to the enabling nature of the standards, be more likely to gain approval.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NES Electricity Transmission Activities • Amendments to NES-ETA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NZ Coastal Policy Statement • Targeted review of policies 6, 8, 11, 13 and 15
<p>Housing and Urban Development</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Highly Productive Land • Amend the NPS to free up land for urban development and remove unnecessary planning barriers, while managing HPL. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the definition of HPL as part of the Going for Housing Growth work programme. • Ease the urban rezoning tests. • Other changes to the NPS-HPL are being considered as part of the wider national direction amendment package (definition of Specified Māori Land, and consistency in mineral extraction and quarrying pathways).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Urban Development • Set requirements for housing growth targets • Enable better spatial planning by aligning Future Development Strategy requirements with housing growth objectives • Change the responsiveness policy to better enable developers to bring forward areas of growth • Strengthen the intensification provisions • Better enable mixed use development • Better manage outcomes for heritage buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling granny flats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direction on enabling 'granny flats' (up to 60m²)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling Papakainga • New national direction for Papakāinga
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Direction on Heritage • Better manage outcomes for heritage buildings
<p>Farming and the Primary Sector</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS NES Freshwater • Scope of amendments to National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F) to be confirmed. Expect targeted amendments to be completed through this combined national direction package and further work may follow • Enable on-farm water storage (ie, as a permitted activity under the RMA, or otherwise)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock exclusion regulations • Tie stock exclusion rules to local conditions to limit unintended consequences • Replace nationwide low-slope maps with catchment-level rules that are more consistent with local conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NES Drinking Water • Amending clauses 7, 8 and 10 and two new rules for mapping requirements and targeted activity controls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Indigenous Biodiversity • Applying consistent and defined tests for extractive activities across the NPS-FM, NPS-HPL and NPS-IB • Amendments to significant natural areas (SNA) provisions in the NPS-IB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NES – Commercial Forestry • Reverse changes that increased council discretion for afforestation • Repeal National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF) clauses (6)(1)(a) and (6)(4)(a) • Review of slash settings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NES Marine Aquaculture • Amend to increase flexibility to innovate, improve management of existing marine farms and make minor and technical amendments
<p>Natural Hazards and Emergency Response</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Hazards National Direction • Develop new direction for natural hazards that applies to all natural hazards. It may consist of National Policy Statement and National Environmental Standards.

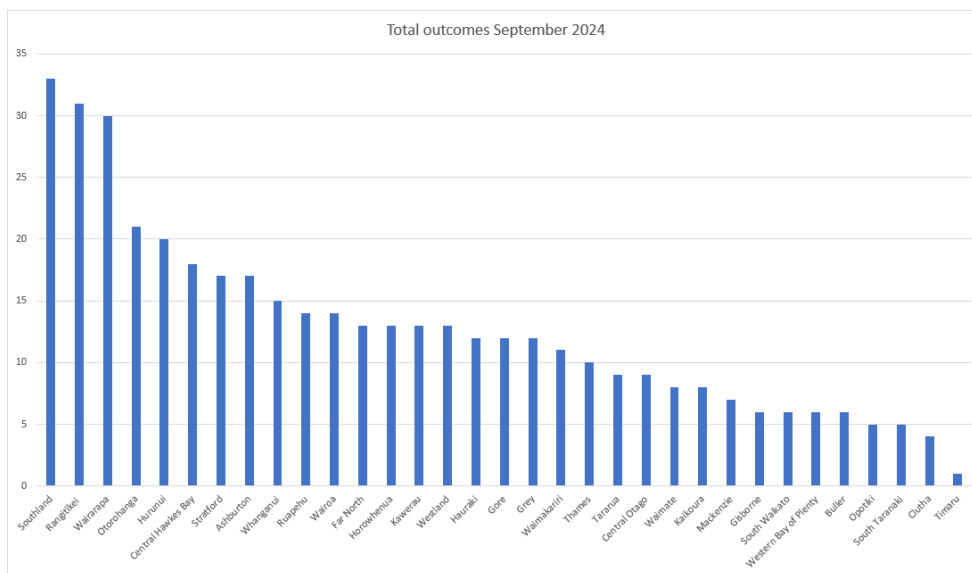
ITEM 9.1
ATTACHMENT 3

- The objective is to reduce the risk from natural hazards to people, property and infrastructure by providing direction on: identifying natural hazards, and assessing and responding to the risks they pose in a consistent way.

HUNTERVILLE HUNTAWAY FESTIVAL MEET THE PACK



MTFJ Rangitikei September 2024 Report



Great work from the team having achieved 31 outcomes to date. Now we need to ensure as many as possible meet our 31-day sustainable target of 30 by year end.

Please tell us how you have worked in partnership with MSD during the last month: This can be local engagement as part of Council discussions, or specific to supporting individual employers or people to gain employment. There is an expectation that engagement will occur fortnightly as a minimum.

Louise continues to foster our solid relationship with MSD, this brings in regular referrals to MTFJ. Phone calls and emails are daily with the case managers.

On the employment front, the Taihape Pool Manager once again came to Louise for staff for the 24/25 season. She has taken on 2 of our referrals and re-employed a person that was originally placed there a few years ago and returns annually.

The 2 placements are grateful for the help from MTFJ.

Also, Rangitikei Environmental Group needed 1 more young person to fill their complement of staff. Protégé was referred and settled in well.

Update on Winstone Mills:

James, Louise and Pauline Welch from Ruapehu District Council recently met Kathy Pyatt, WPI HR.

Kathy has worked tirelessly bringing in support for the staff over the last weeks/months. MSD redundancy support team have regularly been on site for a group presentation and followed this with one-on-one meetings that staff booked into. IRD have also been on site. Kathy promotes jobs advertised countrywide, and businesses have approached WPI seeking staff to apply.

We asked about numbers, but Kathy couldn't be specific. Some of the 200 staff made redundant worked remotely around the country and were contractors. Kathy estimated 150 lived in the local area, many were heading overseas for work, moving out of the area or had already secured local work. There were also some that were of retirement age or close to it that were not seeking further employment. Kathy's best guess was that we were looking at about a third of the 150 would potentially be needing help from MSD or help to find work.

Kathy puts out a weekly email to the staff and will include MTFJ's contact details and to call if they are needing assistance.

Louise will talk with the MSD team to offer our services to the WPI staff that approach them for financial help.

Please note any programme developments, engagements and emerging opportunities: This can include current work plans, engagements with employers and progress on outcomes. This can include additional community engagement activities and stakeholder engagement.

James was invited to attend a meeting in Bulls on the 27th September hosted by the Mayor, where the Honourable Shane Jones, Minister of Regional Development held a Q&A session on what are the regions needs and asks? Minister Jones stated that he was happy to take any well-reasoned and costed initiatives to Cabinet. Mayors were present from across the Rohe and other MP's also attended.



Are you having any issues that you need support on from Maree, Tammie or Nicola from Ministry of Social Development? Please give us a bit of detail if yes.

N/A

What good news stories do you have to share? Please describe below and include any stories that have run in media locally.

Josh originally came to MTFJ in September 2023 when Louise helped him into forestry work. He later went on to work at the local meat works. In September Josh took a leap of faith and started his own business offering house and property cleaning and maintenance. He has always been appreciative of the support of MTFJ and regularly calls in to update us on his journey.



Rangitikei Environmental Group Taihape

Clifton started in August and Protege started in September. Both boys left school early and have no qualifications. They are thriving under the mentorship of the Groups supervisor and staff and are doing well.

ITEM 9.1 ATTACHMENT 6

	A	B	C	D	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
	Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
195	5-Aug-24	Hunterville CC	PR			PR			PR						
196	8-Aug-24	Council Workshop													
197	8-Aug-24	Turakina CC	PR		PR										
198	12-Aug-24	Youth Council	PR				PR							PR	
199	13-Aug-24	TRAK	CB					PR					PR		
200	14-Aug-24	Taihape CB	PR				PR							PR	
201	15-Aug-24	AIN Workshop													
202	15-Aug-24	PPL Meeting	CB	PR			PR	AP	PR	AT	PR			PR	
203	21-Aug-24	Marton CC	CB	PR							PR				
204	29-Aug-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR	AT			PR	PR	PR		PR	
205	29-Aug-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
206	3-Sep-24	ERWS	AP								PR			PR	
207	11-Sep-24	Bulls CC	AP	PR						AT			PR		
208	18-Sep-24	RA meeting	PR	PR		PR		PR		PR					
209	25-Sep-24	TRAK Workshop	PR				AP	PR					PR		
210	25-Sep-24	Youth Council	PR				PR							PR	
211	26-Sep-24	Finance/Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR	AT		AT	PR	PR	PR		PR	
212	26-Sep-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
213	3-Oct-24	TCC Meeting	PR		AP										
214	7-Oct-24	HRWS Meeting	PR			PR			PR						
215	7-Oct-24	HCC Meeting	AP			PR			PR						
216	8-Oct-24	TRAK Hui	PR				PR	PR					PR		
217	8-Oct-24	Ratana CB	CB					PR							
218	9-Oct-24	Taihape CB	CB				PR							PR	
219	9-Oct-24	Marton CC	PR	AP							PR				
220	10-Oct-24	AIN Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR		AP	
221	17-Oct-24	Council Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	
222										Present (and is a member of the committee)				PR	
223										Apology				AP	
224										Absent - no apology received				AB	
225															
226															
227										Not a member of the committee					
228										Not a member of the committee (but still attended)				AT	
229										Not present as on Council business				CB	
230										Attended via Zoom [this indicator is no longer used]				ZM	
231															

9.2 Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Abuse Under Care

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

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

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

Gentle Annie Road

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

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

Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Whanganui

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

Spring Fling Taihape

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

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

Armistice Day

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

Local Water Done Well

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A couple of updates

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

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

Schools

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

Mayor’s Engagements

November 2024

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

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

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

Attachments:

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

Recommendation

That the Mayor’s Report – 28 November 2024 be accepted

ITEM 9.2
ATTACHMENT 1



LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// July-October 2024





Ko Tātou LGNZ.

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

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

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

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ngā mihi
Sam and Susan

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Champion

Local government funding and financing

Rates rise toolkit 3: Unfunded mandates

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

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

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

Tourism and cost recovery

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

Revenue capping and other measures

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

Forthcoming funding and financing toolkit

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

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



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

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

Regional deals

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

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

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

Government relations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Media

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



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

Feedback from media about the conference experience was very positive.



6 press conferences



33 accredited media



400+ media items



9 proactive story topics

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Electoral Reform Working Group

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

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

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

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

Remits

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

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

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

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



Māori wards

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

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

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

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

Water services reform

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

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

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



Resource management reform

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

The changes cover four areas:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Transport

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Climate change

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

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



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

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

Localism

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

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

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

Other policy issues

Earthquake prone buildings

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

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

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

Emergency management system improvement

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

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



Connect

Member visits

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

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

SuperLocal24

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

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

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

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

Combined Sector meetings

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

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

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

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

2025 calendar

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

Te Maruata

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

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

YEM

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

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



Women's lunch

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

CBEC

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

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

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

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

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

Metro Sector

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

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



Te Uru Kahika/Regional Sector

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

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



Support

Ākona

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

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

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

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

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

Roundtable zooms

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

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

Hūtia te Rito – LGNZ Māori Strategy

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

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

Governance guides/support

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

MTFJ

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

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

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

Moata Carbon Portal

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



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

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

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

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky

The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved, and now we lie,

In Flanders fields.

Thank you.

ITEM 9.2 ATTACHMENT 3



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

ITEM 9.2 ATTACHMENT 4

LGNZ SECTOR MEETINGS – 21-22 NOVEMBER 2024

DAY 1 – COMBINED SECTOR MEETING

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

Hon Mark Mitchell - Minister Emergency Management

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

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

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

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

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

Allan Prangnell - CE Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai

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

Mark Patterson – Minister for Rural Communities

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

DAY TWO - RURAL AND PROVINCIAL SECTOR MEETING – 22 NOVEMBER

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

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

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

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

So what does all of this mean?

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

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

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

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

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

2. Keynote Speaker **Wayne Brown** -

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

3. Panel Discussion on **CouncilMark** -
 - Now named Te Korowai and used as a benchmarking tool. *This was effectively a reference that CouncilMark hasn't worked, as personally I think was evident in our case, and a reorganisation of how benchmarking could continue in the future, something that I also respect is important.*

4. **Minister Shane Jones** -
 - Thanked us for the Regional Growth Summit at Te Matapihi.
 - There is slightly less than \$1b left in the Infrastructural Fund.
 - As a Minister he will work on how we adapt to climate change. He is not interested in other discussions! – *this is a reference to the fact that in his opinion we need to concentrate on economic growth and other forms of energy, mining etc and that will come at some environmental risk.*
 - He has concern with regard to the number of new reserves for fisheries and he wants to increase the economy helped by agriculture and we can't do both.
 - Minister made several comments with regards Fast Track Legislation . He made the point that Fast Track is possibly not a long term process or solution but is needed now. He also noted the comment that many of the applications for Fast Track have in fact been made by councils.
 - That he and Government have used \$60m to deep drill 7kms in the central plateau region to see if there can be a new energy source for New Zealand.
 - Crown Regional Infrastructure will have a report on their website and there will be a series of public meetings - he regards this as a brave step forward.

5. **Rates Capping – The New South Wales Experience** - led by Cr Darriea Turley President of Local Government NSW
 - Rates capping is where the maximum rate increases communities will face is set at a particular level and how that can change over time.
 - This presentation was organised because the New Zealand Government is strongly showing an interest in in putting rates capping in place for New Zealand – *this is again in response to the high rate rises that in Government's view have been caused by non-back-to-basics expenditure.*
 - Rates capping or pegging only applies in NSW to general rates and does not include Three Waters charges.
 - Rates caps tend to be set by an independent body to Local Government.
 - Difficulties arise where the rate caps are often set below the level of inflation e.g. a rates cap of 0.79% was set for the year where inflation was currently running at 3%.
 - NSW found that it led to greater uncertainty over the reliance on national grants and difficulty with staffing retention.
 - I note that the Rural and Provincial meeting started with the Victoria Australia Experience on Rate Caps which I have yet to hear but will try and look into.

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

Benefits of water metering are -

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

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

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

8. **Fiscal Outlook** - Treasury

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

9. **LGNZ** – Susan Freeman-Greene

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

9.3 Consultation Tracker

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

ITEM 9.3

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This is included for the committee's information. The attached schedule will be update regularly.
- 1.2 This dashboard highlights the topic, staff lead and expected consultation period. There is a lot planned across the local government sector and for our Council over the next 12 months so it is of benefit to provide this to not only Council but also our Community Committees on a monthly basis.

2. RDC Website

- 2.1 Council's website lists all open and recently closed consultations (see the below weblink). This is also where individuals can make submissions.
<https://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/consultation/current-consultations>

Attachments:

1. Consultation Tracker November [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report 'Consultation Tracker' be received.

2025 Consultation Tracker

Rangitikei District Council



Project	Staff Lead	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
Local Water Done Well	Arno	Engagement	Preferred arrangement decided 12 Dec			Consultation 24 Feb - 21 Mar									
District Plan Review				Adoption of CD											
Urban Growth Plan Change	Tiffany					Engagement 1 Mar - 1 Apr					Notification				
Annual Plan	Janna														
Gambling Policy / TAB Venues	Janna					Adoption of CD & draft annual plan 13 Mar									
Fees and Charges	Janna														
Waste Minimisation Plan	Arno		Adoption of draft WMMP 12 Dec												
Waste Minimisation Plan	Arno														
Marton Streetscape Upgrade Plan	Jarrod		Engagement												
Marton-Bulls Wastewater Strategy	Arno						Adoption	Consultation							
Local Body Elections	Carol														
Māori Wards Referendum	Carol														
Rātana Road Naming (landowners only)	Katrina		Consultation	Consultation											
Economic Strategy & Action Plan	Jarrod														
Bulls Recreation Master Plan	Clare					Engagement									

Christmas closedown period - 20th December-6th January

ITEM 9.3 ATTACHMENT 1

9.4 Funding Schemes Update - December 2024**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****1. Overview**

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

2. Community Initiatives Fund

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

3. Events Support Scheme

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

- 3.4.2 Hunterville Huntaway festival
- 3.4.3 BCDT, Christmas Parade
- 3.4.4 Manawatu Wanganui Golf Ass Inc
- 3.4.5 Taihape Area Dressage Group
- 3.4.6 3 Stand 8-Hour Strong Wool Shearing Record Attempt- Hunterville
- 3.4.7 Marton Country Music Festival
- 3.4.8 BCDT, Bulls 147th Annual Rose Show and Fest a Bull
- 3.4.9 St Joseph’s School PTA

3.5 Round two for 2024/25 will open on the 01 February 25 and closes 31 March 25. Decisions will be made at the following Finance/Performance meeting.

4. Creative Communities Scheme

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

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

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

4.3 Round one for 2024/25 opened 21 June 24 and closed 09 October 24. Decisions were made on the 13 November 24.

5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

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

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

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

6. Further Information

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

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

Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update –December 2024 be received.

ITEM 9.5

9.5 Small Projects Fund Update - December 2024**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****1. Allocation**

1.1 The yearly allocation of the 2024/25 Small Projects Fund for the Marton Community Committee is \$4,167.19, this includes the carry-forward of \$667.19.

2. Breakdown of Allocation

2.1 Sport Whanganui has been earmarked \$850 and staff are awaiting confirmation of purchases before proceeding with payment.

2.2 The remaining funds available to the committee are **\$3,317.19**.

3. Funding requests

3.1 Toaiva Lauano-Tunai may be in attendance to speaking to a funding request.

Recommendation

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

10 Discussion Items

10.1 Local Water Done Well

Author: Carolyn Bates, Chair

1. Reason for Report

1.1 The Chair requested that this item be included for any updates from councillors.

Recommendation

If needed:

11 Meeting Closed.