



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

# ORDER PAPER

## RĀTANA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 9 April 2024

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Venue:** Ture Tangata Office  
Ihipera-Koria Street  
Rātana Pa

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**Chair:** Mr Charlie Mete

**Deputy Chair:** Mr Jamie Nepia

**Membership:** Mr Lequan Meihana  
Ms Grace Taiaroa  
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa  
HWTM Andy Watson

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

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

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

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

**Notice is hereby given that a Rātana Community Board Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Ture Tangata Office, Ihipera-Koria Street, Rātana Pa on Tuesday, 9 April 2024 at 6.30pm.**

## **Order Of Business**

|           |   |           |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Whakamoemiti</b> .....   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Apologies</b> .....  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Public Forum</b> .....   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Conflict of Interest Declarations</b> .....  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Order of Business</b> .....  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....  | <b>5</b>  |
|           | 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes .....   | 5         |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings</b> .....                            | <b>12</b> |
|           | 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings.....                  | 12        |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Chair’s Report</b> .....   | <b>14</b> |
|           | 8.1 Chair's Report - April 2024 .....   | 14        |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Reports for Decision</b> .....   | <b>15</b> |
|           | 9.1 Road Property Numbering - Update .....  | 15        |
|           | 9.2 Mayor's Report - March 2024 .....   | 19        |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Reports for Information</b> .....  | <b>48</b> |
|           | 10.1 Update on Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti .....   | 48        |
|           | 10.2 Cemetery Update - April 2024.....  | 49        |
|           | 10.3 Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project -<br>Update ..... | 50        |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Meeting Opened.</b> .....  | <b>52</b> |

## AGENDA

### 1 Whakamoemiti

### 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 **Rātana Community Board Meeting held on 13 February 2024** are attached.

#### Attachments

1. **Rātana Community Board Meeting - 13 February 2024**

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Rātana Community Board Meeting held on 13 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: RĀTANA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING**

**Date:** Tuesday, 13 February 2024

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Venue:** Ture Tangata Office  
Ihipera-Koria Street  
Rātana Pa

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**Present** Mr Jamie Nepia  
Mr Lequan Meihana  
Ms Grace Taiaroa  
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa  
HWTM Andy Watson

**In attendance** Mr Kevin Ross, Chief Executive  
Mrs Melanie Bovey, Manager- Heritage and Culture  
Mr Reuben Pokiha, Roding Advisor  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

**Order of Business**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**7 Follow-up Actions..... 3**

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings..... 3

**8 Chair’s Report ..... 4**

8.1 Chair's Report - February 2024 ..... 4

8.2 Rātana Road Property Numbering ..... 4

**9 Reports for Decision ..... 4**

9.1 Mayor's Report - 01 February 2024 ..... 4

**10 Reports for Information..... 4**

10.1 Update on Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti ..... 4

10.2 Cemetery Update - February 2024..... 5

10.3 Funding Schemes Update - February 2024 ..... 5

10.4 Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project -  
Update ..... 5

**11 Discussion Items..... 5**

11.1 Roothing..... 5

**ITEM 6.1 ATTACHMENT 1**

Unconfirmed

## 1 Welcome

Mr Nepia opened the meeting and advised he would be Chairing the meeting in Mr Mete's absence.

## 2 Apologies

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/001**

Apologies were received from Mr Mete.

Mr L Meihana/Cr Hiroa. Carried

## 3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interested declared.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/002**

That the minutes of Rātana Community Board Meeting held on 12 December 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.

Ms G Taiaroa/Mr J Nepia. Carried

## 7 Follow-up Actions

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/003**

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings' be received.

Ms G Taiaroa/Mr L Meihana. Carried



## 8 Chair's Report

### 8.1 Chair's Report - February 2024

There was no Chair's report.

### 8.2 Rātana Road Property Numbering

Staff to follow up with Ms Gray about the pamphlets and where the flyers are meant to be returned to. Mr Mete and Ms Taiaroa to have a conversation about the return of surveys.

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/004**

That the update on Rātana Road Property Numbering be received.

Mr L Meihana/Cr Hiroa. Carried

## 9 Reports for Decision

### 9.1 Mayor's Report - 01 February 2024

Mr Meihana thanked Council and His Worship the Mayor for providing a water tanker for the Ratana Celebrations, which was a last minute request. Mr Ross commented that Council is reassessing how they support events and be more transparent with what is provided.

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/005**

That the Mayor's Report – 1 February 2024 be received.

Ms G Taiaroa/Mr L Meihana. Carried

## 10 Reports for Information

### 10.1 Update on Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti

Mr Meihana highlighted key items from the Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti meeting held on 13 February, where he noted the majority of members were in attendance. He advised the new Chair is Cr Hiroa and Deputy Chair is Mr Meihana.

The board members discussed the draft Terms of Reference for the Komiti and noted there will be a workshop in March to go through these. Feedback from board members will be passed on at the workshop by Mr Meihana.

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/006**

That the report 'Update on Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti' be received.

Mr L Meihana/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

### 10.2 Cemetery Update - February 2024

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/007**

That the report 'Cemetery Update – February 2024' be received.

Cr Hiroa/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

### 10.3 Funding Schemes Update - February 2024

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/008**

That the Funding Schemes Update –February 2024 be received.

Mr L Meihana/Mr J Nepia. Carried

### 10.4 Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project - Update

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/009**

That the report 'Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project – Update' be received.

Mr L Meihana/Cr Hiroa. Carried

## 11 Discussion Items

### 11.1 Roding

Mr Pokiha was in attendance to answer questions, as was requested at the last meeting.

#### Speed cushion

The speed cushion was removed when the development went ahead and has not been replaced. It was intended to be installed quickly however due to covid the development hasn't happened and the cars are still speeding. Mr Pokiha advised this is an operational matter as this is the works schedule.

Signage Outside School:

At the last meeting Board members were concerned about speeding past the school and members requested signage at Tamariki Place and Kiatere Street.

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/010**

That the Ratana Community Board request a speed cushion at the 80/40 change.

Mr L Meihana/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 24/RCB/011**

That the Ratana Community Board request speed limit signage both entrances of the road outside the school.

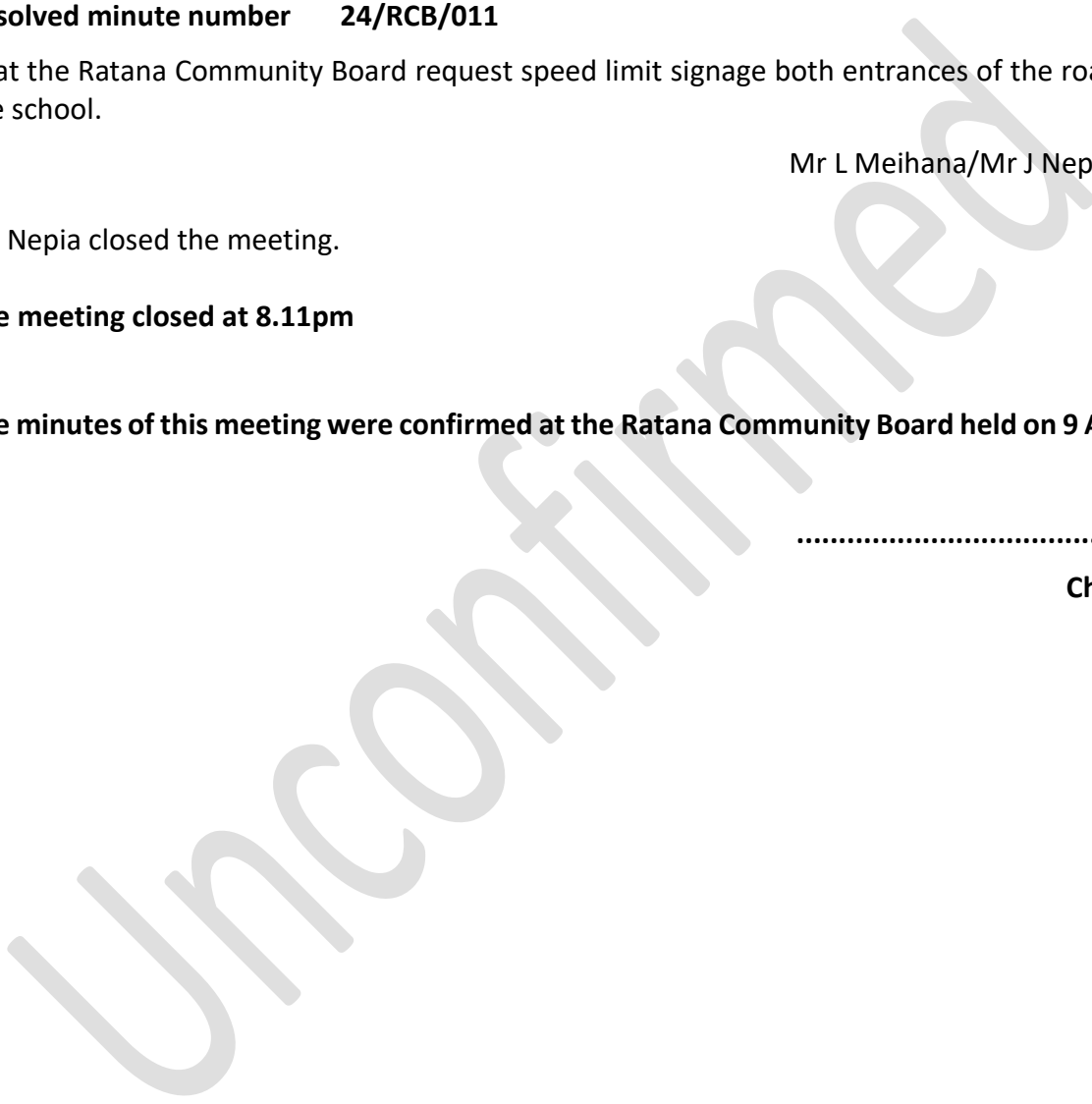
Mr L Meihana/Mr J Nepia. Carried

Mr Nepia closed the meeting.

**The meeting closed at 8.11pm**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ratana Community Board held on 9 April 2024.**

.....  
Chairperson



## 7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Ratana Community Board 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 Ratana Community Board Meetings' be received.

## Current Follow-up Actions

| Item | From Meeting Date | Details   | Person Assigned          | Status Comments  | Status      |
|------|-------------------|---|--------------------------|--|-------------|
| 1    | 13-Feb-24         | Request speed limit signage both entrances of the road outside the school.  | Rebuen P                 | Requested that traffic counters be placed on Ratana Road and Kiatere Street, so I am able to obtain information on traffic flows and off course numbers and types of vehicles. Obtaining this information is important as it puts us in a better space regards the justification for certain signage | In progress |
| 2    | 12-Dec-23         | Speed bump on the road coming into Ratana has not been replaced- what has happened?   | Mel Bovey / Arno Benadie | The replacement speed cushion on Ratana Road was installed at its previous location.   | Completed   |
| 3    | 12-Dec-23         | That the board receives the report from Thrive on council assets when completed   | Arno B                   | This report has not been completed yet.  | In progress |
| 4    | 11-Apr-23         | Kym Skerman was invited to a future Community Board meeting to discuss grants.  | Kezia Spence             | Mrs Skerman will attend the June meeting.  | In progress |
| 5    | 5-Oct-21          | With regards to the Ratana Cemetery Extension: Staff to consider providing better facilities for volunteers who dig new plots.<br><b>Update 08 Feb 22:</b> The Board clarified that the request was for water access, for both contractors and visitors. The Board advised that they would like a water source that is aesthetically pleasing (i.e., not just a tap in a post).<br><b>Update 09 Aug 22:</b> The Board asked that this be reconsidered, as the owner of the adjacent farm has given verbal approval for the existing water line on his property to be used (the water does not need to be drinkable). Ms Bovey undertook to follow-up on this request. | Mel Bovey / Arno Benadie | This request is being investigated by the Parks Team who will look at potential options in conjunction with a similar request from Taihape residents for their cemetery. This is being done across the District as part of the Long Term Plan.   | In progress |

**ITEM 8.1**

## **8 Chair's Report**

### **8.1 Chair's Report - April 2024**

**Author:** Charlie Mete, Chair

#### **1. Reason for Report**

1.1 A verbal report will be provided during the meeting.

#### **Recommendation**

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

## 9 Reports for Decision

### 9.1 Road Property Numbering - Update

**Author:** Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner

**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy & Planning

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for the Board to discuss progress on consultation on the road numbering/renaming for Rātana Road and agree next steps.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Rātana Community Board received a report to their 12 December 2023 meeting outlining the issue and solutions for a road numbering issue along Rātana Road - [Rātana Community Board Meeting - 12 December 2023](#).
- 2.2 The issue is that the numbering of Rātana Road starts from 1 along the rural section from the intersection with State Highway 1 (as rapid numbers), and then also starts from 1 again along the urban section. This numbering has created duplicate addresses which does not comply with the Addressing Standards and can cause issues with the identification of properties (most significantly for emergency services).
- 2.3 The Rātana Community Board were presented with the following options:
  - 2.3.1 Option 1: Allocation of new address numbers (that follow the rural RAPID numbering), for the 25 addresses within the urban section of Rātana Road.
  - 2.3.2 Option 2a: Change the road name for the **rural section** of Rātana Road (north of Kiatere Street).
  - 2.3.3 Option 2b: Change the road name for the **urban section** of Rātana Road (south of Kiatere Street).
- 2.4 Officers note that all options, changing the road name or number will result in the affected property owners receiving a new address and they will be required to update their new address with service providers.
- 2.5 The Board has been leading community consultation on the topic within the urban section of Rātana Road. Following discussion at the December 2023 meeting, the consultation material focused on either renaming or numbering the urban section. The Community Board Chair has noted resident feedback has been a preference for retaining property numbers and notes that residents have questioned whether the rural section of the road could be renamed instead of renaming the urban section. Officers note this is an option (option 2a).
- 2.6 The Board has delegation for the naming of roads within their boundary, while Council has delegation for the naming of roads outside of the Board area.

## ITEM 9.1



### 3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The Board is asked to discuss a preferred option to progress further. The following process is proposed to occur for each of the options (subject to advice from the Board members).
- 3.2 **Option 1:** Allocation of new address numbers. If the Board recommends this option, Officers will write to residents impacted informing them of the numbering change and organise for the installation of the RAPID numbers (with an appropriate lead in time).
- 3.3 **Option 2a:** Change the road name for the **rural section** of Rātana Road (north of Kiatere Street). A discussion with the Chair of the Community Board has noted the need for a discussion between the Rātana Community Board and the Church Committee regarding an appropriate name should this be the preferred option. Following this process, the Board would be asked to provide advice on whether consultation with the entire Rātana community is needed, or if consultation with directly impacted residents is appropriate. Given this stretch of road is outside of the Board's area, the Board would provide a recommendation to Council on the matter.



- 3.4 Option 2b: Change the road name for the **urban section** of Rātana Road (south of Kiatere Street). A discussion with the Chair of the Community Board has noted the need for a discussion between the Rātana Community Board and the Church Committee regarding an appropriate name should this be the preferred option. Following this process, the Board would be asked to provide advice on whether consultation with the entire Rātana community is needed, or if consultation with directly impacted residents is appropriate. Following this process, the decision can be made regarding the renaming by the Board.

#### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 If Option 1 is preferred, it is Council policy to supply a RAPID number plate to properties where rural numbers have been allocated. Cost of green number stickers will be approximately \$10 per plate. Council has previously purchased the blank metal RAPID number plates. There will be no cost to residents.
- 4.2 If Option 2a or 2b are preferred Council will install a new sign.

#### 5. Statutory Implications

- 5.1 Council has the statutory responsibility to issue a property number and road names within its district (Section 319(1)(j) and section 319B(1) Local Government Act 1974).

#### 6. Decision Making Process

- 6.1 In making a decision the Board is guided by Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. There is no statutory requirement for consultation on the renaming or numbering of a road. However, before making a decision the Board (or Council) must be satisfied that the views of those likely to be affected or have an interest in the matter have been considered. To date, the Board has engaged with the residents in the urban section of Rātana Road to understand their views (which are summarised in section 2.4 of this report).

#### Recommendation 1

That the report 'Road Property Numbering - Update' be received.

#### Recommendation 2

EITHER

##### Option 1 - renumbering

That the Rātana Community Board consider the most appropriate solution to the duplicate numbering issue along Rātana Road is to allocate new address numbers (RAPID numbers) to the urban properties along Rātana Road.

OR

##### Option 2a – rural section renaming

That the Rātana Community Board consider the most appropriate solution to the duplicate numbering issue along Rātana Road is to change the road name for the **rural section** of Rātana Road (north of Kiatere Street) and seek to undertake consultation with the Church Committee on the

**ITEM 9.1**

matter and in the development of an appropriate name for consideration at the June 2024 Rātana Community Board meeting.

OR

Option 2b – urban section renaming

That the Rātana Community Board consider the most appropriate solution to the duplicate numbering issue along Rātana Road is to change the road name for the **urban section** of Rātana Road (south of Kiatere Street) and seek to undertake consultation with the Church Committee on the matter and in the development of an appropriate name for consideration at the June 2024 Rātana Community Board meeting.

## 9.2 Mayor's Report - March 2024

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

It is with sadness that I note the deaths of two local people – Lesley Leary, the past Mayoress of Rangitikei, and Andre Mason, husband of past Councillor and Member of Parliament, Soraya Peke-Mason. Lesley and Andre have been a huge part of our district and their respective communities – my thoughts are with their families.

The Long Term Plan (LTP) meetings are currently being held across the district and I urge people to attend where possible, or take the time to understand what Council is proposing to do over the next 10 years and who will fund it by way of rates. The average rate rise is 11.5% which is high and will cause hardship for some people. The 11.5% increase is about average for Councils across New Zealand and reflects the increased costs and Government direction that we are being faced with. Your submissions are important and will be considered carefully before a final position is taken in June this year. Myself and Councillors are making every effort so that we can talk with as many people as possible to help with the submission process.

As has been reported earlier, there is a by-election to replace Councillor Jarrod Calkin who resigned. I thank the candidates who are standing in this election for stepping up and wish them well. Voting closes on 12 April and the successful candidate will be briefed to take an active part in our LTP deliberations. I thank the Bulls Community Committee for arranging a Meet the Candidates night recently at Te Matapihi.

With the resignation of Councillor Calkin, we need to appoint a new replacement representative on the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund. Rather than using my delegation I have included a recommendation determined by Council for that vacancy.

For several years Council has been part of the “TUIA” programme – a Local Government New Zealand mentoring relationship between a young rangatahi and the Mayor. This year Nyssa Nepe has taken up that position. Nyssa will be formally introduced to Council at a later date. Nyssa works for Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa here in Marton and has already worked with me at the NZ Rural Games in Palmerston North as part of the powhiri process.

The Ford Ranger NZ Rural Sports Awards Dinner was held recently and Bronwyn Troon from Taihape was a recipient of the Volunteer Award for her support to schools/community and especially recognised for her leadership in the area of gumboot throwing.

### **Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting**

The LGNZ Rural & Provincial sector meeting was held via Zoom on 8 March, hosted by Alex Walker, Mayor of Central Hawkes Bay and Neil Holdom, Mayor of New Plymouth. There were several presentations of interest and I note –

1. Minister Mark Patterson (Minister of Rural Communities) made the comment that it costs 50% more to build an equivalent house in New Zealand compared to Australia. This is due to our isolation, transport, lack of competition in the supply chain and red tape - something that the National Party wishes to try and address.
2. Allan Pragnell, Taumata Arowai, made several comments –
  - 2.1 There will be another 18 months of legislation needed to reinforce “Local Water Done Well”, the National Party’s version of Three Waters so nothing will happen remarkably quickly.

## ITEM 9.2

- 2.2 Taumata Arowai will release this year where their focus will be and how we align our Long Term Plans with them.
  - 2.3 They will be looking for multi-barrier protections for water supplies.
  - 2.4 They have offered to talk to councils who will struggle with compliance timeframes and there will be a need for safety plans to be signed off with each individual council.
  - 2.5 They would also like to see a standardisation of waste-water plans and modular treatment plants and we are doing something that is unique to cope with the difficulties of the Taihape geography and location.
3. James Palmer, Ministry of the Environment noted –
    - 3.1 That Government is focussing on GDP/economic activity and they want to support localism – “you figure it out”.
    - 3.2 The Fast Track Bills will be put in place as part of a “permissive regime”.
  4. Update from LGNZ National Council. Their priorities are –
    - 4.1 To advocate for sustainable funding and financing tools.
    - 4.2 Sustainable transport planning. The simple interpretation of this, I understand, to be a concentration on maintenance and networks.
    - 4.3 Housing that should be fit for rural and provincial communities. They want to strengthen the collective voice of rural and provincials.
    - 4.4 An emphasis on localism.
  5. Minister Simeon Brown, made a presentation via Zoom, noting his Top Two priorities are –
    - 5.1 To set up technical advisory groups and deal with Local Water Done Well which means that regional CCOs with balance sheet separation will be part of that solution.
    - 5.2 He is also focussed on the GPS (Government Policy Statement) on Transport, focussing investment to building/maintenance networks and points out that submissions are due in April.
    - 5.3 He is continuing to work with a number of other Ministers around Fast Tracking and the framework for city and regional deals.

The last Council meeting held on 29 February clashed with a Transport Roding meeting in Wellington where I am one of only a handful of Mayors who engages directly with NZTA, Ministers and Local Government. It is always a tough call as to how I prioritise my time and I joined Council late that day knowing that Councillor Dave Wilson had my full confidence in his ability to Chair, however I do apologise for being late.

**Attachments:**

1. **LGNZ Four Monthly Report for Member Councils - February 2024** [↓](#)
2. **Elected Member Attendance- March 2024** [↓](#)

**Recommendation 1:**

That the Mayor’s Report – 28 March 2024 be received

## Mayors Engagements

March 2024

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Hunterville School Assembly</p>  |
| 4  | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Meet &amp; Greet with Chief Executive and local business</p> <p>Attended Climate Action Joint Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Mayoral Forum Meeting</p>  |
| 5  | <p>Attended Andre Mason's Tangi at Ratana</p> <p>Attended Erewhon Rural Water Scheme Meeting</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>   |
| 6  | <p>Attended Zone 3 Update Meeting</p> <p>Attended Governors Q&amp;A session at monthly ELT meeting</p> <p>Attended Santoft Domain Management Committee Meeting</p>  |
| 7  | <p>Attended TUIA online mentoring training</p> <p>Attending Rural &amp; Provincial Sector Online Meeting</p>  |
| 8  | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended fortnightly Economic Development Meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended relationship meeting with MSD</p> <p>Attended Ford NZ Rural Sports Awards Dinner</p>   |
| 9  | <p>Attended Ford NZ Rural Games Opening Powhiri with TUIA Rangatahi Nyssa Nepe</p>  |
| 11 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended regional relationship meeting with Waka Kotahi Regional Manager</p> <p>Attended Opening of Queens Park sign at Hunterville</p> <p>Attended weekly LTP meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Focus Group online hui</p> <p>Attended LTP Community Meeting – Hunterville</p> |
| 12 | <p>Attended opening of King Country Pet Food in Taumarunui</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p> <p>Attended LTP Community Meeting – Tutaenui Hall</p>   |
| 13 | <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended LTP Community BBQ at Te Matapihi</p> <p>Attended Lesley Leary's funeral in Hunterville</p> <p>Attended Bulls Community Committee Meeting</p>   |
| 14 | <p>Attended Assets/Infrastructure Workshop</p> <p>Attended LGNZ Transport Forum Online Hui</p>  |

## ITEM 9.2

|    |   |
|----|---|
|    | Attended Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards  |
| 15 | Attended meeting with Chief Executive<br>Attended relationship meeting with Kainga Ora and staff<br>Attended Regional Chiefs meeting with Manawatu-Whanganui MPs at CD Field Days<br>Attended Meet & Greet with New Base Commander Ohakea with Chief Executive<br>Attended Opening Function for Whanganui Artists Open Studios 2024<br>Attended Meet the (Southern Ward) Candidates Night in Bulls      |
| 16 | Attended breakfast meeting with Youth Council at Opunake  |
| 17 | Attended LTP Community Meeting – Scotts Ferry   |
| 18 | Attended Breakfast Meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys<br>Attended fortnightly economic development meeting with staff<br>Attended Zone 3 online catchup meeting<br>Attended meeting with Rangitīkei MP Suze Redmayne<br>Attended Defence Issues Relevant to the Manawatu/Rangitīkei – quarterly meeting<br>Attended opening of ICT Hub at Marton Library<br>Attended LTP Community Meeting – Omatane Hall |
| 19 | Attended NZ Tiny House Association Local Planning online meeting<br>Attended LTP Community BBQ – Marton<br>Attended meeting with Skye Properties<br>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor<br>Attended LTP Community Meeting – Taoroa Hall   |
| 20 | Attended Risk & Assurance Committee Meeting<br>Travel to Gisborne for LGNZ Zone 3 Sector Meeting with Chief Executive   |
| 21 | Attended LGNZ Zone 3 Sector Meeting in Gisborne with Chief Executive  |
| 22 | Attended LGNZ Zone 3 Sector Meeting in Gisborne with Chief Executive  |
| 23 | Attended Koro Mark Tumanako Gray's unveiling at Raketapauma Marae Taihape   |
| 24 | Attended LTP Community Meeting – Awastone<br>Attended LTP Community Meeting – Pukeokahu Hall  |
| 25 | Attended meeting with Chief Executive<br>Attended monthly RDC/Police relationship meeting<br>Attended LTP Community Meeting – Papanui School Hall   |
| 26 | Attended Regional Transport Matters/Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Zoom<br>Attended Meet & Greet with Chief Executive at local business<br>Attended Citizenship Ceremony at Te Matapihi (11 new citizens)<br>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor   |
| 27 | Attended New Staff Whakatau at Te Matapihi  |

|    |  |
|----|--|
|    | Attended LTP Community BBQ – Taihape                                       |
| 28 | Attended Finance/Performance Committee Meeting<br>Attended Council Meeting |

**ITEM 9.2**



# LGNZ FOUR-MONTHLY REPORT FOR MEMBER COUNCILS

// NOVEMBER 2023-FEBRUARY 2024





# Ko Tātou LGNZ.

This report summarises LGNZ’s work on behalf of member councils and is produced three times a year. It complements our regular communication channels, including Keeping it Local (our fortnightly e-newsletter), providing a more in-depth look at what we do.

## Contents

- Introduction ..... 4
- Progress on strategic goals ..... 5
  - Priority/01 Resetting the relationship with Central Government ..... 5
    - Political engagement and government relations..... 5
    - Briefing to the Incoming Government ..... 5
  - Priority/02 Establishing stronger Te Tiriti-based partnerships with Iwi Māori ..... 6
    - Waitangi commemorations ..... 6
    - Te Maruata update ..... 6
  - Priority/03 Campaigning for greater local decision-making and localism ..... 7
    - Choose Localism and Future by Local Government..... 7
  - Priority/04 Ramping up our work on climate change..... 9
    - Inquiry into community-led retreat and climate adaptation funding ..... 9
    - Other climate change work..... 9
    - Support for Cyclone-affected councils..... 9
  - Priority/05 Delivering and building on our core work ..... 10
    - Water services reform ..... 10
    - Resource management reform ..... 10
    - Transport..... 10
    - City and regional deals ..... 11
    - Local government funding and financing ..... 11
    - Remits ..... 12
    - Other policy and advocacy work..... 13
    - Media ..... 14
    - Conference and Excellence Awards update..... 15

LGNZ four-monthly report for members – February 2024 // 2



---

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Engagement with members, including sector and zone meetings .....       | 15 |
| Mayors’ Taskforce for Jobs .....  | 16 |
| Te Uru Kahika and the LGNZ Regional Sector .....                        | 16 |
| Young Elected Members .....   | 17 |
| Community Boards Executive Committee .....                              | 17 |
| Council capability .....  | 18 |
| Appendix 1: complete list of Ākona learning and development assets..... | 21 |



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## Introduction

This report is designed to be put on your council agenda for discussion and feedback. We would welcome the chance to speak to it at your council meeting, whether in person or via zoom – please get in touch with us to arrange that.

Highlights of this period from November to February have included building relationships with key Cabinet Ministers in the new Government and locking in regular meetings for the year. We have resumed meetings with the Prime Minister and enjoyed good levels of attendance of Ministers and MPs at sector meetings. This follows our [Briefing to the Incoming Government](#), which was well received both by members and central government. In 2024, for the first time, LGNZ was officially represented at Waitangi, marking a step change in our approach to strengthening partnerships with Māori – as well as providing valuable opportunities for both formal and informal political engagement. Significant policy/advocacy work on behalf of councils, along with media and social media activity, is reported on in detail below.

December’s Special General Meeting wrapped up an intensive five-month process on the Future **by** Local Government that included new ways to engage members. The next step is taking this long-term platform and determining what to advocate on in the shorter and longer term – and tailoring this for the right audience. We’ll be engaging more with members on that soon.

LGNZ advocated for more time and flexibility around LTPs given the changes to water reform. This was achieved, with the repeal legislation giving councils an additional three months to adopt their LTPs, an ability to forgo the audit of the consultation document, and to reduce consultation requirements on subsequent amendments. There’s a lot more detail about all areas of our policy and advocacy work in this report.

Another highlight of this period was agreeing an interim collaboration agreement with Auckland Council CE Phil Wilson. The arrangement allows access to professional development opportunities for Local Board members, particularly Te Maruata and Young Elected Members.

In the area of professional development support, you will see the increasing range of Ākona modules in response to your requests.

Ngā mihi  
Sam and Susan



## Progress on strategic goals

### Priority/01

### Resetting the relationship with Central Government

#### Political engagement and government relations

Our reset political strategy initially focused on establishing credibility and building relationships with key Cabinet Ministers. As with any change of government, the first step is to get to know Ministers – how they operate and what they expect – and to slowly build their understanding of the intricacies of local government, the challenges we face and the opportunities we could unlock together.

Regular meetings between LGNZ and Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, Local Government Minister Simeon Brown and Regional Development Minister Shane Jones are locked in the diary for the year. We're also working to schedule regular meetings with Resource Management Reform and Infrastructure Minister Chris Bishop. We'll have a raft of Ministers speaking at our March sector meetings to help set the agenda for the rest of the year.

As well as our regular formal meetings with the Prime Minister, Ministers and key officials, our broader approach has included:

- // Being part of political events such as Waitangi commemorations, where it's possible to speak to a broad range of Ministers in formal and informal settings (more on Waitangi below);
- // Hosting a localism briefing for new National Party MPs to bring them up to speed on what localism means, why taking a place-based approach works well and how councils can enable the delivery of government policy if the system is set up right.
- // Taking steps to set up a network of former members of local government who are now MPs – and who understand and can champion local government's interests inside the Beehive. This kicked off with an informal pizza and drinks night.

Sitting alongside this, we are undertaking policy work that positions LGNZ as a speed boat – rather than the slow-moving cruise liner the public service can be viewed as – more detail on this below.

Susan and key public sector CEs have 1:1s scheduled throughout the year to build trust and help build the public service's knowledge about local government's challenges, as well as explore where the opportunities may lie for quick wins.

#### Briefing to the Incoming Government

We finalised and shared our [Briefing to the Incoming Government](#) in late November. The briefing focussed on localism and where we would like to work together on the Government's priorities and



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was aimed at opening the door for future engagement. It included content regarding issues like investing in infrastructure, water services, resource management, and emergency management.

## Priority/02

### Establishing stronger Te Tiriti-based partnerships with Iwi Māori

#### Waitangi commemorations

For the first time, LGNZ was officially represented at Waitangi, marking a step change in our approach to strengthening partnerships with Māori as well as providing valuable opportunities for political engagement. Our contribution included hosting a panel discussion in the Forum Tent on local government's role in honouring Te Tiriti. About 100 people attended and contributed some thought-provoking pātai from the floor; feedback about the event was positive. We took a proactive approach to media coverage that outlined our position on Māori Wards, which is based on fairness and treating Māori Wards the same as other wards.

#### Te Maruata update

Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere met in Wellington in November to refine their priorities for the rest of the triennium, and will be holding a whānui hui online on 14 March. The hui is also an opportunity for the wider whānui to meet LGNZ's new Kaitohutohu Matua Māori (Principal Advisor Māori), Mereana Taungapeau, who started in February. Mereana is currently developing a Te Ao Māori workstream that seeks to support LGNZ with the design of tools/processes/approaches to create a stronger, more meaningful Te Ao Māori foundation. This foundation will support increased cultural capability of LGNZ staff that will then extend into positive outcomes for members. It will help Te Maruata to maximise their capacity and transform their work programme to focus on pro-active kaupapa of importance to Māori across Aotearoa. We've been able to extend the invitation to the online whānui hui to Māori Local Board members because of the cooperation agreement with Auckland Council Local Boards. At the hui, the whānui will elect three new members to sit on the Rōpū Whakahaere. The new Rōpū Whakahaere will meet in person in April, to discuss their forward work programme with Mereana and the wider LGNZ team.

A key issue for Te Maruata is strong advocacy on retaining current arrangements for the establishment of Māori wards and constituencies, and protecting those wards and constituencies that are already in place.



## Priority/03

### Campaigning for greater local decision-making and localism

#### Choose Localism and Future by Local Government

##### FbLG process

December's Special General Meeting wrapped up an intensive five-month process that included new ways to engage members.

The second FbLG event on 2 November concentrated on four areas identified at the September event as potentially being possible to reach agreement on. The nearly 200 attendees split into four groups – Funding, System transformation, Te Tiriti, and Wellbeing & working with central government. Each group created a position and presented it back to the whole audience, then revising it in response to feedback and presenting again.

Between the first and second events, we also ran participative online engagement that allowed people to see how their opinions fitted with other people's and make comments. In total 164 people engaged with the online platform. People from 19 different councils took part.

Supporting all this engagement was a range of email communications, including designed emails to all elected members, promotion in Keeping it Local, personal emails from Sam, and personal emails from Susan. We shared all the of the data and outputs from the events back with members.

Some of the email campaigns (which were all to 1500 recipients) recorded extremely high open rates by industry standards. For context, the average open rate for non-profit member organisations is 39%<sup>1</sup>

- "Last chance to complete online engagement" on 30 October had a 67% open rate
- Make your voice heard – new FFLG online tool on 13 October had a 68% open rate
- "We're making progress towards FFLG consensus" (which included the pack for councils to hold conversations) on 4 October had a 57% open rate

We used all the feedback and data to create a consensus outcome paper, which was shared with members on 24 November ahead of a Special General Meeting on 11 December, which voted to include all five sections in the FbLG package. These were the final results:

// Section 1 – Build a new system of government that's fit for purpose – **93.6% in favour**, 6.4% against; 0% abstain.

<sup>1</sup> [https://knowledgebase.constantcontact.com/email-digital-marketing/articles/KnowledgeBase/5409-average-industry-rates?lang=en\\_US](https://knowledgebase.constantcontact.com/email-digital-marketing/articles/KnowledgeBase/5409-average-industry-rates?lang=en_US)



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- // Section 2 – Rebalance the country’s tax take between central and local government – **98.0% in favour**, 2.0% against, 0% abstain.
  - // Section 3 – Create stronger, more authentic relationships between local government and iwi, hapū and Māori – **76.1% in favour**; 19.5% against; 4.4% abstain.
  - // Section 4 – Align central, regional and local government priorities – **93.6% in favour**, 6.4% against, 0% abstain.
  - // Section 5 – Strengthen local democracy and leadership – **89.4% in favour**; 10.6% against; 0% abstain.

#### What now for FBLG?

Not everything in the package of ideas that came out of the Future by Local Government process will be palatable to the new government and some ideas won’t be advanced in this political term. The package approved at the SGM is the start of a long-term platform for advocacy that goes beyond this current government (and the next too). The next step is to tailor our advocacy to the appropriate audience – right now for the National-led Coalition – and to actively involve members in that. This will be workshopped at our April sector meetings.

#### Choose Localism

We have developed a plan to activate Choose Localism this year that includes political, member and media engagement, with our annual SuperLocal Conference a key milestone where localism will be brought to life.

A key part of our work will be launching a Choose Localism toolkit, which our Policy Team is working on. This will be a practical resource for elected members and staff that shows how councils can adopt localism as part of their core work. We’ll be releasing the toolkit in stages, with the first part of the toolkit focused on applying localism to engagement and consultation processes. We plan to use the toolkit as a way to showcase good practice examples of work happening across councils.

As part of the Choose Localism campaign, we are looking at ways to tackle the issue of voter turnout (and therefore mandate) for local government. There have been several reviews and numerous calls for local government electoral reform over the years, with no progress being made. Only four out of ten eligible voters have their say in local elections, compared with eight out of ten for central government. Mayor Nick Smith, who has been part of a number of Justice Select Committees looking into this, will lead an LGNZ Technical Working Group to get traction on the issue. The working group will have a very clear purpose: to drive LGNZ’s advocacy work to strengthen the democratic mandate for local government to represent and meet the needs of its communities. Moving local government to a four-year term will be part of this work.



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## Priority/04

### Ramping up our work on climate change

#### Inquiry into community-led retreat and climate adaptation funding

In late 2023, we submitted on the inquiry into community-led retreat and climate adaptation funding that was started by the previous government. Our submission stressed the importance of an enduring framework for climate adaptation and retreat that has cross-party support. We have encouraged the government and Environment Committee to continue with the inquiry and climate adaptation work in both our submission and our briefing to the incoming government. We understand that work is underway to re-ignite the inquiry. There is a real opportunity for LGNZ to play an active role in working with the Government to develop its climate change adaptation policy framework.

#### Other climate change work

In late 2023, we worked with Whakatāne District Council, Northland Regional Council, the Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network (ACAN) and Beca to produce guidance that sets out climate change legislative requirements and reforms that councils should think about when preparing their LTPs. This guidance will be a living document and updated in the coming months to reflect the new Government's emerging policy and legislative reform programme.

We also supported ACAN's two-day hui for council staff working in the adaptation space in Christchurch, which was attended by over 100 people.

#### Support for Cyclone-affected councils

We've continued to engage with affected members on what they needed from additional orders in council or support from the new Government. Alongside helping councils to address their specific needs, we've continued our wider call for a more sustainable approach to emergency event recovery, which has been included in recent submissions as well as in the Briefing to the Incoming Government.

Our Policy Team met with the secretariat of the Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Taskforce to support development of their insights framework, which seeks to capture the lessons learned from their work. We have also started engagement with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on their next steps on their critical infrastructure framework and minimum standards.

The report on the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events is expected to be out shortly. We understand that consideration of the Emergency Management Bill (which we submitted on in October 2023) is on hold until the release of this report, so the Select Committee can consider it and any changes needed to the Bill. This may involve further submissions or engagement.





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## Priority/05

### Delivering and building on our core work

#### Water services reform

LGNZ advocated for more time and flexibility around LTPs given the changes to water reform. This was achieved, with the repeal of the previous government's water services legislation giving councils an additional three months to adopt their LTPs, ability to forgo the audit of the consultation document, and to reduce consultation requirements on subsequent amendments. Alternatively, councils can defer development of their LTP for 12 months if they produce an enhanced Annual Plan.

The replacement approach for water services will be rolled out in two parts. A first bill will be passed by the middle of the year and will require the development of service delivery plans (which will be the vehicle to self-determine future service delivery arrangements). This bill will also put in place transitional economic regulation and provide a streamlined process for establishing joint water services CCOs. A second bill will be introduced at the end of the year and will set out provisions relating to long-term requirements for financial sustainability, provide for a complete economic regulation regime, and introduce a new range of structural and financing tools, including a new type of financially independent council-controlled organisation.

Taumata Arowai is starting to develop regulations for storm water and wastewater, and attended LGNZ sector meetings in March.

#### Resource management reform

Having repealed the Natural and Built Environments and Spatial Planning Acts prior to Christmas, the Government has worked at pace to develop a new fast-track consenting regime, with legislation introduced to the House in early March. We are planning to make a joint submission on the Bill with Taituarā and Te Uru Kahika.

We're also thinking about how we can influence the new Government's thinking around what a replacement resource management system could look like – which is something it has signalled it's interested in. Our sense is that there is alignment across the membership on some aspects of resource management, including strong support for retaining regional spatial planning, shifting to integrated national direction and developing a climate adaptation framework. There is also a strong desire to see local and regional planning decisions made at place.

We also understand that the new Government is working at pace to make a number of changes to the NPS-Freshwater Management. We're monitoring these changes closely along with Te Uru Kahika.

#### Transport

Late last year we stood up the LGNZ Transport Forum, which includes a mix of National Council spokespeople and other representatives. The group has recently met to discuss its work programme, following both National Council's adoption of the [Position Statement on Transport](#) and the swearing-



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in of the new government, which gave us a steer on the broad direction for transport policy over the next three years and beyond. Mayor Neil Holdom has been elected Chair of the forum.

The Forum will support the development of LGNZ's submission on the [draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport](#), which is due on 2 April 2024.

Our position statement includes the following key policy objectives:

- // A strategic, long-term approach to planning that joins up central and local government decision-making to address maintenance and climate adaptation needs.
- // Sufficient, long-term transport investment that prioritises resilience building, safety and better asset management across both new developments as well as maintenance and renewals.
- // Integrated transport and freight networks that support placemaking by connecting our rural communities, towns and cities and making them great places to live and work.
- // A transport network that can adapt to the future climate and prioritise decarbonisation.

### City and regional deals

The Government has strongly signalled interest in long-term city and regional deals as a way to partner with local government to create pipelines of regional projects.

In late 2023, we commissioned Linda Meade, Director at Kalimena Advisory, to provide insight into the international experience around city and regional deals, and how this might be applied in the New Zealand context. [The paper](#), which was presented at the November Metro Sector meeting and has since been shared with members more widely, set out background on the key elements of city and regional deals, different options that have been used in the United Kingdom and Australia, and considerations and key takeaways that could be applied when designing a city and regional deals framework for New Zealand.

We're continuing to think about how city and regional deals can be structured to maximise the benefits for local government. The Policy Team is pulling together a think piece that will highlight how city and regional deals could support better alignment between central and local government. This will be shared with members and support conversations we're having with Ministers and officials on the framework for these deals.

### Local government funding and financing

We have commissioned NZIER to estimate the financial impacts of various reforms on councils – which is all about quantifying the unfunded mandate. This work will support our ongoing conversations with the Government on how they consider and mitigate the implementation and operational costs on local government of their reforms. The specific areas we are costing (National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, National Policy Statement on Urban Development and Medium Density Residential Standards, Local Alcohol Policies, improving recycling and food scrap collections) have been chosen to be representative of reforms with a range of impacts on councils. This work is expected to be completed in May.



We’ve also recently commissioned Brad Olsen and the team at Infometrics to develop a report that looks at the various factors that have driven up local government’s costs. We’ll be sharing this with members shortly, and discussing it in detail at our April Combined Sector Meeting.

Both of these pieces of work are part of the broader advocacy we’re doing around rates rises and building community understanding of the reasons for them.

**Ratepayer Assistance Scheme**

The RFS is a special purpose tool that would provide support to ratepayers to finance any local authority charge. With balance sheet separation, and proximity to both local and central government, it would have a very high credit rating and therefore be able to provide the cheapest possible financing terms to ratepayers.

The Ratepayer Financing Scheme’s flexibility would enable it to support:

- // Development contributions to enable housing development.
- // Home improvement policy to meet healthy homes, earthquake strengthening, home insulation and solar panel installation, water separation and storage etc.
- // Rates postponement to provide relief to ratepayer experiencing affordability pressures.

A detailed business case supporting the RFS’s viability has been completed with the support of Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch councils alongside the LGFA and LGNZ. So far Auckland and Tauranga have confirmed financial support to establish the RAS.

**Remits**

We’re continuing to make progress on remits where we can – though as is always the case following a General Election, progress has slowed somewhat as we wait for the new government to bed in and understand how our remits relate to its priorities. We are thinking carefully about ways that we can build remits into our existing policy and advocacy work programmes to maximise limited resources across a wide number of issues.

| Remit  | Progress update   |
|--|---|
| <b>Allocation of risk and liability in the building sector</b> | We raised the issues that this remit addresses through our involvement in a working group that was reviewing the building consent system in 2023. Our Metro Sector met with the Minister for Building and Construction in March 2024. More substantive work is needed to progress this remit. |
| <b>Rates rebates</b>   | We wrote to the Minister of Local Government on 21 January 2024 asking the Government to amend the Rates Rebate Scheme and benchmark further increases to changes in the local government cost index.   |
| <b>Roading/transport maintenance funding</b>                   | This remit will be picked up through the work that our Transport Forum leads.   |
| <b>Local election accessibility</b>                            | For us to achieve the intent of the remit, there will need to be an amendment to the Electoral Act 1993. We will begin work soon to   |



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|--|---|
|  | develop a case for change before engaging with the Minister of Justice.   |
| <b>Ability for co-chairs at formal meetings</b>    | Guidance on how to introduce co-chairs, which has been informed by legal advice, has been incorporated into our revised Guide to the LGNZ Standing Orders Template, which was published in early February 2024.   |
| <b>Parking infringement penalties</b>              | We’re yet to start substantive work to progress this remit.   |
| <b>Rural and regional public transport</b>         | This remit will also be picked up through the work that our Transport Forum leads.  |
| <b>Establishing resolution service</b>             | National Council agreed that work to progress this remit will form part of our 2023 – 2025 strategy.  |
| <b>Earthquake prone buildings</b>                  | We met with the Deputy Mayor of Manawatū District Council to begin development of a proposed plan for next steps on this remit, which will be delivered this year. We have also reached out to Engineering New Zealand to understand their perspectives on the viable options.  |
| <b>KiwiSaver contributions for elected members</b> | We’ve received legal advice from Simpson Grierson on the changes that would need to be made to the Local Government Act 2002 and the KiwiSaver Act 2006 to enable elected members to be eligible for KiwiSaver contributions and have begun drafting advice for Ministers and officials.  |
| <b>Scope of audits and audit fees</b>              | Part of the approach to reduce audit fees is to ensure that the legislative requirements and scope (and resulting repetition and complexity) of Long-Term Plans and Annual plans and reports are reduced to be better aligned with needs and cost less to audit. To support this, we are in the process of undertaking a desktop review of a number of reports that made recommendations on how to achieve this. We’ve also made recommendations around the need revisit councils’ planning and accountability obligations in our Future by Local Government Consensus Outcome Paper. |

**Other policy and advocacy work**

**Freedom camping**

The Policy Team have released updated guidance and a model bylaw that reflect recent amendments to legislation and case law, to support councils to develop, review, and administer bylaws relating to the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (FCA). Amendments to the FCA came into force on 7 June 2023, but there is a transitional period before the new certification for self-contained motor vehicles and related provisions come into force.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association part funded this work, and we worked with them and Taituarā to develop it.



The guidance is available [here](#). Two versions of the new model bylaw are available, [one](#) highlighting the changes to the 2018 model bylaw, and [one](#) without the highlighted changes.

### Drought planning

We were engaged by the Ministry for Primary Industries to participate in an all-of-government group that undertook work to prepare for expected impacts of drought over Summer 2023-2024. Our involvement in this work was principally to ensure that local government remains front and centre in the government's planning and thinking, and to help provide appropriate communications channels back to councils.

### Media

Media was a strong advocacy tool used to its full advantage during the pre-election period when politicians were in the middle of campaigning. The post-election period, including when special votes came out and coalition talks were underway, was also a good opportunity to thrust local government issues into the political spotlight. This served dual purposes: to inform political journalists of the challenges that government needs to address to ensure local government thrives; and to firmly demonstrate to the incoming government that the challenges facing local government needs the Government's attention or they risk not being able to deliver on their priorities.

Here are some examples of LGNZ's proactive work in that period:

- [Funding anxiety across the country as local government considers its future | The Post](#)
- [Councils plead for more certainty over National's Three Waters plans | RNZ News](#)
- [Local councils facing cost pressures across the country | RNZ](#)
- [Councils plead for clarity on water infrastructure reform | RNZ](#)
- [Christopher Luxon claims victory: 'Our children can grow up to live the lives they dream of' | Newsroom.co.nz](#)

Towards the end of last year, our media campaign centred on proposed rate rises and what's driving them ramped up. LGNZ led the narrative by using champions like Cameron Bagrie and Āpopo to visibly back our message. Sam also fronted a proactive media conference and numerous interviews over December and January. As at the end of February, we generated 48 unique pieces of media coverage capturing Sam's message for the need for more funding and financing tools for local government.

Another major piece of advocacy through media is four-year-terms for local government. Sam has used every opportunity to talk about the efficiencies we'd gain by implementing longer electoral terms. This has led to stories in local papers as well as in-depth coverage by RNZ's political reporter, Russell Palmer.

Our social media channels have had a 16.4% increase in engagement for the last quarter compared to this time last year, along with a 458% increase in followers. In March, we're launching a social media campaign to further amplify a national perspective on rates rises. This campaign aims to explain why rate rises occur, especially in the face of rising living costs, and to highlight that this is a widespread systemic issue. Through this series, we'll explore how councils are financed, the services they offer, and the benefits residents receive from their investment in rates. This is part of a wider



campaign to support councils in the rates rise conversation that will include other resources for members.

**Conference and Excellence Awards update**

Planning continues for both SuperLocal 2024 and the Community Board conference in August in Wellington. There will be additional events for Te Maruata, Young Elected Members, LGNZ’s Annual General Meeting, Mayors for Taskforce breakfast and numerous networking events spread across the three days. Work on various streams such as programme and speakers, awards, engagement and marketing is underway. The theme this year is Bringing localism to life, and once again, we’re stepping up the programme to reflect the feedback we got last year and ensure we have the right mix of informative, practical and inspirational content.

**Engagement with members, including sector and zone meetings**

Our new website went live in December. It provides much more flexibility to showcase local government and all it has to offer our communities, as well as a home for resources, news and insights – and a working search function.

We met with zone administrators and chairs in early February to talk about any challenges and opportunities, and for LGNZ to share what’s happening more broadly to help develop agendas. This was the first in a series of three meetings.

On 13 April, we held a zoom for women in local government. We’ve been repeatedly asked to provide a forum to help support women elected members, so we created this zoom as a starting point. About 20 women attended and there was really strong engagement during the zoom, which was led by Christchurch City Councillor Sara Templeton. We are planning to hold a lunch immediately before SuperLocal as the next step in this conversation.

We have achieved outstanding open rates for *Keeping it Local* this year so far. If you’re not receiving *Keeping it Local*, which is our key communications channel and goes out fortnightly on Thursdays, please get in touch.

| Date   | Open rate | Subject line   |
|--------|-----------|--|
| 19-Jan | 67%       | We’ve developed new freedom camping guidance and a model bylaw |
| 1-Feb  | 68%       | We’ve updated our Guide to Standing Orders Templates           |
| 15-Feb | 60.20%    | Talking all things localism with National Party MPs            |

We’re also planning the launch of a monthly zoom for all elected members. To make sure this is successful and responds to member needs, we’ve carrying out a series of phone conversations with some randomly selected elected members as part of that planning. The first zoom will be held in late March/early April and will focus on online safety/harassment.



### Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs

Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) is refreshing its five-year strategic plan. The plan reconfirms the focus of the MTFJ kaupapa firmly on rangatahi, particularly those youth who are NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training).

To support this strategic planning, we've completed two pieces of research on the value of MTFJ and where opportunities might lie for both sustainable funding and future growth. TRA (The Research Agency) completed a qualitative research piece on the MTFJ Community Employment Programme, which is funded through our current partnership with MSD. The research explored its value proposition, potential scope and growth parameters. Critical findings included the complexity of NEETs, the innovative success of the programme, and the unique impact that the authority bias of the Mayor has in this initiative. The Impact Lab Social Return on Investment review resulted in the very credible finding of \$5.60 return for every \$1.00 spent, alongside strong commentary on other positive key social accountability metrics.

The evidence from these two pieces of research, alongside our own data and analysis, underpin our engagement with the Government and targeted Ministries as we work to strengthen existing funding arrangements and explore new opportunities. We continue to position MTFJ as a tangible exemplar of localism in action.

The 35 current-CEP-contract councils are reviewing their six-month performance milestone in the two-year contracts, with the MTFJ team's support. We are in good shape to fully deliver contracted outcomes.

We have also welcomed two new councils into the MSD-funded contract – Central Otago DC and Kāpiti Coast DC. They are being supported to pilot initiatives.

In late February we hosted a very successful national gathering of 80+ MTFJ coordinators, key council staff and MSD colleagues in Wellington.

### Te Uru Kahika and the LGNZ Regional Sector

The LGNZ Regional Sector met virtually in January to consider how the change of government will impact on its priorities. Our Regional Sector and Te Uru Kahika share three priorities: climate resilience, resource management system, Te Ao Māori. It was agreed that the new government's reform agenda in freshwater, water services regulation and transport are also priorities for engagement.

These priorities informed the agenda for the first Regional Sector meeting of the year on 7-8 March. The Sector had dinner with Minister McClay (Agriculture, Forestry, and Trade) and Minister Simmonds (Environment) and met with Minister Bishop (RM Reform and Infrastructure), which was a good opportunity to form relationships and understand their priorities for their respective portfolios. They also had good meeting with Minister Bishop where he outlined his priorities and the Government's forward programme on resource management reform. The sector shared their desire for close collaboration on implementation and what they want to see from resource management changes.



Our team is meeting regularly with Te Uru Kahika to ensure we are joined up in our support for the Regional Sector. We continue to work together closely on submissions and engagement on central government reforms; for example, on submissions on the inquiry into community-led retreat and the proposed National Policy Statement for Natural Hazard Decision-making. We're also engaging closely with Te Uru Kahika on resource management reform.

### Young Elected Members

The annual YEM hui was held in late 2023 in Waitangi. The YEM Committee, LGNZ and Far North District Council delivered a very successful three-day hui for around 45 YEM that included a range of panel discussions, workshops, keynote speakers, a tour of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds and visits to other culturally significant sites in the Far North.

The programme content included leveraging opportunities through partnerships to deliver good outcomes for communities, developing the YEM Strategy and Kaupapa, effective leadership and looking after your health and wellbeing as a leader, how to effectively engage with the media and building cultural confidence and understanding. Creative New Zealand sponsored the event, which helped to keep costs down and enabled a panel session that focused on how councils can invest in arts and culture in their long-term plans to support wider economic, social and cultural wellbeing outcomes for their communities.

Attendees gave their overall hui experience an average rating of 9.4 (1 being poor, 10 being outstanding). Because of LGNZ's cooperation agreement with Auckland Local Boards, two Auckland Local Board members were able to attend.

The YEM Committee meet online in March. As well as discussing the next Hui and their pre-SuperLocal gathering, the Committee will be refining the YEM Strategy and Kaupapa based on feedback was received from the network at the end of last year.

### Community Boards Executive Committee

Over the last few months CBEC has been actively involved in a number of initiatives:

- // **Satisfaction survey of community boards and mayors:** CBEC commissioned FrankAdvice to undertake a survey of community boards and mayors to better understand the mood of community boards, and relationships between councils and community boards, as well as identify areas for improvement, with particular emphasis on roles, remuneration and relationships with councils. The final report, with recommendations, is expected to be released in late February. The findings will be used for ongoing advocacy by CBEC and to inform updates to the Governance Guide for Community Boards.
- // **Community Boards Conference:** CBEC is well underway with planning for the 2024 Community Boards Conference, which is being held as part of SuperLocal. CBEC members have been working hard with the LGNZ team to pull together a programme, and seek speakers and sponsorship.
- // **Declarations:** the Committee has discovered that some councils do not require appointed board members to make a community board declaration – creating a potential risk to councils should a board decision be challenged on the basis that some members were ineligible to vote. CBEC sought legal advice, which confirmed that all appointed members should make a community





board declaration as well as their council declaration. That advice has been sent to all councils with community boards.

// **Remuneration:** CBEC is working with the Remuneration Authority to improve the basis on which community board remuneration is set. CBEC is working on a “time and motion” survey to provide more accurate information to the Authority on the nature of community board members’ responsibilities and the time board members spend on official duties. The Authority has not been able to resolve how to remunerate boards with additional responsibilities (member pay is based on population without any consideration of the level of responsibility). CBEC plans to provide feedback to the Authority when it is next reviewing its remuneration approach, within the next year or so.

The Committee met in person in Wellington in late February and is looking forward to having Te Maruata and YEM representatives join them in the coming weeks.

### Council capability

#### CouncilMARK

Our continuous improvement programme has undergone significant enhancements over the past year in response to feedback from the sector. These changes aim to increase programme participation and deliver greater value to participating councils. The programme has extended its focus beyond independent assessments to support councils throughout their continuous improvement journey, both before and after assessment.

It now emphasises wraparound support for councils, the establishment of development benchmarks and aligning council performance with priorities. The introduction of additional development pathways facilitates the translation of assessment findings into actionable plans, enabling councils to optimise their performance.

#### Ākōna

In late 2023, we developed and launched six new courses, including Health & safety, Chairing meetings, Writing and delivering great speeches, Working with media, Engaging with Māori, and LGOIMA. Many of these have been in response to requests from councils and designed in conjunction with council experts. We worked closely with Tararua District Council on the Health & Safety module – a first for elected members – and with Queenstown Lakes District Council on the LGOIMA module. Chairing meetings, giving great speeches and working with the media have all been popular with our subscribed councils.

New courses being developed ready for release over the next few weeks include:

- // Climate Change
- // Decision Making
- // The CE Relationship
- // Te Reo
- // Unconscious Bias



Refer to **Appendix 1** for a complete list of learning and development assets.

A targeted workshop focused on Chiring Meetings/Standing Orders has also been developed, along with a Critical Thinking workshop. A survey was distributed in February to identify preferred Ako Hour topics – this will lead to a 2024 schedule being built and promoted by the end of March

We're working closely with Taituarā and the Local Government Commission. Discussions have begun with Taituarā to develop an induction pack that will include pre-elected learning resources, (as per the framework). A pre-candidacy package of learning will also soon be developed to support the promotion of local governance participation in our communities.

#### **Guidance and advisory for members**

The Policy Team has been working on several pieces of research and good practice guidance over the past four months. These include:

- // **The 2022 -25 elected member census:** This summary report shows that there has been a significant increase in the number of members who identify as Māori and that overall, members are getting younger.
- // **Local government voters 2022:** This report summarises the survey of voters and non-voters undertaken shortly after the 2022 elections. It shows the number of voters aged between 18 – 25 has grown significantly since 2001, and a big increase in the number of voters who placed their completed voting papers in a ballot or voting box from 12% in 2016 to 28% in 2022.
- // **An elected members' guide to representation reviews:** This is to strengthen elected members' and citizens' understanding of the representation review process.
- // **Ombudsman's report on workshops – update to standing orders guidance:** In October 2023 the Ombudsman published a report "Open for Business" in which he was critical of the number of public excluded workshops held by councils. The report, while finding that there was no evidence that workshops were being used for making decisions, made several recommendations for improvements. We have commissioned Simpson Grierson to review the recommendations and incorporate those that are relevant into LGNZ's Guide to Standing Orders. We expect to republish that Guide later this year.
- // We've recently updated our **Guide to the LGNZ Standing Orders Template**. The updates provide councils with guidance on how to amend their standing orders to incorporate changes to the definition of a quorum (for those joining by audio visual means). They also provide guidance on the Ombudsman's recent report on public access to workshops.
- // We're working with the Taituarā Democracy and Participation Working Group to fine tune our **Standing Orders Template**, with a focus on readability. The updated version will be available to councils in early 2025, giving plenty of time to be prepared ahead of the 2025 local body elections. The new template will also reflect legislative changes made since mid-2022 when the current template was drafted.



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### Moata Carbon Portal

The Moata carbon portal is a tool that allows embedded (capital) carbon to be measured and monitored across any capital works programme. It enables councils to account for and reduce carbon emissions generated from water, transport and infrastructure (vertical and horizontal) projects. We have also been in planning mode for Mott MacDonald to attend the first Zone meeting of the year to provide an overview of the carbon portal as well as some findings from the carbon baseline completed on Queenstown Lakes LTP in 2023.

The findings from this baseline were that water projects accounted for 55% of QLDC's total capital carbon, with transport accounting for 24% and built environment 21%. Over the course of their LTP, their highest carbon peaks were predicted for 2023 and 2030, with recommendations provided on integrating carbon assessments into their approval and delivery processes.

Our subscribers now include Auckland Water Care, Tauranga, Napier, Wellington Water and Queenstown Lakes. We are also having conversations with New Plymouth and Nelson councils.

We also held New Zealand's first Carbon Crunch event this year with then-Minister James Shaw the keynote speaker. The event included presentations from Auckland Council, Transpower and Wellington Water on how they are tracking on their decarbonisation journey. [A white paper](#) from this event has been developed.

### Libraries partnership

Our Libraries Advisor will be with LGNZ until the end of June 2024, when the project funding comes to an end (this was a Covid-19 recovery initiative). The work programme agreed to with DIA and the New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme has included sharing findings from research to identify the value of public libraries as vehicles for service delivery. At the end of 2023, the Advisor met with council leaders and library staff in the Far North and Whangārei, and in early 2024 is visiting councils in Horowhenua, Palmerston North, Rangitikei, Taupō, Waipā and South Waikato. The conclusion of this project will include a report that will outline all the key trends identified and findings made across the three years.



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# Appendix 1: complete list of Ākona learning and development assets

## Courses

There are now 17 courses available on Ākona.

- // Designing and Delivering Great Speeches
- // Chairing Meetings
- // Health & Safety and Good Governance
- // Engaging with Media
- // Engaging with Māori
- // LGOIMA
- // Funding & Finance
- // Asset Management
- // Engaging with your Community
- // Governance
- // What is Local Government?
- // Remuneration and Tax for elected members
- // LTP
- // Council Membership
- // Financial Governance
- // Navigating Local Government Meetings
- // Conflicts of Interest

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LGNZ four-monthly report for members – February 2024 // 21



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## All courses feature

### Emodules

Interactive, immersive learning activities that break down complex topics for easy understanding and immediate application.

### Resources

Templates, case studies, videos, websites and/or extra reading that support sustained learning practise.

### Ako Hours

Live discussion groups, led by experts, focused on expansion and contextualisation of new knowledge.

### Kōrero Corner

Social learning with peers and experts.

## Added value

### Partnership

Subscribed councils are welcome to request learning topics; most of our courses came about this way. Many courses were also built with council input – either the sharing of process, content, stories and/or case studies. This keeps our courses as fit for purpose as they can be. Note also that every course is reviewed by sector experts.

### Elected member capability framework

For the first time, a framework that sets out capabilities needed to successfully fulfil the role of elected member has been developed. Mapped across 6 capability groups and 4 levels of capability (including pre-elected), the framework provides a clear view of what high performance looks like and the pathway to getting there.

An online self-assessment tool is currently being designed ready to be built into Ākōna. Soon Elected Members will be able to plot their strengths and opportunities across 6 capability areas that are unique to their role.

### Advisory Services

The Ākōna tīma have a vast amount of experience working in complex learning environments, creating learning cultures and supporting others to do the same.

Whether you need support to identify training needs, develop learning specifically to your council needs or engaging your folk in learning, the tīma are here for you.



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### Digital platform – creating your own learning pathways and induction experiences

The new Ākōna platform offers councils the opportunity to create their own learning pathway, create a place only accessible by their elected members to use for specific learning needs, induction etc.

All trackable, reportable and accessible at anytime from anywhere.

|     | A         | B                   | C    | D      | E      | F      | G       | H      | I     | J       | K      | L       | M       | N    | O     |
|-----|-----------|---------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|-------|---------|--------|---------|---------|------|-------|
|     | Date      | Meeting             | HWTM | Wilson | Calkin | Carter | Dalgety | Duncan | Hiroa | Lambert | Loudon | Maughan | Raukawa | Wong | Notes |
| 136 | 24-Jan-24 | Bulls CC            | PR   |        |        | PR     |         |        |       |         |        |         | AB      |      |       |
| 137 | 1-Feb-24  | Council Workshop    | AP   | PR     |        | PR     | PR      | PR     | PR    | PR      | PR     | PR      | PR      | PR   |       |
| 138 | 1-Feb-24  | Council Meeting     | PR   | PR     |        | PR     | PR      | PR     | PR    | PR      | PR     | PR      | PR      | PR   |       |
| 139 | 12-Feb-24 | HRWS                | PR   |        |        |        | PR      |        |       | PR      |        | AT      |         |      |       |
| 140 | 12-Feb-24 | Hunterville CC      | PR   |        |        |        | PR      |        |       | PR      |        |         |         |      |       |
| 141 | 13-Feb-24 | TRAK Meeting        | PR   |        |        |        |         | PR     | PR    |         |        |         |         |      |       |
| 142 | 13-Feb-24 | Ratana CB           | PR   |        |        |        |         |        | PR    |         |        |         |         |      |       |
| 143 | 14-Feb-24 | Marion CC           | PR   | PR     |        |        |         |        |       |         |        |         |         |      |       |
| 144 | 15-Feb-24 | AIN Meeting         | PR   | PR     |        | PR     | PR      | PR     |       | PR      | PR     | PR      |         | PR   |       |
| 145 | 15-Feb-24 | PPL Meeting         | PR   | PR     |        |        | AT      | PR     | PR    | PR      |        | PR      |         | AT   |       |
| 146 | 15-Feb-24 | Turakina CC         | PR   |        |        | PR     |         |        |       |         |        |         |         |      |       |
| 147 | 21-Feb-24 | Taihape CB          |      |        |        |        |         | PR     |       |         |        |         |         | PR   |       |
| 148 | 29-Feb-24 | Finance/Performance | CB   | PR     |        | PR     | PR      |        |       |         | PR     | AP      |         | PR   |       |
| 149 | 29-Feb-24 | Council             | PR   | PR     |        | PR     | PR      | PR     | PR    | PR      | PR     | PR      | AP      | PR   |       |
| 150 | 5-Mar-24  | ERWS                | PR   |        |        |        |         |        |       |         |        | AP      |         | PR   |       |
| 151 | 6-Mar-24  | SDMC                | PR   |        |        | PR     |         |        |       |         |        |         |         |      |       |
| 152 | 13-Mar-24 | Bulls CC            | PR   |        |        | PR     |         |        |       |         |        |         | PR      |      |       |
| 153 | 14-Mar-24 | AIN Workshop        | PR   | PR     |        | PR     | PR      | PR     |       | PR      | PR     | PR      |         | PR   |       |
| 154 | 20-Mar-24 | RA Meeting          | PR   | PR     |        |        | PR      |        | PR    |         | PR     |         |         |      |       |
| 155 |           |                     |      |        |        |        |         |        |       |         |        |         |         |      |       |
| 156 |           |                     |      |        |        |        |         |        |       |         |        |         |         |      |       |
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**ITEM 10.1**

## **10 Reports for Information**

### **10.1 Update on Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti**

**Author:** Lequan Meihana, TRAK member

#### **1. Reason for Report**

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

#### **Recommendation**

That the report 'Update on Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti' be received.



## 10.2 Cemetery Update - April 2024

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This is a standing report that will update the Board on new burials within the Rātana Cemetery.
- 1.2 Plot 306/ Row 14- Thomas Nepia
- 1.3 Plot 305 /Row 14 Jessica Nepia

### Recommendation

That the report 'Cemetery Update – April 2024' be received.

**10.3 Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project - Update****Author: Adina Foley, Senior Project Manager****Authoriser: Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer****1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This update has been extracted from the Project Management Office report that was provided to Council.
- 1.2 It is provided here for the Board's information.

**Attachments:**

1. **Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the report 'Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project – Update' be received.

| Project Name                        | Project Summary   | Project Lead | Est Start Date | Est Finish Date | Health/ Safety      | Programme  | Cost   | Quality              | Top 5 Risks   | Project Budget | Actual Spend to date | Iwi Consultation  | Key Tasks Completed  | Next Steps (March Update)   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|--|----------------------|---|----------------|----------------------|---|--|---|
| Rātana Wastewater discharge to land | This project is a collaborative effort involving local iwi, RDC, HRC and the community of Ratana, and is partly funded (13.4%) by Ministry for the Environment (MfE). The project is to remove treated effluent from Lake Waipu and to dispose of it to land. The project started on 1 July 2018 with an agreement with the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and has an estimated duration of 5 years. Construction will need to be completed by December 2024. The scope of this project includes purchase of land for disposing of treated wastewater (instead of discharge to Lake Waipu), the installation of irrigation equipment and an upgrade of the existing Rātana Pā wastewater treatment plant. | Blair King   | Jul-18         | Dec-24          | No concerns to date | Construction will need to be completed by December 2024 which is a very tight timeframe. | No concerns to date - budget has been increased in September 2023. | No concerns to date. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tight timeframe to complete project by December 2024.</li> <li>2. Ongoing discharge to waterway/ Lake Waipu may be grounds for public notification of the consent application (or limited notification).</li> <li>3. Unforeseen requirements/ consent conditions for RDC.</li> <li>4. The approved budgets might not be sufficient to cover the full cost of the upgrade.</li> <li>5. Funding by MfE is linked to milestones, if the project is delayed there is a chance of funding loss.</li> </ol> | \$ 6,532,000   | \$ 1,225,273         | Regular meetings and updates via email / through hui. Iwi is on board with the project and its approach and supports the irrigation to land option. | Land has been found and purchased (an extra 4ha is in the process of being purchased). Pipeline design started and negotiation with affected parties are ongoing. Irrigation design started. Resource consent has been lodged. Time extension from MfE until December 2024 has been confirmed. | Onsite groundwater sample collection to be continued throughout the consenting period. Response to Horizons Section 92 request has been submitted in December after delays caused by pond sizing and location. Another s92 request has been received (minor questions) to be answered in March. Purchase process of extra section has started. Easement negotiations continued. Pump station, pond, pipeline and irrigation design to be finalised. Civil Contractor engagement will start once s92 response has been completed in the interim some products may be purchased and planning for civil works will continue. |

## **11 Meeting Opened.**