



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ORDER PAPER

RĀTANA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 10 December 2024

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Ture Tangata Office
Ihipera-Koria Street
Rātana Pa

Chair: Mr Charlie Mete

Deputy Chair: Mr Jamie Nepia

Membership: Ms Grace Taiaroa
Ms Whetu Hamahona
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

Contact:	0800 422 522 info@rangitikei.govt.nz www.rangitikei.govt.nz (06) 327 0099				
Locations:	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <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 style="vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape	
<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls				
<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape					
Postal Address:	Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741				
Fax:	(06) 327 6970				

Notice is hereby given that 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, 10 December 2024 at 6.30pm.

Order Of Business

1	Whakamoemiti.....	4
2	Apologies	4
3	Public Forum	4
4	Conflict of Interest Declarations.....	4
5	Confirmation of Order of Business	4
6	Confirmation of Minutes	5
	6.1 Confirmation of Minutes	5
7	Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings	13
	7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings.....	13
8	Chair’s Report	15
	8.1 Chair's Report - December 2024	15
9	Reports for Decision	16
	9.1 Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024.....	16
10	Reports for Information.....	55
	10.1 Ratana Road Naming.....	55
	10.2 Update on Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti	56
	10.3 Cemetery Update - December 2024	57
	10.4 Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project - Update	58
	10.5 Consultation Tracker	59
	10.6 Funding Schemes Update - December 2024.....	61
11	Meeting Closed.	63

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 8 October 2024** are attached.

Attachments

1. **Rātana Community Board Meeting - 8 October 2024**

Recommendation

That the minutes of Rātana Community Board Meeting held on 8 October 2024 [**as amended/without amendment**] be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

MINUTES

ITEM 6.1

ATTACHMENT 1



RANGITIKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

UNCONFIRMED: RĀTANA COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 8 October 2024

Time: 6.30pm

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

Present Ms Grace Tairaoa
Mr Jamie Nepia
Mr Charlie Mete
Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa

In attendance Ruth, Public Forum
Ms Melanie Bovey, Manager- Heritage and Culture
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

Order of Business

1	Whakamoemiti	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	4
7.1	Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings.....	4
8	Chair’s Report	4
8.1	Chair's Report - October 2024.....	4
9	Reports for Decision	4
9.1	Mayor's Report - 26 September 2024	4
9.2	Road Naming - Next Steps.....	5
10	Reports for Information	5
10.1	Update on Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti	5
10.2	Welcome to the Rangitikei Billboards.....	6
10.3	Cemetery Update - October 2024.....	6
10.4	Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project - Update	7
10.5	Funding Schemes Update - October 2024	7

1 Whakamoemiti

Mr Nepia spoke the whakamoemiti at 6.29pm

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/030

That the apologies be received from His Worship the Mayor Andy Watson.

Mr C Mete/Mr J Nepia. Carried

3 Public Forum

Ruth was in attendance and spoke of two issues for Council to address.

There is a drain behind her property on Ihipera-Koria street that has become overgrown, and this is attracting rats. Ruth has requested through Council that action be taken, and this has not occurred hence coming to the board.

There is corrosion on the road that has caused a hump coming into Ratana on the side. Ruth and board members noted that have witnessed near misses at the intersection due to this. The board added that due to this sitting close to the state highway that this may sit with NZTA- Waka Kotahi.

Ms Bovey undertook to follow up on the two items and provide a response to Ruth and the board.

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

The Whakamoemiti confirmation of minutes update this spelling.

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/031

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

Mr C Mete/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

7 Follow-up Actions

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Ratana Community Board Meetings

Item 4- Speed limit signage

Ms Bovey updated the board that the roading team had undertaken looking at the speeding in the area and the data does not indicate that there is a problem. However, if there are problems in the future the roading team can relook at this.

Item 1- Consultation hui on rates

Ms Taiaroa agreed this hui would be most beneficial during the annual plan consultation

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/032

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

Ms G Taiaroa/Mr C Mete. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - October 2024

Mr Mete highlighted the progress made in some of the board requests and the signage with the incorrect spelling of Taitokerau Road has now been replaced.

Mr Mete has met with Council staff regarding the cemetery and the new extension with affected landowners. The decision has been made that Council are no longer taking pre-reservations due to only nine plots being available currently. The issue that Ratana has is people from outside the region are being buried in the cemetery and finding other historical burial sites on the land.

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/033

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

Mr J Nepia/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Mayor's Report - 26 September 2024

The board noted that Council is considering that the Marton Op Shop receive funds for the cost of taking items to the waste transfer station. A precedent has been set previously when the board

requested Council support with the cost of taking the mattresses in Ratana to the waste transfer station and this being declined.

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/034

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

Mr C Mete/Mr J Nepia. Carried

9.2 Road Naming - Next Steps

The board recommended that consultation only be with affected landowners due to consultation with the church committee already occurring.

The board noted that this is a recommendation to Council and not the final decision.

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/035

That the report 'Road Naming - Next Steps' be received.

Ms G Taiaroa/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/036

That the Rātana Community Board recommend to Council that the rural section of Rātana Road (north of Kiatere Street) be renamed as Papa Kōura.

Mr J Nepia/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/037

That the Rātana Community Board recommend the following consultation as appropriate for meeting the requirements in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy:

- *Consultation with directly affected landowners*

Mr C Mete/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Update on Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti

Ms Taiaroa attended her first Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa hui on the 13 August and a workshop on the 25 September that discussed the district plan, economic wellbeing and Local Water Done Well.

Ms Taiaroa spoke of the hui today and highlighted the marae development fund being available.

Ms Taiaroa provided an update on the Local Water Done Well and that there is a regional hui that she will be attending. This hui is to provide updates on recent changes and the future role of iwi and hapu in the regional model.

There is also a hui on Lake Waipu and Ms Taiaroa has spoken to Ms Ritter the project coordinator who is waiting for email responses from people who have been invited to attend. It was noted that there are people invited who are no longer required to receive invitations. The communal board, neighbouring farmers, staff from WSP and Horizons Regional Council will be in attendance at the hui.

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/038

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

Mr J Nepia/Mr C Mete. Carried

10.2 Welcome to the Rangitikei Billboards

Ms Bovey spoke to this item and that Council is looking at updating the signage across the district for the Rangitikei District. There are 10-12 different images that can be used, and the billboards will cost approximately \$10,000.

The board suggested an image of the church on the reverse side and Ms Bovey undertook to ask Ms Skerman if this was possible. If Ms Skerman agreed, then the board would approach the church for permission.

The board also recommended using Haere Mai and Nau Mai Haere Mai on the signage.

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/039

That the 'Welcome to the Rangitikei Billboards' report be received.

Ms G Taiaroa/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/040

That the new 'Welcome to The Rangitikei' billboards be accepted as a positive step and inclusion to the Destination Management Plan with the intention of showcasing our natural assets and activities from around the district.

Ms G Taiaroa/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

10.3 Cemetery Update - October 2024

Mr Mete has spoken to council staff regarding the halting of reserving plots as there are only a few plots currently available.

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/041

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

Mr C Mete/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

ITEM 6.1

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/042

That the Ratana Community board agree with the halting of the purchase of plots for reservation at the Ratana Cemetery, the exception being the passing of a person, until further notice.

Mr C Mete/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

ATTACHMENT 1

10.4 Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project - Update

Ms Taiaroa highlighted the email for the hui that had been circulated.

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/043

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

Mr C Mete/Cr P Hiroa. Carried

10.5 Funding Schemes Update - October 2024

The report was taken as read.

Resolved minute number 24/RCB/044

That the Funding Schemes Update –October 2024 be received.

Mr C Mete/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

The meeting closed at 8.00pm. Mr Nepia closed the meeting with a whakamoemiti.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ratana Community Board held on 10 December 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	8-Oct-24	Corrosion of the road at the intersection entering Ratana	Mel Bovey/Darryn Black	Work being undertaken to confirm location of the corrosion	In progress
2	8-Oct-24	Clearing of the drain on Ihipera-Koria street	Mel Bovey / Dave Flintoff	<p>We have cleared the growth from all the drains that we were given access to. I had a look out there last week and what we have done looks really good. I have asked our contractor to carry out minor shaping to the base of the open drain to ensure there is a steady fall over its entire length, and that water doesn't sit in pockets and stagnate. This work will be carried out as soon as we can get a small excavator out to the site. I will check again after the excavation work is complete. Ruth Lawrence seems very happy with what we have done so far, she has my contact details, and she knows she can contact me if she has any concerns.</p> <p>We do have another issue with this drain where stormwater enters it from Taitokorau St, and I am working with the roading team to fix this. This will take a little more time to resolve.</p>	In progress
3	12-Dec-23	Speed bump on the road coming into Ratana has not been replaced- what has happened?	Roading team	RFS 2403615 - The roading team is trying to find something that will stick without being worn away fast.	In progress
4	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
5	5-Oct-21	<p>With regards to the Ratana Cemetery Extension: Staff to consider providing better facilities for volunteers who dig new plots.</p> <p>Update 08 Feb 22: 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).</p> <p>Update 09 Aug 22: 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.</p>	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

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - December 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 – December 2024 be received.

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024

Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor

Abuse Under Care

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

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

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

Gentle Annie Road

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

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

Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery Whanganui

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

Spring Fling Taihape

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

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

Armistice Day

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

Local Water Done Well

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A couple of updates

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

ITEM 9.1

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

Schools

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

Mayor's Engagements**November 2024**

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

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

ITEM 9.1

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

Attachments:

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

Recommendation

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



LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// July-October 2024





Ko Tātou LGNZ.

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

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

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

Contents

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



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



Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ngā mihi
Sam and Susan



Champion

Local government funding and financing

Rates rise toolkit 3: Unfunded mandates

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

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

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

Tourism and cost recovery

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

Revenue capping and other measures

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

Forthcoming funding and financing toolkit

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

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



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

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

Regional deals

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

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

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

Government relations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Media

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



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

Feedback from media about the conference experience was very positive.



6 press conferences



33 accredited media



400+ media items



9 proactive story topics

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: July-October 2024 // 9



Electoral Reform Working Group

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

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

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

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

Remits

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

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

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

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



Māori wards

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

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

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

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

Water services reform

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

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

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



Resource management reform

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

The changes cover four areas:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Transport

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Climate change

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

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



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

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

Localism

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

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

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

Other policy issues

Earthquake prone buildings

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

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



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

Emergency management system improvement

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

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



Connect

Member visits

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

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

SuperLocal24

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

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

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

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

Combined Sector meetings

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

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

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



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

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

2025 calendar

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

Te Maruata

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

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

YEM

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

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

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: July-October 2024 // 17



Women's lunch

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

CBEC

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

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

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

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

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

Metro Sector

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

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



Te Uru Kahika/Regional Sector

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

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



Support

Ākona

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

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

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

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

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

Roundtable zooms

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

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

Hūtia te Rito – LGNZ Māori Strategy

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

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



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

Governance guides/support

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

MTFJ

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

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

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

Moata Carbon Portal

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



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

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: July-October 2024 // 22

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

Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa

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

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

ITEM 9.1
ATTACHMENT 2

That mark our place; and in the sky

The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved, and now we lie,

In Flanders fields.

Thank you.



ITEM 9.1 ATTACHMENT 4

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

LGNZ SECTOR MEETINGS – 21-22 NOVEMBER 2024**DAY 1 – COMBINED SECTOR MEETING**

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

Hon Mark Mitchell - Minister Emergency Management

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

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

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

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

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

Allan Prangnell - CE Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai

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

Mark Patterson – Minister for Rural Communities

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

DAY TWO - RURAL AND PROVINCIAL SECTOR MEETING – 22 NOVEMBER

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

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

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

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

So what does all of this mean?

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

2. *There will be a levy charged on councils to fund Taumata Arowai – this is a change from Labour’s position.*
3. *That the new entities will probably have different charges for wastewater and water across different councils in the same entity and that there may be different charges across a single council, i.e. the charges for Marton water and wastewater could potentially be cheaper than the charges in Taihape.*
4. *Regional councils will face standard consent conditions being put in place to lower consenting costs. This makes sense to me, but there will need to be some local environmental exceptions.*
5. *Expectation is that they would be strongly advised to work with Crown Facilitators now, something I believe we should do.*

- Cabinet has agreed to invite all councils to submit on regional deals based on economic growth, increasing GDP and housing.
- Councils that are advanced in Three Waters collaboration will be helped to obtain a regional deal!

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

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

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

2. Keynote Speaker **Wayne Brown** -

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

3. Panel Discussion on **CouncilMark** -

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

4. **Minister Shane Jones** -

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

5. **Rates Capping – The New South Wales Experience** - led by Cr Darriea Turley President of Local Government NSW

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

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

Benefits of water metering are -

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

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

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

8. **Fiscal Outlook** - Treasury

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

9. **LGNZ** – Susan Freeman-Greene

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

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Ratana Road Naming

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 To provide the decision from Council on the recommendation for the Rātana road naming recommendation.

2. Context

- 2.1 At the October Council meeting, Council agreed to proceed with the renaming approach recommended by the Community Board. This consultation will run from the 29 November 2024 through to 20 January 2025.
- 2.2 An email was sent to the board regarding this decision from Ms Gray on the 28 November 24.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are limited financial implications. Any consultation undertaken will be met under existing staff resources. The cost for changing a road sign is minimal and can be met from existing budgets.

4. Impact on Strategic Risks

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

5. Strategic Alignment

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

6. Mana Whenua Implications

- 6.1 Rātana Community Board have led local discussions to date.

7. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration

- 7.1 There are no relevant climate change impacts for consideration.

8. Statutory Implications

- 8.1 There are no relevant statutory implications.

9. Decision Making Process

- 9.1 This report is only to inform the board of next steps.

Recommendation

That the report Rātana Road Naming be received.

ITEM 10.2

10.2 Update on Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti

Author: Grace Taiaroa, 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.

10.3 Cemetery Update - December 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 since the 08 October 24 to the 04 December 24.
- 1.2 There were no burials or reserved plots during this time.

Recommendation

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

10.4 Lake Waipu Improvement and Ratana Wastewater Treatment Project - Update**Author: Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer****Authoriser: Kevin Ross, Chief Executive****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.

2. Below is what was reported to Council for the November meeting:

- 2.1 An update on costs, consenting and likely impact of the nationally led water reforms was provided via a Hui on 30 October to Ratana representatives. Key topics included:
 - How irrigation of the treated wastewater onto the different areas of farmland purchased at Whangaehu Beach Road will be managed, and the siting of the proposed 30,000m³ storage pond. WSP have agreed to update the maps used to illustrate the buffer and expected irrigation zones for attendees. There was some discussion on the type of planting with general agreement these details can be finalised once the main irrigation system is built.
 - The project budget approved by Council based on August 2023 estimates was \$7m. We are redoing part of the design to minimise expected inflationary cost of close to 20% due to continued delays with the consenting process. Part of this work is assessing the costs for using a 140mm pipeline rather than 160mm pipeline due to significant savings in construction time and cost but higher costs for pumping. Design work is also continuing to enable application for Building Consent for the required Large Dam.
 - The Government led review of how three waters are managed is unlikely to impact on the delivery of this project given the joint goal between Horizons, Ministry for Environment and Council was removal of the current discharge feeding into Lake Waipu.
 - Planned changes to the existing wastewater ponds are mostly on partial desludging to improve capacity and some nitrogen removal, however it was noted the total annual nitrogen from the treated wastewater is still significantly less than the usual nitrogen fertiliser application required by farms.
- 2.2 WSP met with two of the consent submitters to see if their concerns could be addressed. An example of what is sought by submitters is a wetland to be constructed, as part of the irrigation area along with other improvements at the current wastewater ponds. These requests to utilise consent conditions from other discharge approvals add complexity and cost to the design and on-going management, with little or no overall benefit to the final quality of the wastewater being irrigated. It is likely a paper will come to Council for a decision once the costs of a hearing and timing delays versus what the costs of the concessions sought are known.

Recommendation

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

10.5 Consultation Tracker

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Reason for Report

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

2. RDC Website

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

Attachments:

1. Consultation Tracker November [↓](#)

Recommendation

That the report 'Consultation Tracker' be received.

2025 Consultation Tracker

Rangitikei District Council



Project	Staff Lead	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
Local Water Done Well	Arno	Engagement	Preferred arrangement decided 12 Dec			Consultation 24 Feb - 21 Mar									
District Plan Review				Adoption of CD											
Urban Growth Plan Change	Tiffany					Engagement 1 Mar - 1 Apr					Notification				
Annual Plan	Janna														
Gambling Policy / TAB Venues	Janna					Adoption of CD & draft annual plan 13 Mar									
Fees and Charges	Janna						Consultation 21 Mar - 22 Apr								
Waste Minimisation Plan	Arno		Adoption of draft WMMP 12 Dec				Consultation as part of Annual Plan								
Marlon Streetscape Upgrade Plan	Jarrod		Engagement												
Marlon-Bulls Wastewater Strategy	Arno						Adoption	Consultation							
Local Body Elections	Carol							National, regional, local campaign			Pre-election period - no campaign comms		Election		
Māori Wards Referendum	Carol							National, regional, local campaign					Election		
Rātana Road Naming (landowners only)	Katrina		Consultation	Consultation											
Economic Strategy & Action Plan	Jarrod														
Bulls Recreation Master Plan	Clare				Engagement										

Christmas closedown period - 20th December-6th January

10.6 Funding Schemes Update - December 2024

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

1. Overview

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

2. Community Initiatives Fund

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

3. Events Support Scheme

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

3.4.2 Hunterville Huntaway festival

3.4.3 BCDT, Christmas Parade

3.4.4 Manawatu Wanganui Golf Ass Inc

3.4.5 Taihape Area Dressage Group

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

3.4.7 Marton Country Music Festival

3.4.8 BCDT, Bulls 147th Annual Rose Show and Fest a Bull

3.4.9 St Joseph's School PTA

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

4. Creative Communities Scheme

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

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

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

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

5. Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund

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

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

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

6. Further Information

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

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

Recommendation

That the Funding Schemes Update –December 2024 be received.

11 Meeting Closed.