

ORDER PAPER

POLICY/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 11 April 2024
Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Chair: Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa
Deputy Chair: Cr Gill Duncan
Membership: Cr Richard Lambert
Cr Dave Wilson
Cr Greg Maughan
Mr Chris Shenton (TRAK representative)
HWTM Andy Watson

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Locations:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape	
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Notice is hereby given that a Policy/Planning Committee Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Thursday, 11 April 2024 at 1.30pm.

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AGENDA

1 Welcome / Prayer

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 **Policy/Planning Committee Meeting held on 15 February 2024** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Policy/Planning Committee Meeting - 15 February 2024**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Policy/Planning Committee Meeting held on 15 February 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: POLICY/PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 15 February 2024

Time: 1.00pm

**Venue: Council Chamber
Rangitikei District Council
46 High Street
Marton**

Present

- Cr Gill Duncan
- Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa (Zoom)
- Cr Richard Lambert
- Cr Dave Wilson
- Cr Greg Maughan
- HWTM Andy Watson

In attendance

- Cr Jeff Wong
- Cr Fi Dalgety
- Mr Kevin Ross, Chief Executive
- Ms Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner
- Mrs Carol Gordon, Group Manager- Democracy and Planning
- Ms Janna Isles, Corporate Planner
- Mr Dave Tombs, Group Manager- Corporate Services
- Mrs Sharon Grant, Group Manager- People and Performance
- Mr Michael Hodder, Advisor to the Chief Executive (Zoom)
- Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

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ITEM 6.1 ATTACHMENT 1

Unconfirmed

1 Welcome / Prayer

As Chair Piki Te Ora was attending via Zoom, Cr Duncan Chaired the meeting. The meeting opened at 1pm.

2 Apologies

No apologies were received.

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/001

That the minutes of Policy/Planning Committee Meeting held on 12 October 2023 **without amendment** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr D Wilson/Cr R Lambert. Carried

7 Follow-up Actions

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Policy/Planning Committee Meetings

The two action items were noted as completed.

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/002

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Policy/Planning Committee Meetings' be received.

Cr G Maughan/Cr D Wilson. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - February 2024

The Chair's Report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/003

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

Cr Hiroa/Cr R Lambert. Carried

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Policy/Bylaw Work Programme Update and Bylaw Review

Review of the Public Places, Trading in Public Places and Control of Advertising Signage Bylaws

Mrs Isles introduced the review of these three bylaws, noting it was proposed they now be combined. She further noted that although they are overdue for a review they are still enforceable until January 2025.

Committee members noted concerns around mobile scooters, Mrs Isles responded that this doesn't fall under any definition, due to concerns that Council doesn't want to limit their use in areas. It was recommended that some type of action should be taken to either include something in the bylaw under a new definition or included as a nuisance. This was left with staff to deal with in the most appropriate way.

Mind Altering Substances

In response to a question Mrs Isles noted that all bylaws are listed on the Council's website.

Penalties and Enforcement

Mrs Isles responded to questions in relation to penalties, advising they are set out in the Local Government Act and any offences can be referred to the courts.

It was noted that the enforcement of bylaws is reactive, and complaints based, and therefore it is not anticipated that there will be an increase in workload for staff.

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/004

That the report 'Policy/Bylaw Work Programme Update and Bylaw Review' be received.

Cr R Lambert/Cr G Maughan. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/005

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommend to Council that the 'Rangitikei District Council Signs and Public Places Bylaw 2024' bylaw be adopted for consultation.

HWTM A Watson/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/006

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that, in accordance with section 155 of the Local Government Act, a bylaw is the most appropriate way of dealing with the management of nuisances created from signs in public places, trading in public places, and other uses of public places, and that the draft Rangitikei District Council Signs and Public Places Bylaw 2024 is the most appropriate form of a bylaw, and there are no implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

Cr D Wilson/Cr R Lambert. Carried

9.2 Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2024/25

In presenting this item Mrs Isles noted that an updated document, with minor changes was circulated to the Committee. These were in the libraries area and also a change in the cost for property files.

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/007

That the report 'Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2024/25' be received.

HWTM A Watson/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/008

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommend to Council that the 'Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2024/25' with the amendments outlined by staff, is adopted for consultation to occur alongside the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

HWTM A Watson/Cr D Wilson. Carried

9.3 Proposed Smoke and Vape-free Policy

Mr Hodder presented the Proposed Smoke and Vape-free Policy to the Committee. He noted that Council was one of the few that did not have such a policy. There has been extensive input from key stakeholders in the development of this.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to consult on the draft policy, noting this would form part of the education process of the Policy. Consultation will take place after the Long-Term Plan consultation.

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/009

That the report 'Proposed Smoke and Vape free policy' and the draft policy be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr R Lambert. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/010

That the Policy/Planning Committee recommends to Council that it approves public consultation on the draft smoke and vape-free policy (with any further amendments) on the basis that this will increase public awareness and support for the initiative, and delegates to the Policy/Planning Committee to consider oral and written submissions and report its finding to the Council.

Cr D Wilson/Cr G Duncan. Carried

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Strategy/Plan Development and Review Update

Ms Gray presented the report to the Committee and noted some of the challenges that are being faced.

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/011

That the report 'Strategy/Plan Development and Review Update' be received.

Cr G Duncan/Cr D Wilson. Carried

Cr Maughan left the meeting at 2.52pm.

10.2 Coalition Government 100-day Plan

Ms Gray presented the report, noting that the change in direction for 3 waters has had an impact across all councils, some are now facing large financial impacts to deal with their waters infrastructure.

Resolved minute number 24/PPL/012

That the report 'Coalition Government 100-day Plan' be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr R Lambert. Carried

ITEM 6.1
ATTACHMENT 1

11 Discussion Items

11.1 Policy/Planning Committee - Review of Terms of Reference

At the request of the Chair this item was deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Policy/Planning Committee held on 11 April 2024.

.....
Chairperson

Unconfirmed

7 Reports for Information

7.1 Chair's Report

Author: Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Chair

Authoriser: Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Chair

Tena Koutou katoa,

An acknowledgment to those councillors who made the "Review of Terms of Reference workshop earlier today and also a welcome back to our Deputy Chair Councillor Gill Duncan who has been away tramping in the South Island. I'd also like to thank Councillor Duncan for stepping into the Chairs role at the February meeting due to my attendance online via ZOOM. He mihi mahana ki a koe!

There is much to be done in the Policy space and I'd just like to thank our communities who have put in submissions not only for the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan but also in other areas of consultation and feedback such as the Draft Revenue and Financing Policy, the Draft Rates Remission Policy, the Draft Significance and Engagement Policy and also the Draft Development Contributions Policy. All of these submission dates closed off on the 7 April so again many thanks to those that took part. Ensuring we have robust and workable policies that ensure we keep within the law, comply with the many rules and regulations that sit alongside local government can be mind boggling at times but that is the environment we work within.

Again, an interesting Agenda for us today that will include, Urban Growth, Strategy /Plan Development and Review update, Policy/Bylaw Work Programme Update and Bylaw Review an Economic Wellbeing update and a discussion around Submissions into the Horizons Regional Council 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

The following whakatauki encompasses what an optimum outcome can achieve and in essence means people being able to work together to achieve their goals!

Whakatauki!

"Ma whero ma pango ka oti te mahi!

(By black and red together the work is done! Many hands make light work!)

Nga mihi mahana

Recommendation

That the Chair's Report be received.

7.2 Urban Growth Plan Change - Efficiency and Effectiveness Monitoring Update**Author:** Tiffany Gower, Team Leader - Planning**Authoriser:** Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 Provide the Committee with an update on progress and an overview of the findings of the efficiency and effectiveness monitoring that Officers have undertaken for the Residential and Rural Living zones.

2. Context

- 2.1 Officers have commenced Proposed Plan Change 3 - Urban Growth (PPC3). PPC3 focuses on the Residential and Rural Living zones of the Rangitīkei District Plan (District Plan).
- 2.2 PPC3 will look at whether or not the District Plan's current provisions for subdivision and development are working well for these zones, how to better provide for intensification of urban development (where appropriate), and to rezone land to provide for greenfield urban growth where there is an identified need.
- 2.3 Part of the research phase of this plan change includes "efficiency and effectiveness" monitoring which is required under section 35(2)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA):

"Section 35 Duty to gather information, monitor, and keep records:

(2) Every local authority shall monitor –

(b) the efficiency and effectiveness of policies, rules, or other methods in its policy statement or its plan"

- 2.4 To inform the efficiency and effectiveness monitoring officers have reviewed 5 years of resource consents (being subdivisions and land use consents) for properties in the Residential and Rural Living zones, and 5 years of building consents issued for new and relocated dwellings in these two zones.
- 2.5 This information can be used to help inform what provisions Council should be considering amending or introducing as part of PPC3.

3. Discussion

- 3.1 Officers will provide presentation at the Committee meeting that will give an overview of the key findings of the efficiency and effectiveness monitoring.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications. Council has already allocated and approved budget for PPC3 and Council also received Better Off Funding to support this project.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 There are no relevant strategic risks.

6. Mana Whenua Implications

- 6.1 Officers will undertake pre-consultation and formal consultation with mana whenua as they progress in the development of PPC3.

7. Statutory Implications

- 7.1 As already outlined “efficiency and effectiveness” monitoring is required under section 35(2)(b) of the RMA 1991.
- 7.2 In accordance with section 35(2A) of the RMA 1991, Council must “*make available to the public a review of the results of its monitoring*”. Officers will therefore make the efficiency and effectiveness monitoring report publicly available once it has been finalised.
- 7.3 From here the plan change process is prescribed under Schedule 1 of the RMA 1991.

8. Decision Making Process

- 8.1 There are no relevant decision-making processes.

Recommendation

That the report ‘Urban Growth Plan Change - Efficiency and Effectiveness Monitoring Update’ be received.

7.3 Policy/Bylaw Work Programme Update

Author: Janna Isles, Corporate Planner

Authoriser: Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Policy/Planning Committee on the status of Council bylaws and policies and discuss the Flying Drones Policy.

2. Work Programme

- 2.1 The Bylaw Register and Policy Register are attached (Attachment 1 and 2).
- 2.2 The top priorities continue to be the replacement of the Public Places Bylaw, Control of Advertising Signage Bylaw, and Trading in Public Places Bylaw along with the Drone Policy.
- 2.3 The Draft Signs and Public Places Bylaw is intended to replace the Public Places Bylaw, Control of Advertising Signage Bylaw, and Trading in Public Places Bylaw. Council adopted the draft bylaw for consultation at the Council Meeting on 28 March 2024. Consultation will begin on Friday 31 May 2024, and end on Monday 1 July 2024. At this meeting Council also delegated the consideration for written and oral submissions to the Policy/Planning Committee. This requires an additional Policy/Planning Committee meeting at the end of July 2024.
- 2.4 The Draft Smokefree and Vapefree Policy was also adopted for consultation by Council at the Council Meeting on 28 March 2024. Consultation on this draft policy will occur simultaneously with the Draft Signs and Public Places Bylaw.
- 2.5 An update on the Flying Drones Policy is provided in this report.

3. Flying Drones Policy

- 3.1 The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) introduced new rules on 1 August 2015 to prohibit the flying of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles i.e. drones over private land without the permission of the land owner. In this case private land also refers to land owned or administered by Council.
- 3.2 On 1 October 2015 Council adopted an interim guideline for flying drones on council parks (Attachment 3). This interim guideline provides blanket permission for anyone to fly drones over any park owned or administered by Council.
- 3.3 This guideline was intended to be temporary to allow Council to develop a better understanding on how the CAA rules would work in practice before adopting a policy on drones.
- 3.4 The CAA part 101 rules specify how drone operators can operate their drones. A summary of these rules are:
 - Fly no higher than 120m above the ground,
 - Stay a safe and considerate distance away from people and buildings,
 - Don't fly over private land, such as farms or houses, unless the owner says it's OK,

- Keep your drone in sight at all times, fly in daylight with good visibility,
- Stay 4km away from anywhere aircraft are landing or taking off,
- If you see another aircraft, stay well clear of it and land immediately.

- 3.5 Officers consider that the CAA rules are working as intended, therefore Council does not need to introduce any specific rules through a bylaw. Officers recommend developing a policy for the purpose of providing permission for people to operate drones on Council owned and administrated land.
- 3.6 The current interim guidance declares that Council will develop the policy in conjunction with RNZAF Ohakea, as well as expressing the intention to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with Ohakea Air Traffic Control to aid in the facilitation of authorising drone flights within the Ohakea Air Traffic Control area. Officers have reached out to RNZAF Ohakea to understand the level of involvement they wish to have in the development of a policy. Any feedback will be provided at the June 2024 Policy/Planning Committee meeting.
- 3.7 The purpose of the flying drones policy will be to provide permission for anyone to fly drones on Council owned or administrated land without being required to seek Council permission before every flight.
- 3.8 Officers recommend that Council provides permission for drones to be operated on parks and reserves within the district, rather than providing permission for all council owned or administrated land to avoid providing blanket permission for drones to be operated above roads and other council facilities. Council could also decide to exempt particular parks or reserves from the permission provided in the policy. For example, Council could decide to not provide permission in the policy for drones to be operated in any cemetery in the district. This would mean that if a person wished to operate a drone above a cemetery, the person would first have to seek permission from Council.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. Bylaws and Policies are developed and enforced within existing budgets.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 No impacts on strategic risk have been identified.

6. Mana Whenua Implications

- 6.1 The Draft Signs and Public Places Bylaw and the Draft Smokefree and Vapefree policy is on the agenda for the Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti hui on 9 April 2024. The draft bylaw and policy will also both be distributed to Iwi as part of the consultation period.
- 6.2 Officers have not identified specific Mana Whenua Implications at this stage of the development of the Flying Drones Policy.

7. Statutory Implications

- 7.1 There are no new statutory implications associated with the draft bylaw.
- 7.2 There are no statutory implications associated with this report.

ITEM 7.3

Attachments:

1. **Bylaw Schedule** [↓](#)
2. **Policy Schedule** [↓](#)
3. **Flying drones on Rangitikei District Council Parks Interim Guideline** [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report 'Policy/Bylaw Work Programme update' be received.

Bylaw Register					
Document	Requirement/Enabling Legislation	Last reviewed	Review due	Responsible	Comment / Update
Trading in Public Places Bylaw	Local Government Act 2002	31/01/2013	31/01/2023	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Under review.
Public Places Bylaw	Local Government Act 2002	31/01/2013	31/01/2023	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Under review.
Control of Advertising Signage Bylaw	Local Government Act 2002	31/01/2013	31/01/2023	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Under review.
Mokai Bridge Bungy Jumping Bylaw	Local Government Act 2002	3/10/2013	30/06/2023	Democracy & Planning	Not proposed for review at this stage.
Control of Dogs Bylaw	Dog Control Act 1996	26/05/2016	27/11/2026	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Not due for review.
Traffic and Parking Bylaw	Land Transport Act 1998	15/03/2023	15/03/2028	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Not due for review.
Liquor Control Bylaw	Local Government Act 2002	30/11/2018	29/11/2028	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Not due for review.
Animal Control Bylaw	Local Government Act 2002	31/01/2019	31/01/2029	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Not due for review.
Stock Droving and Grazing Bylaw	Land Transport Act 1998, Local Government Act 2002	26/09/2019	26/09/2029	Assets & Infrastructure Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Not due for review.
Water Related Services Bylaw	Local Government Act 2002	30/04/2020	8/05/2030	Assets and Infrastructure, Democracy and Planning	Not due for review.
Food Business Grading Bylaw	Food Act 2014	28/10/2021	28/10/2031	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Not due for review.

Policy Register						
Document	Requirement/Enabling Legislation	Last reviewed	Review due	Priority	Responsible	Comment / Update
TAB Venues Policy	Racing Industry Act 2020	26/09/2019	26/09/2022	High	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	To be reviewed 2024.
Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy	Gambling Act 2003	12/12/2019	12/12/2022	High	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	To be reviewed 2024.
Flying Drones in Council Parks - interim guideline	Civil Aviation Authority Part 101	1/10/2015	No requirement	High	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Under review.
Social Media Policy		1/08/2021	No requirement	Medium	Democracy & Planning	Under review, no timeline for completion.
Treasury Management Policy	Local Government Act 2002 S102, 104, 105	30/09/2023	No requirement	Medium	Corporate Services	Not due for review.
Statement on Development of Māori Capacity to Contribute to Decision Making	Local Government Act 2002 S81, Sch10 clause 8	28/06/2018	No requirement	Medium	Democracy & Planning	To be reviewed alongside the 2024-34 LTP.
Significance and Engagement Policy	Local Government Act 2002 S76AA	9/06/2021	No requirement	Medium	Democracy & Planning	To be reviewed alongside the 2024-34 LTP. Out for consultation.
Development Contributions Policy	Local Government Act 2002 S102, 106	9/06/2021	9/06/2024	Medium	Assets & Infrastructure Corporate Services	To be reviewed alongside the 2024-34 LTP. Out for consultation.
Revenue and Finance Policy	Local Government Act 2002 S102, 103	9/06/2021	No requirement	Medium	Corporate Services	To be reviewed alongside the 2024-34 LTP. Out for consultation.
Community Housing Policy		9/08/2018	9/08/2024	Medium	Community Services	Update to occur in 2024.
Procurement Policy		27/03/2014	No requirement	Medium	Corporate Services	Under review, due to be completed 2024.
Smoking (and Vaping) Policy		N/A	N/A	Medium	Democracy & Planning Community Services	Under review.
LGOIMA Requests Policy		1/05/2023	No requirement	Low	Democracy & Planning	ELT set review date of May 2025.
Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy	Building Act 2004 S131	25/06/2020	25/06/2025	Low	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Not due for review.
Delegations to Positions Policy		24/05/2023	No requirement	Low	Democracy & Planning	Adopted May 2023, with a review of delegations to follow. Council set review date for policy of November 2025.
Local Governance Statement	Local Government Act 2002	31/03/2023	31/03/2026	Low	Democracy & Planning	Reviewed following the 2022 triennial election.
Dog Control and Ownership Responsibility Policy	Dog Control Act 1996 S10	26/05/2016	26/05/2026	Low	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Not due for review.
Rates Postponement Policy	Local Government Act 2002 S102	25/06/2020	25/06/2026	Low	Corporate Services	Not due for review.
Local Easter Sunday Trading Policy	Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 P2 S5a	16/12/2021	16/12/2026	Low	Regulatory	Not due for review.
Rates Remission Policy	Local Government Act 2002 S102, 109	9/06/2022	9/06/2028	Low	Corporate Services	Not due for review.
Rates Remission Policy for Māori Freehold Land	Local Government Act 2002 S102, 108	9/06/2022	9/06/2028	Low	Corporate Services	Not due for review.
Standing Orders	Local Government Act 2002 Sch7 27	23/11/2023	No requirement	Low	Democracy & Planning	Reviewed following the 2022 triennial election.
Code of Conduct	Local Government Act Sch7 15	23/11/2022	No requirement	Low	Democracy & Planning	Reviewed following the 2022 triennial election.
MOU: Tūtohunga		17/12/2019	No requirement	Low	Democracy & Planning	No review planned.
External Grant Applications		11/05/2017	No requirement	Low	Community Services	No review planned.
Rural Water Supply Policy		1/12/2017	No requirement	Low	Assets & Infrastructure Community Services	No review planned.
Reducing or Waiving Fees for Use of Council Facilities		1/10/2015	No requirement	Low	Democracy & Planning	No review planned.
Reducing or Waiving Fees for internal consenting costs		1/10/2015	No requirement	Low	Democracy & Planning	No review planned.
Private Sector		14/11/2014	No requirement	Low	Community Services	No review planned.
Appointment of Directors	Local Government Act 2002 s57	21/07/2008	No requirement	Low	Democracy & Planning	No review planned.
Agreed Terms of Reference Te Rooopuu Ahi Kaa		30/09/2004	No requirement	Low	Democracy & Planning	No review planned.
Road Naming Policy		N/A	N/A	Low	Regulatory Democracy & Planning	Development commenced.

Adopted by Council, 1 October 2015

Flying drones on Rangitikei District Council parks – interim guideline

Introduction

New rules introduced by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on 1 August 2015 prohibit people flying Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), i.e. ‘drones’, over private land without the owner’s permission. ‘Private land’ includes all land owned or administered by the Council.

The CCA has set general rules around the operation of drones, including height and control. There are financial penalties for breaches of these rules. Special requirements apply for controlled airspace. *This affects the south-west part of the Rangitikei, from Marton to the coast: this area falls within the Ohakea airspace, administered by Air Traffic Control at the RNZAF Ohakea Base.*

A policy will be developed in conjunction with RNZAF Ohakea and consulted on. This may be associated with an amendment to the Public Places Bylaw 2013. In the meantime, this interim guideline is being issued, to authorise those people who wish to fly drones on Council parks, to do so.

Scope

This interim guideline covers all electric powered remote controlled model aircraft of the type commonly referred to as “drones” that are capable of vertical take-off and landing and small hand-launched gliders less than 1.5m wing span.

The guideline excludes the following:

- fixed wing electric-powered model aircraft greater than 1m wing span
- all fixed- winged model aircraft that are internal combustion engine (petrol) powered.
- gliders greater than 1.5 m wing span and bungee-launched gliders
- single rotor helicopters that are electric powered or internal combustion engine (petrol) powered
- jet powered models

The guideline relates to Council-owned or administered parks only. A location map will be associated with the guideline. All cemeteries are excluded, as are all roads (including those within any park) and road reserves.

The interim guideline has three parts

A In-principle approval to use Council parks for flying drones – whole-of-District

1. Flyers are permitted to use any park owned or administered by the Council (as shown on the associated location map).¹
2. This permission constitutes authorisation in terms of clause 6(1)(l) of Council’s Public Places Bylaw.² but there remains the obligation under clause 6(1)(n), not to conduct any activity, including the playing of any game recklessly or in a manner which may intimidate, be dangerous or injurious or cause a nuisance to persons in the public place, or damage the public place.

¹ This does not include the sports field at Ratana Paa, as this is not owned or administered by Council.

² Except with the prior permission of the Council or an authorised officer a person shall not on any public place fly from or land any aeroplane including model aeroplanes, a hot air balloon or hang glider, parachutes or similar, except in an emergency.

Adopted by Council, 1 October 2015

3. Flyers will be expected to comply with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner guidance on preserving people's personal privacy by not flying over other people using the park or over adjoining private property.
4. Flyers will be expected to comply with the following code:
 - a. Be courteous of other park users, who often have visited the park for the quiet enjoyment of the park;
 - b. Do not fly –
 - over any parked vehicles or roads,
 - over a sports field if in use by others,
 - within of 20 metres of or over other users of the park (including other flyers of drones) or livestock,
 - within 20 metres of or be flown over a park building,
 - within 20 metres of overhead electrical lines,
 - during a fire ban period, or
 - over adjoining private property;
 - c. Cease operation if requested by a member of the public or Council staff.

B Adherence to Civil Aviation Authority requirements – whole-of-District

The requirements are set out in Rule Part 101. The basic requirements are that drones

- a. must not be flown above 120 metres,
- b. must remain within the line of sight of the operator (without the aid of any device such as binoculars or mobile phones),
- c. must not be flown within 4 km of any aerodrome, and
- d. must be flown in daylight hours only.

C Specific authorisation from Ohakea Air Traffic Control - Marton, Bulls, Scotts Ferry, Koitiata, Ratana, Whangaehu, Turakina

1. Anyone wishing to fly drones on Council parks in these locations **must** seek prior authorisation from Ohakea Air Traffic Control. This may be subject to amendment or withdrawal at any time because of aircraft movements in and out of the Base.
2. Council intends to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate these authorisations.

7.4 Economic Wellbeing Update

Author: Jarrod Calkin, Economic Wellbeing Lead

Authoriser: Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update regarding the Economic Wellbeing of the district and the actions Council staff are taking to support business and the District.

2. Economic Update

- 2.1 GDP for the district is \$814.2m for 2023 which is up 2.3% on the previous year.
- 2.2 Agriculture, forestry, and fishing makes up 29.4% of the districts GDP with Sheep and Beef farming being the top industry at 16%.
- 2.3 Retail spend in the district is up 0.1% for the quarter Dec 2023-Feb 2024, made up by an increase in number of transactions by 0.6% and reduction in average transaction value by 0.5%
- 2.4 Interest rates are predicted to start falling towards the end of the year with all 5 major banks in New Zealand in agreement there is likely no further lift in the Official Cash Rate ("OCR") from its current high of 5.5% however the timing of any reductions in the OCR vary across the various lenders. This signals good news for borrowers however the impact of lower interest rates will take effect slowly due to the phasing of when and if people's borrowings come off higher fixed rates. Currently 85% of all Home Loans are on fixed rates with 32% coming off in the next 6 months and a further 56% coming off within 2 years suggesting any rate relief passed on from the lenders will be realised over the medium term.
- 2.5 Inflation has started to show signs of weakening, dropping under 5% for the first time since December 2021. High prices for food, utilities, housing, and insurance are continuing to put pressure on the cost-of-living in our communities reducing the amount of discretionary spending which is being felt by retailers and hospitality.
- 2.6 The number of jobs has grown in the district by 0.2% for the year ending 2023 with the unemployment rate increasing slightly to 3.1%. The number of NEET's (15-24 year olds, not in Employment or engaged in Education and Training) has remained steady at 11.6% and reduced from 17.4% since 2018.
- 2.7 Our agricultural sector is under significant financial pressure with reduced prices for lamb and mutton in conjunction rising on-farm costs. A combination of high supply from overseas markets along with reduced demand from China is a key driver of the poor returns. Our District GDP has a higher than national average reliance on the agricultural sector and a large portion of our economy relies on the flow of money from the agricultural sector. The effects of reduced revenue and higher costs for farmers will be felt by the wider economy both directly and indirectly.

3. Partnerships

Business Rangitikei

3.1 Business Rangitikei are an organisation based in our district who have established themselves to be the advocates of business in the district. They are founded on 4 key principles:

- Collaboration
- Growth
- Community
- Empowerment

Officers are working in partnership with Business Rangitikei to support their Business After 5 programme which has been operating for close to 6 months. These are networking events held monthly across the district and feedback has been positive with Council staff and Elected Members having the opportunity to attend and speak when important topics arise. A most recent example being the Long Term Plan consultations.

Whanganui and Partners

3.2 Whanganui and Partners (“W&P”) deliver the Regional Business Partners Network (“RBP”) in the Rangitikei District. Officers have started building a relationship with the Business Growth Advisor responsible for delivery in Rangitikei. W&P were invited along to speak at the Business Rangitikei BA5 in February and have started bringing their expertise and connections to our district via one-on-one meetings with businesses locally.

3.3 The RBP is a programme to assist small-to-medium business owners access support, advice, and resources to overcome challenges within their business or grow to reach its potential. Businesses can apply to become part of the RBP and will be referred to a Business Growth Advisor who will meet with them, assess their needs and connects them to the network of businesses to provide capability support.

Thrive

3.4 Thrive are an organisation based in Whanganui who work directly with MSD to access the Business Training and Advice Grant (“BTAG”). They also work with business start ups to access the right support and grow networks. So far in the Rangitikei, Thrive have 8 individuals they are assisting through the BTAG and have held a 2 day ‘Be your Own Boss’ wananga.

4. Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

4.1 The Rangitikei District continues to be a leader across the country for this initiative. James Towers Consultants Ltd delivers this programme in the Rangitikei District. As at the end of February there have been 88 total placements of people into employment and 25 of these are considered sustainable placements with and projecting a further 12 sustainable placements confirmed in the March / April report.

4.2 We receive a monthly update from James Towers Consultants Ltd who deliver this programme in the Rangitikei District. A summary of the most recent report is provided below:

4.2.1 Staff at James Towers Consultants Ltd meet regularly with MSD officers to discuss employment opportunities in the district. The strength of the relationship is such that MSD will now proactively contact staff at James Towers Consultants Ltd to better understand services on offer or refer potential clients.

4.2.2 Staff at James Towers Consultants Ltd have identified some knowledge gaps in youth around key topics like tax, Kiwisaver, and general banking to provide examples. Their approach to closing these gaps is a trial of mini workshops which are currently in development stage, and we anticipate an update at the April report.

4.2.3 There have been some good news stories shared in the local media surrounding MTFJ and the efforts of staff working at James Towers Consultants Ltd.

4.3 This MTFJ programme is currently budgeted through to June 2025 via Central Government funding however there is no long-term funding confirmed and Council continues to be the advocate for the long-term sustainability of the programme.

5. Town Centre Revitalisation Better off Funding

5.1 Council applied for and was approved funding through the Better Off Fund of \$200,000 to deliver town centre regeneration projects for Marton, Taihape and Bulls.

5.2 At the Council meeting on 28 September 2023, it was noted the projects would be delivered in the following phases:

Phase 1 – Marton 2023/24

Phase 2 – Bulls 2024/25

Phase 3 – Taihape 2025/26

5.3 Cr Loudon was appointed as the Elected Member Lead for the Better Off Town Centre Revitalisation Project for Marton. There has been progress made towards the planning of this project in Marton with a focus on the current library building on High Street.

5.4 However, because of the Council decision to combine its library and administration services at the 'to be built' building at 46 High Street, Marton, proceeding with a project at the library site in Marton is not considered prudent. In addition, implementing a project for the wider town centre of Marton needs to wait for the Long Term Plan key choice #3 which asks 'should we revitalise the Marton Town Centre?' to ensure there is no duplication.

5.5 While work was being done on Marton, initial conversations have been held with businesses and community leads in Bulls and Taihape. The intention is to now progress Taihape and Bulls in the 2024/25 year while working towards completing Marton in the year 2025/26.

5.6 An Elected Member lead has been appointed for the Marton project and it is proposed staff work directly with the Elected Members of Northern and Southern Wards for the Bulls and Taihape projects.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications.

7. Impact on Strategic Risks

7.1 There are no impacts on strategic risks.

8. Mana Whenua Implications

8.1 Officers are not aware of mana whenua implications associated with this report. The town centre projects will be discussed with mana whenua early in the project for each town.

9. Statutory Implications

9.1 There are no statutory implications.

10. Decision Making Process

10.1 This item is not considered to be significant.

Recommendation 1

That the report “Economic Wellbeing Update” be received

Recommendation 2

That the Policy/Planning Committee endorse the amendments to the Town Centre Revitalisation project with Marton delayed until 2025/2026 and Taihape and Bulls to be completed concurrently in 2024/2025.

7.5 Strategy/Plan Development and Review Update

Author: Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner

Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy & Planning

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 To provide the Policy/Planning Committee with an overview of Council's strategies and plans.

2. Strategic Framework

- 2.1 Council's Strategic Framework (Kowhai) was reviewed as part of the development of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. It sets out Council's vision, community outcomes, priorities, strategies, and plans. A review of Council's strategies and plans in the Strategic Framework will occur in 2024.

3. Strategy/Plan Reviews

- 3.1 A list of Council's strategies and plans is attached (**Attachment 1**).
- 3.2 The following strategies/plans have been completed, are under development, or due to commence in 2023/24. Of note the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan was adopted by Council in February.
 - Waste Strategy/Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (in progress, phase 2 due for completion in June 2024).
 - Long Term Plan 2024-34 (including activity management plans - in progress).
 - Urban Growth Plan Change (in progress). *See separate agenda item.*
 - National Planning Standards implementation (in progress).
 - Heritage Strategy (review to commence in 2024).
 - Economic Development Strategy (review to commence in 2024).
 - Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (complete - adopted February 2024).
 - Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond – Community Spatial Plan (complete - adopted September 2023).
 - Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy (complete).

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications. Any strategies/plans are developed within budget.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 There is no direct impact on Council's strategic risks associated with this report.

6. Mana Whenua Implications

6.1 There are no direct mana whenua implications associated with this report. Strategy/plan development occurs alongside Council's Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti and directly with iwi and hapū where relevant.

7. Statutory Implications

7.1 There are no direct statutory implications.

8. Decision Making Process

8.1 This item is not considered to be significant.

Attachments:

1. **Strategies / Plans Register** [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report 'Strategy/Plan Development and Review Update' be received

Strategy / Plan Register					
	Summary	Status	Legislation	Responsible Department	Comment / Update
Strategies					
Waste Strategy	Provides a medium to long term direction and vision of what we want to achieve in this activity over the next 30 years.	In development	Non-statutory	Assets & Infrastructure	Phase 1 of this work is complete - a roadmap of how RDC will set direction based on industry best practice and potential central government goals. Stage 2 - developing the strategy is phase 2 and will be completed by June 2024.
Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond - Community Spatial Plan	Provides the blueprint for how we want the Rangitikei district to develop over the next 30 years.	Adopted September 2023	Non-statutory	Democracy & Planning	The Community Spatial Plan was adopted by Council on 28 September 2023. An implementation plan has been developed and implementation is underway.
Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy	To provide a framework to underpin Council decision-making on investment in parks and reserves.	Complete	Non-statutory	Assets & Infrastructure	Strategy has been completed. An implementation plan is being developed and will be completed by June 2024.
Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan	Set's out Council's direction and actions in responding to climate impacts.	Adopted February 2024	Non-statutory	Democracy & Planning	Funding was received from the Better Off fund to outsource the development of a Climate Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy and Action Plan has been adopted by Council an implementation plan is being prepared.
Housing Strategy 2021 - 31	Provides a 10-year Council strategy to consider housing needs and potential solutions in eight sectors in the District.	Adopted as supporting information to the 2021-32 LTP	Non-statutory	Community Services	Council have given direction that Officer focus should be limited to the business case for 22 Tui Street, Taihape. The need for this strategy should be reviewed alongside a review of the strategies/plans section of the strategic framework.
Economic Development Strategy 2021 - 31	Provides a 10 year Council strategy for economic development which outlines 10 priorities and 4 enablers.	Adopted as supporting information to the 2021-32 LTP	Non-statutory	Community Services	This strategy will be reviewed in 2024.
Enforcement (Regulatory) Strategy and Prosecution Policy	Sets out the principles and processes which Council uses to achieve regulatory compliance in a fair and consistent way	Adopted 26 April 2018	Non-statutory	Regulatory	N/A
Heritage Strategy	Provisions a long term vision to guide Council's management of heritage resources throughout the Rangitikei District	Adopted 31 March 2016	Non-statutory	Community Services	Review to commence in 2024.
Property Strategy	Development of a strategy that identifies which properties Council should retain or dispose.	Complete	Non-statutory	Assets & Infrastructure	Complete.
Plans					
Long Term Plan 2024-34	Set's out the activities Council plans to undertake and how it will be funded for 2024-34.	To be developed during 2023/24.	Local Government Act 2002	Democracy & Planning	On track. LTP Consultation Document is out for consultation.
Long Term Plan 2021-31	Set's out the activities Council plans to undertake and how it will be funded for 2021-31.	Adopted June 2021.	Local Government Act 2002	Democracy & Planning	Complete.
Annual Plan 2023/24	Set's out the activities Council plans to undertake and how it will be funded for 2022/24. Updated year from the LTP.	To be adopted June 2023.	Local Government Act 2002	Democracy & Planning	Complete.
Roading Activity Management Plan	Comprehensive plan on how Council's assets should be maintained and renewed.	To be developed during 2023.	Non-statutory	Assets & Infrastructure	Reviewed and updated for the 2024 LTP.

	Summary	Status	Legislation	Responsible Department	Comment / Update
3 Waters Activity Management Plan	Comprehensive plan on how Council's assets should be maintained and renewed.	To be developed during 2023.	Non-statutory	Assets & Infrastructure	Reviewed and updated for the 2024 LTP.
Social Infrastructure Asset Management Plan	Comprehensive plan on how Council's assets should be maintained and renewed.	To be developed during 2023.	Non-statutory	Assets & Infrastructure / Community Services	Reviewed and updated for the 2024 LTP.
Destination Management Plan	Provides the plan for growing the visitor economy.	Adopted March 2022	Non-statutory	Community Services	Ongoing updates and the additions of events happening in our region on our new 'Events Calendar' developed for the Visit Rangitikei website. We now have an automatic funnel system set up now where Eventfinda listings are pulled through to our events calendar if they are in the Rangitikei region. Working on printed material for our attractions such as golf courses, rafting and kayaking, fishing, cycle routes and walkways/reserves. These will be linked to the Visit Rangitikei website via QR codes.
Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 - 2024	Sets out how Council intends to promote efficient and effective waste management and minimisation within its district.	Adopted 28 June 2018	Required under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008	Assets & Infrastructure	The review has commenced and is aligned with the Waste Strategy.
Urban Tree Plan	Provides guidelines for tree management throughout the District.	Adopted in 2017	Non-statutory	Assets & Infrastructure	No review scheduled.
Turakina Town Centre Plan	Sets out a plan for the Turakina Town Centre.	February 2016	Non-statutory	Democracy & Planning	Key aspects incorporated into the Community Spatial Plan. However, plan retains value as a stand alone document.
Mangaweka Town Centre Plan	Sets out a plan for the Mangaweka Town Centre.	February 2016	Non-statutory	Democracy & Planning	Key aspects incorporated into the Community Spatial Plan. However, plan retains value as a stand alone document.
Marton Town Centre Plan	Sets out a framework for the future management of the Marton Town Centre.	December 2014	Non-statutory	Democracy & Planning	Key aspects incorporated into the Community Spatial Plan. However, plan retains value as a stand alone document. Parts of the Town Centre Plan will be implemented through use of Better Off funding for town centre revitalisation.
Hunterville Town Centre Plan	Sets out a plan for the Hunterville Town Centre.	August 2014	Non-statutory	Democracy & Planning	Key aspects incorporated into the Community Spatial Plan. However, plan retains value as a stand alone document.
Bulls Town Centre Plan	Sets out a framework for the future management of the Bulls Town Centre.	June 2014	Non-statutory	Democracy & Planning	Key aspects incorporated into the Community Spatial Plan. However, plan retains value as a stand alone document. Parts of the Town Centre Plan will be implemented through use of Better Off funding for town centre revitalisation.
Taihape Town Centre Plan	Sets out a framework for the future management of the Taihape Town Centre.	January 2014	Non-statutory	Democracy & Planning	Key aspects incorporated into the Community Spatial Plan. However, plan retains value as a stand alone document. Parts of the Town Centre Plan will be implemented through use of Better Off funding for town centre revitalisation.

	Summary	Status	Legislation	Responsible Department	Comment / Update
Rangitikei District Plan	Sets out the objectives, policies and rules for land use in the District.	Operative - October 2013	Resource Management Act 1991	Democracy & Planning	Phase 1 of the review has commenced - Plan Change 3 Urban Growth. The acceleration of this phase has been funded through the Better Off fund. Officers have started the implementation of the national planning standards - structure and format standard.
Recreational Parks and Reserves Management Plan - Part One	Sets out the management objectives and policies for recreational reserves Council administers under the Reserves Act 1977.	Adopted 1 May 2014	Reserves Act 1977	Assets & Infrastructure	Subject to "continuous review" under the Reserves Act. Not scheduled for specific review.
Marton Park Management Plan (Part Two)	A management plan for Marton Park.	Adopted 3 November 2016	Reserves Act 1977	Assets & Infrastructure	Not scheduled for review.
Bulls Domain Management Plan (Part Two)	A management plan for the Bulls Domain.	Adopted 1 May 2014	Reserves Act 1977	Assets & Infrastructure	Not scheduled for review.
Centennial Park Management Plan (Part Two)	A management plan for Centennial Park.	Adopted 1 May 2014	Reserves Act 1977	Assets & Infrastructure	Not scheduled for review.
Memorial Park Management Plan (Part Two)	A management plan for Memorial Park.	Adopted 25 March 2010	Reserves Act 1977	Assets & Infrastructure	Not scheduled for review.
Wilson Park Management Plan (Part Two)	A management plan for Wilson Park.	Adopted 30 July 2009	Reserves Act 1977	Assets & Infrastructure	Not scheduled for review.
Dudding Lake Management Plan (Part Two)	A management plan for Dudding Lake.	Adopted 26 November 2009	Reserves Act 1977	Assets & Infrastructure	Not scheduled for review.
Bulls Old Courthouse and Goal Management Plan (Part Two)	Historic reserve management plan for the Old Courthouse and Goal	Adopted 25 March 2010	Reserves Act 1977	Assets & Infrastructure	Not scheduled for review.
Historic Reserves Management Plan	Sets out the management objectives and policies for historic reserves Council administers under the Reserves Act 1977.	Adopted 25 March 2010	Reserves Act 1977	Assets & Infrastructure	Not scheduled for review.
Taihape Domain Master Plan	An integrated masterplan for the development, use and upgrade of Taihape Domain.	Endorsed 25 July 2023	Non-statutory	Assets & Infrastructure	Complete.
Welcoming Communities Plan	A community-owned plan to be more open and accepting an build our cultural diversity and inclusion.	Complete	Non-statutory	Community Services	Welcoming Communities program is no longer being Government funded or delivered by Immigration New Zealand beyond June 2024 due to the new government priorities. The final phase of our Community Action Plan is implementing the Welcoming Communities website (funding was received for this) into daily operation, capturing and updating links from Welcoming Communities government departments. Our Welcoming Community principles will continue to be delivered from our Information Centres, and those staff will continue to update and add website information for newly arrived individuals and families to our district.

7.6 Coalition Government Action Plan 1 April - 30 June 2024**Author:** Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy & Planning**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Policy/Planning Committee with an overview of coalition government Action Plan 1 April – 30 June 2024

2. Background

- 2.1 At the 15 February 2024 Policy/Planning Committee meeting, members were provided with an overview of the coalition government 100-day plan. The coalition government have now developed an action plan for the subsequent three months.

3. Action Plan

- 3.1 The action plan is split into three themes:

- Rebuild the economy and ease the cost of living
- Restore law and order
- Deliver better public services

- 3.2 The following actions under the heading ‘rebuild the economy and ease the cost of living’ will have a direct impact on local government:

- #4. Finalise the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, freezing fuel tax until the end of 2026 and delivering significant investment for transport.
- #5 Take decisions to implement the Going for Housing Growth plan while making the MDRS optional for councils.
- #9 Take decisions on measures to increase investment in renewable electricity generation.
- #10 Introduce legislation to amend the RMA to clarify application of National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management in relation to individual consents for freshwater and to extend marine farm consent.
- #11 Introduce legislation to suspend the requirement on councils to identify and adopt new Significant Natural Areas.
- #15 Initiate the first regulatory sector review.
- #21 Establish a Regional Infrastructure Fund.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 5.1 Two of Council’s strategic risks are relevant to this item:
- Legal and political environment requires excessive resources.

- Changes to governmental legislation are transformational.

6. Mana Whenua Implications

6.1 There are no mana whenua implications as a result of this report.

7. Statutory Implications

7.1 There are no statutory implications as a result of this report.

8. Decision Making Process

8.1 This report does not trigger any decision-making requirements.

Attachments:

1. **Coalition Government Action Plan - 1 April - 30 June 2024** [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report 'Coalition Government Action Plan 1 April - 30 June 2024' be received.



Coalition Government's Action Plan for New Zealand

1 April – 30 June 2024

✓ Rebuild the economy and ease the cost of living

1. Deliver a budget that reduces wasteful spending while investing in frontline services like health, education and Police.
2. Legislate for personal income tax relief.
3. Legislate to introduce the FamilyBoost childcare tax credit.
4. Finalise the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, freezing fuel tax until the end of 2026 and delivering significant investment for transport.
5. Take decisions to implement the Going for Housing Growth plan while making the MDRS optional for councils.
6. Respond to the independent review of Kāinga Ora's financial situation, procurement, and asset management.
7. Introduce legislation to improve the rental market.
8. Release draft plan to ease restrictions on building materials from overseas for public consultation.
9. Take decisions on measures to increase investment in renewable electricity generation.
10. Introduce legislation to amend the RMA to clarify application of National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management in relation to individual consents for freshwater and to extend marine farm consent.
11. Introduce legislation to suspend the requirement on councils to identify and adopt new Significant Natural Areas.
12. Finalise policy to keep agriculture out of the ETS.
13. Commence an independent review of the methane science and targets for consistency with no additional warming from agricultural methane emissions.
14. Reform the CCCFA regime to improve access to credit for home buyers.
15. Initiate the first regulatory sector review.
16. Take decisions on the scope of the extension to the Covid-19 inquiry.
17. Take decisions on reform of the Holidays Act
18. Raise the energy New Zealand brings to key relationships through international engagements, focussing on our traditional partners, the Pacific, and South East and South Asia.
19. Take decisions on the removal of the ban on offshore oil and gas exploration.
20. Commission a study into New Zealand's fuel security, including investigating the feasibility of reopening the Marsden Point Oil Refinery.
21. Establish a Regional Infrastructure Fund.

✓ Restore law and order

22. Progress legislation to improve rehabilitation, reintegration and safety outcomes in the corrections system, including by extending eligibility to offence-based rehabilitation programmes to remand prisoners.
23. Take decisions to restore Three Strikes.
24. Launch a review of the firearms registry.
25. Take decisions on establishing a Youth Serious Offender Category and making Youth Military Academies a standalone sentencing option for the Youth Court.

Deliver better public services

26. Set targets for improving public service outcomes.
27. Take decisions on the rollout of structured literacy for year 1-3 students, including a phonics check.
28. Take action to strengthen teacher training, including refocusing Professional Learning and Development for teachers on numeracy, literacy and assessment.
29. Take action to develop standardised assessment and regular reporting to parents.
30. Introduce legislation to reintroduce charter schools.
31. Launch an Attendance Action Plan and introduce the first phase of initiatives to lift school attendance.
32. Take decisions to disestablish Te Pūkenga and consult on a proposed replacement model.
33. Issue a new Government Policy Statement on Health, setting the government's priorities for the health system for the next three years.
34. Take decisions to streamline the Medsafe approval process.
35. Take decisions to tighten controls on youth vaping.
36. Take decisions on the repeal of Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act.

8 Discussion Items

8.1 Submission to the Horizons Regional Council 2024-34 Long Term Plan

Author: Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner

Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy & Planning

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 For the Policy/Planning Committee to discuss the content of a submission to the Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-34.

2. Background

- 2.1 Horizons are currently consulting on their 2024-34 Long Term Plan - [2024-34 Long-term Plan consultation | Have Your Say \(horizons.govt.nz\)](#). Five key issues are specifically proposed for consultation:

- *Issue 1: Responding to legislative requirements* – Regional Pest Management Plan, Pressure on science, policy and regulation activities, level of service for highly productive land.
- *Issue 2: Planning for the future* – Work programme for integrated catchment management.
- *Issue 3a & 3b: Updates to catchment operations* – Increase to river management insurances, reduced levels of service for freshwater activity.
- *Issue 3c: Increased levels of public transport* – Whanganui improvements, new service for Horowhenua, new and improved regional services.
- *Issue 4: Changing fee structure for water meters* - Moving to a user pays system.

3. Officer comment

- 3.1 At the meeting Committee members will be asked to discuss points for inclusion in a Council submission.
- 3.2 Officers propose submission points are made on the following topics:
 - Issue 1 - focused on level of service for highly productive land.
 - Issue 3a - focused on improved regional services for public transport.
 - The need for greater natural hazard data (e.g. flood mapping) which the Regional Council is responsible for (not an identified issue).
- 3.3 Officers also note that Elected Members have indicated an interest in submitting on the Horizons Regional Council's approach to the implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM).
- 3.4 Officer commentary is provided below on each identified submission point. The Committee can provide context for any additional submission points.

Highly Productive Land – Regional Mapping Exercise

- 3.5 In accordance with the National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL), Horizons is required to *map as highly productive land any land in its region that:*
- (a) is in a general rural zone or rural production zone; and*
 - (b) is predominantly LUC 1, 2, or 3 land; and*
 - (c) forms a large and geographically cohesive area*
- 3.6 As an interim measure before the mapping is completed, councils are required to consider as highly productive land, all rurally zoned land identified as LUC Class 1, 2, or 3 in the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory.
- 3.7 Horizons is consulting on three options in their LTP for approaching the regional mapping exercise:
- Option 1: Targeted mapping focussing on acute urban growth pressure areas only.
 - Option 2: Targeted mapping focussing on areas where there is urban growth pressure and/or demand for rural lifestyle subdivision (preferred option).
 - Option 3: Targeted mapping focussing on land surrounding all existing urban areas (cities, towns and villages).
- 3.8 Officers have been involved in regional discussions led by Horizons on the mapping of highly productive land in the region, including in workshops that developed the options being consulted on. Horizons is required to notify a plan change that maps highly productive land in the region by 17 October 2025. Officers note the new Coalition Government have indicated that LUC Class 3 and will be excluded from the NPS-HPL through RMA Amendment Bill #2 which is scheduled to be in place by early 2025.
- 3.9 The proposed approach (option 2) by Horizons is to use the base Land Use Capability information available through the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory, and then develop criteria to guide the decisions on where detailed mapping (to be undertaken by a suitably qualified expert) will or will not occur, based on areas where there is urban growth pressure and/or demand for rural lifestyle subdivision. Since the development of this option, regional discussions have extended the criteria to not solely focus on growth criteria. Horizons testing land in our District is beneficial as this information will feed into our own plan change processes for urban growth and rural development.
- 3.10 Officers propose the following submission points are made:
- Support for Option 2.
 - Support for Horizons proactive approach to undertaking the mapping.
 - Advocate the importance of using broader criteria to determine where targeted mapping should occur, rather than relying on ‘growth’ as the main driver e.g. in areas where there is high uncertainty around soil classifications.
 - Note interest in mapping LUC Class 2 soils around Marton and Bulls due to the known uncertainty in their classification.
 - Note Central Government intentions to remove LUC 3 from the NPS-HPL by January 2025 and request that the mapping process is undertaken on this basis.

Issue 3c Public transport

- 3.11 Horizons is proposing to support improved regional transport connections through the provision of a regional public transport network. This investment is expected to provide a new connecting service for the Tararua District, plus improved connections across the region including Whanganui, Marton, and Levin. Horizons is also proposing as part of this investment to investigate and implement rural connector services, connecting rural communities to their nearest town or city and this is all to be operational by the end of 2026-27. The two options identified include:
- Option 1: new and improved regional services (preferred option)
 - Option 2: New and improved regional services (smaller scale)
- 3.12 Officers propose the following submission points are made:
- Support for Option 1.
 - Note the transport challenges faced by residents in the Rangitikei that would benefit from significant improvement in passenger transport services.
 - Link back to the transport related priorities in Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond, Community Spatial Plan.

Natural hazard data – flood mapping

- 3.13 Horizons takes the lead in providing natural hazard data across the region. In some areas, such as for the Tūtaenui Stream, parts of the Turakina River and parts of the Whangaehu River, and a breach scenario for Scott's Ferry, Horizons have undertaken detailed modelling of the flood hazard. This information is used to inform District Council planning and infrastructure requirements and is essential for ensuring that risks associated with flood hazards are considered in Council's decisions. This information also aids our emergency management activities and is used by property owners to understand risk and make informed decisions about the development of their properties.
- 3.14 However, there are several key catchments in the Rangitikei that impact urban areas, and do not yet have modelled flood data. These include the Pourewa Stream, Rangitikei River and Hautapu River. Officers recommend Council submits requesting that Horizons include funding for further flood modelling in the Rangitikei District.

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

- 3.15 Under the former Labour-led Government, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management was updated and directed Horizons to make changes to the One Plan to give effect to the national direction "as soon as reasonably practicable". Horizons has been working towards notification at the end of 2024.
- 3.16 The coalition Government have indicated an intent to amend the NPS-FM, first via changes to the hierarchy (in 2024), and then via "*replacing and rebalancing NPS-Freshwater Management*" (by 2026).
- 3.17 A report is scheduled to be taken to the Horizons meeting on 30 April for a decision on the next steps for them in the timing of implementation for the NPS-FM. Therefore,

Officers recommend any comments regarding the implementation approach should be best made via a letter sent from the Mayor to the Chair of Horizons as soon as possible, rather than as a submission point on their LTP consultation.

4. Next steps

- 4.1 Officers will prepare a draft submission based on the discussion with the Committee and circulate it to Elected Members for comment via email prior to submission. Submissions close on Monday 22 April 2024.

Recommendation

That the report 'Submission to the Horizons Regional Council 2024-34 Long Term Plan' be received.

9 Meeting Closed.