

# ORDER PAPER

## TAIHAPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, 11 December 2024

**Time:** 5.30pm

**Venue:** Kokako Street Pavilion  
2 Kokako Street  
Taihape

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**Chair:** Mr Peter Kipling-Arthur

**Deputy Chair:** Ms Emma Abernethy

**Membership:** Ms Gail Larsen  
Mr Les Clarke  
Cr Gill Duncan  
Cr Jeff Wong  
HWTM Andy Watson

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<b>Locations:</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u>                      Head Office                      46 High Street                      Marton                 </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u>                      Bulls Information Centre                      Te Matapihi                      4 Criterion Street                      Bulls                 </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u>                      Taihape Information Centre                      102 Hautapu Street (SH1)                      Taihape                 </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape
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**Notice is hereby given that a Taihape Community Board Meeting of the Rangitikei District Council will be held in the Kokako Street Pavilion, 2 Kokako Street, Taihape on Wednesday, 11 December 2024 at 5.30pm.**

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## **AGENDA**

### **1 Welcome**

### **2 Apologies**

### **3 Public Forum**

### **4 Conflict of Interest Declarations**

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

### **5 Confirmation of Order of Business**

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

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

### 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

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

#### Attachments

1. **Taihape Community Board Meeting - 9 October 2024**

#### Recommendation

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

# MINUTES

ITEM 6.1

ATTACHMENT 1



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

## **UNCONFIRMED: TAIHAPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING**

**Date: Wednesday, 9 October 2024**

**Time: 5.30pm**

**Venue: Kokako Street Pavilion  
2 Kokako Street  
Taihape**

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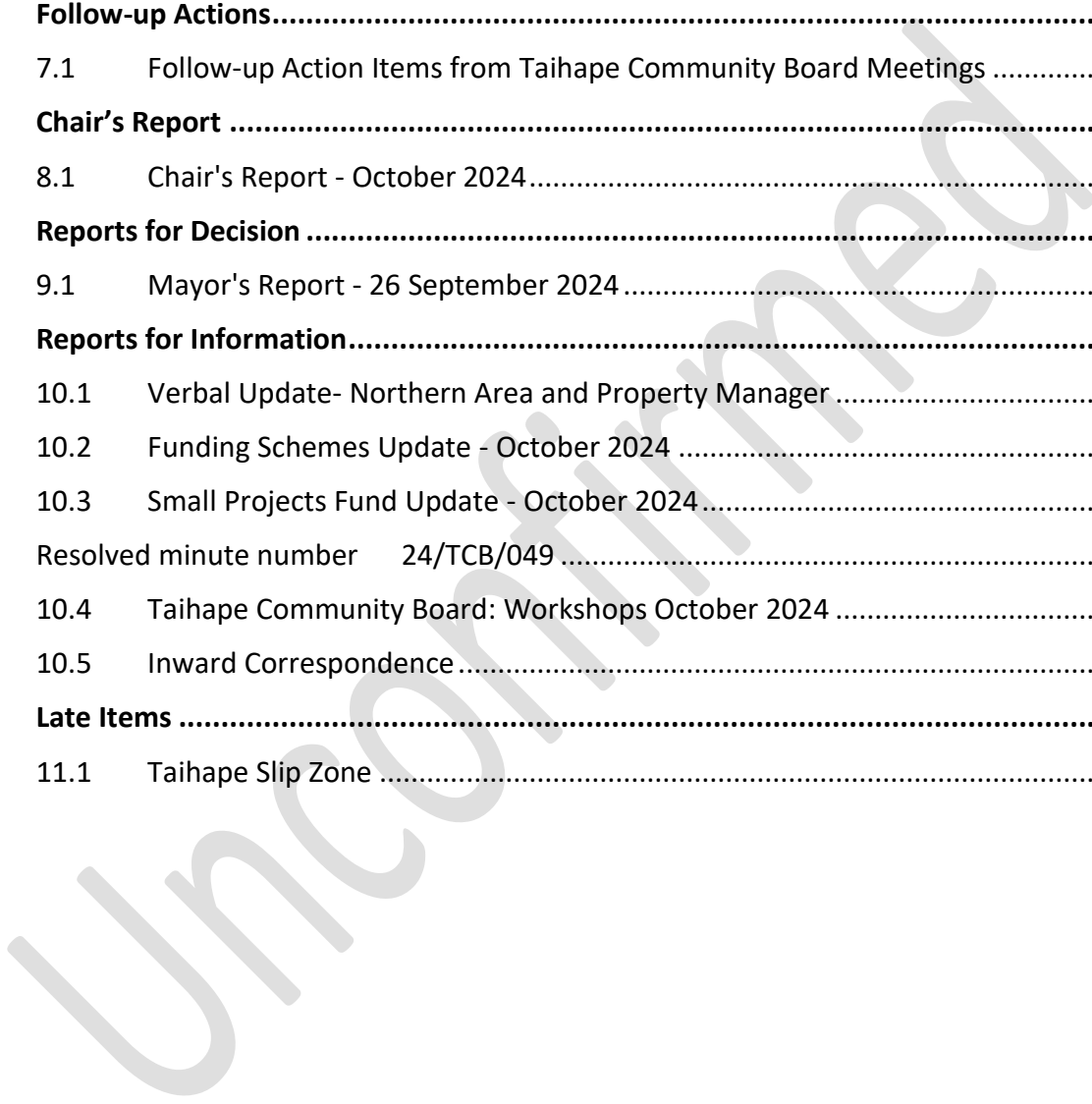
Present Ms Gail Larsen  
Ms Emma Abernethy  
Mr Peter Kipling-Arthur  
Mr Les Clarke  
Cr Jeff Wong  
Cr Gill Duncan

In attendance Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager  
Ms Dawn Hesketh, Administration

**Order of Business**

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**ITEM 6.1 ATTACHMENT 1**



## 1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

## 2 Apologies

Resolved minute number **24/TCB/042**

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

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms E Abernethy. Carried

## 3 Public Forum

There was no public forum

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

The board discussed the Taihape Slip Zone at the end of the meeting.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number **24/TCB/043**

That the minutes of Taihape Community Board Meeting held on 14 August 2024 **without amendment** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr J Wong/Mr P Kipling-Arthur. Carried

## 7 Follow-up Actions

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

Item 1- Phone Box



Mr P Kipling-Arthur is to follow up about phone box outside of Greenstone insurance. It is thought, as the gardens had been cut back there is possibly no problem with visibility for the pedestrian crossing. Mr Kipling -Arthur will confirm this and report back to Spark.

#### Item 4- Overnight truck parking

Ms Prince advised that staff are looking at specific legislation, presently “nuisance law” to see if there is anything that we can do, acknowledging refrigerated trucks may be creating an effect and keeping people awake. Staff will report back when we have an outcome.

#### **Resolved minute number 24/TCB/044**

That the report ‘Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings’ be received.

Ms G Larsen/Ms E Abernethy. Carried

## **8 Chair’s Report**

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

Mr P Kipling-Arthur spoke to his tabled report. He has received positive feedback regarding the rural TCB workshop meeting held at Mataroa.

Ms G Prince reported that the grassed area by the Gretna corner is owned by Waka Kotahi so they need to be consulted regarding any planting in this area. Mr P Kipling-Arthur is to consult with Keep Taihape Beautiful in regards to this.

#### **Resolved minute number 24/TCB/045**

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

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms E Abernethy. Carried

## **9 Reports for Decision**

### **9.1 Mayor's Report - 26 September 2024**

The board discussed the roading budget available to council and how it should be spent on rural roads.

The board will discuss the capital works budget at their next workshop.

Cr Wong noted that the board needs to be aware that the government has removed the Four Well beings from legislation.

#### **Resolved minute number 24/TCB/046**

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

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Cr J Wong. Carried

ITEM 6.1  
ATTACHMENT 1

## 10 Reports for Information

### 10.1 Verbal Update- Northern Area and Property Manager

Ms Prince provided a verbal update.

The parks and reserves team will start the planting at Papakai park, near the waste water pumping station next week.

Two shelters adjacent to Nga Awa and number 3 field will be relocated due to a proposed replacement fence in that area. It is intended one go to the dog exercise area and the other to Taihape Cemetery.

The parks and reserves team are looking to improve the gardens at the town clock and the Gumboot park.

Cr Wong advised the rugby clubs would like an estimate for refurbishment of the interior of the grandstand.

Ms Prince advised that Councils priority was the seismic strengthening and the preliminary cost estimates, would be an indication what amount of funding the community would need to raise for that alone . A Memorial Park user group meeting was due and an update could be provided to the group at that time.

Cr Duncan suggested around 10<sup>th</sup> November for MPUG meeting.

#### Taihape Grandstand

Staff have received 3 seismic strengthening design options from the structural consultant. These options assume the lower level will not be available for use.

Staff have forwarded the required information to the QS for preparing preliminary cost estimates for all three design options.

Staff anticipate these costings be ready by 21<sup>st</sup> October.

#### Taihape Town Hall Redevelopment

Maycroft have carried out investigations within and outside the Taihape Town Hall building.

These investigations include the following.

- Trail pit within the building to expose the foundation to concrete piles.
- Remove wall linings to expose brickwork.
- Cut out floor boards to reveal joist connections to existing walls.

- Asbestos sampling of subfloor materials.
- Cut hole or remove ceiling panel to expose hall roof structure.

The key milestone dates from the preliminary program have been included below.

- Initial report on seismic condition due 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- Prepare initial scope document for RDC review 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Budget estimate for seismic upgrade including building and service upgrade.
- RDC review of budget estimate (Hold Point) 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025

### Roading

The registration of interest for the new Rooding Contract has gone out, and closes 18 October. ROI will then be evaluated and short-listed for Request for Proposal process.

#### **Resolved minute number 24/TCB/047**

That the 'Verbal Update' be received.

Cr J Wong/Ms E Abernethy. Carried

#### **10.2 Funding Schemes Update - October 2024**

Mr Kipling-Arthur asking if there is any easily accessed information regarding funding.

Ms Prince advised that this advertised on the council website when the funding rounds come up. Council is also signing up with Grants Guru a digital resource identifying fundraising and grant applications. Taihape Community Development Trust can also help with applications.

Cr Wong stated, the Events Sponsorship budget has been halved so it is advised to suggest applicants source outside funding for example Pub charity if possible.

Cr Duncan asked if board requires feedback from funding recipients. Mr P Kipling-Arthur said they report back to him.

#### **Resolved minute number 24/TCB/048**

That the Funding Schemes Update –October 2024 be received.

Ms E Abernethy/Cr J Wong. Carried

#### **10.3 Small Projects Fund Update - October 2024**

Mr P Kipling-Arthur would like the TCB to be more proactive in seeking requests for funding and discussing areas where small project money could be spent.

#### **Resolved minute number 24/TCB/049**

That the Taihape Community Board agree to fund \$700 to the Taihape Art Society for equipment at their “have a go at painting” stall at the Big Day in The Park.

Ms G Larsen/Mr L Clarke. Carried

**Resolved minute number 24/TCB/050**

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

Ms E Abernethy/Ms G Larsen. Carried

#### 10.4 Taihape Community Board: Workshops October 2024

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 24/TCB/051**

That the report Taihape Community Board: Workshops October 2024 be received.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms G Larsen. Carried

#### 10.5 Inward Correspondence

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 24/TCB/052**

That the inward correspondence be received.

Ms E Abernethy/Ms G Larsen. Carried

### 11 Late Items

#### 11.1 Taihape Slip Zone

Cr Duncan has received correspondence about the Slip Zone in Taihape.

Insurance companies have been requesting a Lim report before they will consider insuring properties. Some homeowners have also been required to get a Lim report before their insurance can be renewed. Some can get insurance and others can't. Enquiring if we still have levels/areas in the slip zone.

Fast track projects discussed. The government has approved approximately 147, 5 or 6 of these are in the Rangitikei, including the proposed wind farm.

Cr Duncan has raised concern re Powerco-Downer will no longer have a contractor based in Taihape. This is a concern if accidents occur and time is taken waiting for a contractor to travel to disconnect the power. If a structure fire or damage occurs would insurance companies be aware of this.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

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

.....  
Chairperson

Unconfirmed

## 7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

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

Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

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

## Current Follow-up Actions

Item	From Meeting Date	Details	Person Assigned	Status Comments	Status
1	30-Oct-23	That the phonebox outside of Greenstone Insurance be removed to allow for better pedestrian visibility.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff have passed on the request to Waka Kotahi. The assigned number is SR37577945	Closed.
2	12-Oct-23	That Council engage with Waka Kotahi over the Gretna corner Give Way as the give way sign has been removed and the markings are not clear and consider repainting the road markings clearly.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff have passed on the request to Waka Kotahi. The assigned number is SR37514935. Contact was made by NZTA staff stating that this issue should have been resolved but were not sure. again.	Closed.
3	12-Oct-23	That Council staff consult with the Taihape Community Board over the feasibility of low garden edging along the corners on Hautapu Street. There are issues with heavy rains and the bark and much flowing into gutters and drains	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> After further consultation with the TCB on this issue, Council staff have passed on the request to Waka Kotahi. The assigned number is SR37623007. Parks and reserves have trimmed the vegetation.	Closed.
4	12-Oct-23	That Council staff consult with the Taihape Community Board over the feasibility of the issue with overnight truck parking on Kakako street. Requesting signage directing trucks to the new area.	Arno Benadie	Council intends passing this matter onto the newly appointed Senior Regulatory Compliance Officer to investigate further as to what action might be able to be taken.	In progress.
5	12-Oct-23	That Council staff consult with the Taihape Community Board over the feasibility of marae signage.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff have passed on this request to Waka Kotahi. The assigned number is SR37626048. This is in relation to Winiata Marae.	Closed.
6	12-Oct-23	That Council engage with Waka Kotahi on traffic speed specifically for areas, Mataroa Rd extended to Bellis Park and the 70k from Jones Road to Bellis Park to 50km.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff have passed on the request to Waka Kotahi.	Closed.
7	12-Oct-23	That Council engage with Waka Kotahi about the safety concerns for pedestrian crossings on Hautapu street- such as repainting the crossings, markings before and after the lanes to provide colour blocks, and keeping the vegetation trimmed to below 1.2m. The board would like Belisha beacons to all work.	Arno Benadie	<b>Sitting AIN:</b> Council staff will pass on the requests to Waka Kotahi. The assigned number is SR37635947. Parks and reserves staff have trimmed the vegetation.	Closed.

## 8 Chair's Report

### 8.1 Chair's Report - December 2024

**Author:** Peter Kipling-Arthur, Chair

#### **Northern Matters**

#### **Taihape Community Board DECEMBER 2024.**

The final outreach 2 the rural areas for this year was held at most hunger in November. It was a smaller meeting because of clashes with other events in the community but concerns were still raised about roading, cell phone coverage and the effects of a large wind farm in the area might have while we could not have had a larger turn out it was a useful discussion with councillors and board members. I hope that further discussions will be held next year and at least three other rural areas. .

I also attended the information meeting with the proponents of Manawa wind farm. This was interesting as there is obviously going to be a wide range of views from the local community in terms of benefits and employment and roading plus the concern about visual pollution and other more long term aspects.

In Taihape Township we have suffered vandalism to two picnic tables provided by the Community Board these are currently for out for repair with Gary Johnson however it may be that we need to replace at least one fully and in stronger format and that will be discussed in small projects section this evening.

Having attended the meeting of the packs user group in November I am still concerned about flow of information between councillors staff and the public in terms of the rejuvenation of rejuvenation of the Town Hall and Memorial Park Grandstand. It is understood that current economic climate and the restrictions on the RDC budgets have added another degree of difficulty. It would be it would be positive to see more communication with both the working parties and the general public.

Attending an information session with staff from parks and reserves plus the engineers supervising the water mains upgrade in in Mataroa Rd was most informative and it was pleasing to see the information posted not just on the council's website but also on time public pages in Facebook.

On behalf of the TCB I have been in touch with NZTA regarding the replacement of the Giveway signs and markings at Hautapu St / Mataroa Rd, and have been advised that this is scheduled to be completed by contactors this summer. We wait to be provided with a time frame for this work.

At the Spring Fling/Big Day in the Parkt it was great to see recognition given to three historic structures, the Memorial Park Grandstand, the Majestic Theatre and the Mangaweka bridge. Marking the existence of these landmarks is important for the identity of our Northern Rangitikei region.

#### **Recommendation**

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



## 9 Reports for Information

### 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.

**ITEM 9.1****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 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month at the 11<sup>th</sup> 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 TUJA – I am looking to continue with the TUJA programme in 2025 and will be interviewing prospective candidates shortly for nomination. It has been a pleasure to work with this year's TUJA 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 address the number of times politicians from both sides of the House have made promises to Ratana during January celebrations and delivery of those promises has been a long time coming.
- Ratana will again celebrate the birthday of TW Ratana on 25 January 2025 and this will be an enormous occasion. The numbers could swell to 30,000 plus people who will want to accompany the new Māori Kuini Ngā Wai hone i te pō onto Ratana for her first official visit. We will be inviting our Elected Members to be part of that process and I will be spending 2-3 days at Ratana in support. I thank staff for the amount of time that they need to spend planning support in terms of water, wastewater, rubbish collection etc for the event.
- There has been a recent meeting of the Users of the Taihape Memorial Park Group and I just want to highlight the patience that Charity Davis and Charlotte Oswald have taken waiting for Council to develop their long term plans for the Park. The playground group have now been given approval that they can start with a known location, essentially where the old toilet block is on Memorial Park. This toilet block will need to be demolished and replaced

with something that is fit for purpose. I know they are looking at taking a couple of options to the community and I know they will be seeking interest from any party who can help them with the funding. If you think that you can help please get in touch with Charity directly or approach myself or one of the Councillors.

- I am looking to attach to this report, but may not have completed in time, my report from the recent Zone 3 meeting held in Napier. To do justice to this report I want to take some time and comment on the relevant speakers and am hoping to get it attached in time.
- Similar to the Zone meeting in Napier I will be attending the Combined Sector Rural & Provincial Meeting in Wellington on 21/22 November and I hope to also be able to table a report on that meeting. These meetings are incredibly important as they are our direct interaction with Crown and the speed and complexity of decisions we are being faced with by Government at the moment and how they significantly affect Local Government is unprecedented.

**Schools**

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

**Mayor’s Engagements**

**November 2024**

1	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Fortnightly Economic Development Meeting with staff Attended monthly catchup meeting with Police
2	Attended Hunterville Shemozzle to help set up Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs TUIA end of year celebration in Lower Hutt
4	Attended MTFJ Governance Group Online Meeting Attended JBS Dudding Trust 2024 Trustee & Advisory Board Annual Meeting
5	Attended Regional Transport Matters Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Online Meeting Attended meeting of Councillors and Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa Management Team re LWDW Attended MTFJ 6 Monthly Review Online Meeting Attended GHD function in Palmerston North Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
6	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended monthly Governor’s Q&A session with Executive Leadership Team Attended drop-in LWDW meeting at Taihape

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	<p>Attended Zoom with Minister Potaka regarding Ratana Infrastructure</p> <p>Attended public evening LWDW meeting at Taihape</p>
7	<p>Attended Marton Office &amp; 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 &amp; Shine evening function for Opening of Te Whare o Rehua Sarjeant Gallery</p>
10	Attended Powhiri NZSF Surgical Exercise VIP Opening at Whanganui Hospital
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	Attended Zone 3 Meeting in Napier
15	Attended Zone 3 Meeting in Napier
16	Attended Huntley School event celebrating 10 Years of Girls
17	Attended Regional Garden Tour Taihape
18	<p>Attended Breakfast Meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys</p> <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended drop-in LWDW meeting in Marton</p> <p>Attended quarterly regional relationship meeting with NZTA</p> <p>Attended public evening LWDW meeting in Marton</p>
19	<p>Attended Taihape Area School Scholarship Interviews</p> <p>Attended Memorial Park User Group Meeting</p>

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

**Attachments:**

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

**Recommendation**

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

ITEM 9.1

ATTACHMENT 1



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# LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// July-October 2024







## Ko Tātou LGNZ.

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

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

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

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## Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ngā mihi  
Sam and Susan



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## Champion

### Local government funding and financing

#### Rates rise toolkit 3: Unfunded mandates

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

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

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

#### Tourism and cost recovery

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

#### Revenue capping and other measures

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

#### Forthcoming funding and financing toolkit

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

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



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

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

### Regional deals

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

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

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

### Government relations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In late September, we met with the Prime Minister and Local Government Minister together, as part 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.





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### 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 WDSP 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,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Climate change

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

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



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

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

### Localism

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

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

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

### Other policy issues

#### Earthquake prone buildings

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

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

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

**Emergency management system improvement**

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

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



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## 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 Waihanganga and Sir Bill English particularly popular speakers.

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

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

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

### 2025 calendar

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

### Te Maruata

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

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

### YEM

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

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





### Women's lunch

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

### CBEC

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

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

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

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

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

### Metro Sector

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

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



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### 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.



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## Support

### Ākona

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

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

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

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

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

### Roundtable zooms

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

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

### Hūtia te Rito – LGNZ Māori Strategy

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

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

### Governance guides/support

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

### MTFJ

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

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

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

### Moata Carbon Portal

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



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

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

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

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

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow*

*Between the crosses, row on row,*

*That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.*

Thank you.

ITEM 9.1 ATTACHMENT 3





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

ITEM 9.1 ATTACHMENT 4

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

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

**Hon Mark Mitchell - Minister Emergency Management**

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

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

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

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

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

**Allan Prangnell** - CE Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai

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

**Mark Patterson** – Minister for Rural Communities

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

**DAY TWO - RURAL AND PROVINCIAL SECTOR MEETING – 22 NOVEMBER**

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

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

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

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

*So what does all of this mean?*

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

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

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

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

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

## 2. Keynote Speaker **Wayne Brown** -

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

3. Panel Discussion on **CouncilMark** -
  - Now named Te Korowai and used as a benchmarking tool. *This was effectively a reference that CouncilMark hasn't worked, as personally I think was evident in our case, and a reorganisation of how benchmarking could continue in the future, something that I also respect is important.*
4. **Minister Shane Jones** -
  - Thanked us for the Regional Growth Summit at Te Matapihi.
  - There is slightly less than \$1b left in the Infrastructural Fund.
  - As a Minister he will work on how we adapt to climate change. He is not interested in other discussions! – *this is a reference to the fact that in his opinion we need to concentrate on economic growth and other forms of energy, mining etc and that will come at some environmental risk.*
  - He has concern with regard to the number of new reserves for fisheries and he wants to increase the economy helped by agriculture and we can't do both.
  - Minister made several comments with regards Fast Track Legislation . He made the point that Fast Track is possibly not a long term process or solution but is needed now. He also noted the comment that many of the applications for Fast Track have in fact been made by councils.
  - That he and Government have used \$60m to deep drill 7kms in the central plateau region to see if there can be a new energy source for New Zealand.
  - Crown Regional Infrastructure will have a report on their website and there will be a series of public meetings - he regards this as a brave step forward.
5. **Rates Capping – The New South Wales Experience** - led by Cr Darriea Turley President of Local Government NSW
  - Rates capping is where the maximum rate increases communities will face is set at a particular level and how that can change over time.
  - This presentation was organised because the New Zealand Government is strongly showing an interest in in putting rates capping in place for New Zealand – *this is again in response to the high rate rises that in Government's view have been caused by non-back-to-basics expenditure.*
  - Rates capping or pegging only applies in NSW to general rates and does not include Three Waters charges.
  - Rates caps tend to be set by an independent body to Local Government.
  - Difficulties arise where the rate caps are often set below the level of inflation e.g. a rates cap of 0.79% was set for the year where inflation was currently running at 3%.
  - NSW found that it led to greater uncertainty over the reliance on national grants and difficulty with staffing retention.
  - I note that the Rural and Provincial meeting started with the Victoria Australia Experience on Rate Caps which I have yet to hear but will try and look into.

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

Benefits of water metering are -

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

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

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

8. **Fiscal Outlook** - Treasury

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

9. **LGNZ** – Susan Freeman-Greene

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

**9.2 Verbal Update- Northern Area and Property Manager**

**Author: Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager**

**ITEM 9.2**

**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 Ms Prince will provide an update to the committee on council and requested items from the Taihape Community Board.
- 1.2 The Chair requested updates on the Taihape Grandstand and Taihape Town Hall.

**Recommendation**

That the 'Verbal Update' be received.



### 9.3 Inward Correspondence

**Author:** Peter Kipling-Arthur, Chair

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The Chair has requested that all correspondence be included for the board to receive as a standing item.
- 1.2 These are attached for the board's information.

#### Attachments:

1. Tree removal [↓](#)
2. Request for Community Board from MusicRoom [↓](#)
3. Noisy Refrigerated Trucks in Taihape [↓](#)
4. Reminder: Memorial Park User Group Meeting [↓](#)
5. Chorus Equipment Retirement Update [↓](#)
6. CMAR FAQs [↓](#)
7. CMAR and CS update Dec 2024 [↓](#)

#### Recommendation

That the inward correspondence be received.

**Kezia Spence**

---

**From:** Paul McKay < >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2024 12:25 pm  
**To:** carolyn\_kipling@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Tree removal

Hi Peter

This is the tree that we discussed.

Quote

To fell tree of the verge on the north bound lane coming into Taihape between the Dixons way road and the railway over bridge off at ground level and remove all cut debris and to poison stump will cost\$400 + GST.

Please note all safety precautions will be taken and this quote is valid for 14 days from this email.

Thanks

Paul mckay

Mckays Contract Gardening.

**Kezia Spence**

---

**From:** Kathy Clark < >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2024 7:37 am  
**To:** 'Carolyn and Peter Kipling-Arthur'  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Community Board grant for a community event on 15 December 2024

Thank you Peter

I will get that done tonight after work and back to you within a day or two.

Kathy Clark

---

**From:** Carolyn and Peter Kipling-Arthur < >  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2024 8:39 pm  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Community Board grant for a community event on 15 December 2024

Hi Kathy,

Please complete the form. Our next meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> wednesday in December.

*Regards*

*Peter Kipling-Arthur*

---

**From:** Kathy Clark < >  
**Sent:** 18 November 2024 16:47  
**To:** < >  
**Subject:** Request for Community Board grant for a community event on 15 December 2024

Dear Peter

MusicRoom provides affordable and accessible instrumental tuition to rural schools in the upper Rangitikei region. Our lessons are taken to the children at their schools, and we keep our prices as low as possible to help our families.

I am writing to ask if the Taihape Community Board could help me put on a schools-led Carols by Candlelight event at 5pm on Sunday 15 December 2024 at St Joseph's School, Taihape.

The costs I am seeking funding for are:

Hire of St Joseph's facilities, including hall, kitchen, toilets, audio system and for cleaning up \$200  
Donation to Maori Wardens to have their presence on the day for any issues that may arise \$100.

Total \$300

We will be selling candles to raise funds for the local foodbank.

This is a new event created to give some of the region's up and coming young musicians a chance to share their gifts with their community. The plan is to have grant funding and/or corporate sponsorship for future such events.

Thank you for considering my request. Would you please let me know what I need to do to make this request in a format that would be considered by the Taihape Community Board.

Yours sincerely,

Kathy

Kathy Clark  
MusicRoom

**Kezia Spence**

---

**From:** Kevin Ross < >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2024 2:13 pm  
**To:** Gill Duncan;  
**Cc:** Peter Kipling-Arthur  
**Subject:** Noisy Refrigerated Trucks in Taihape

Good afternoon Gill and

Staff have further investigated the matter of noisy refrigerated trucks stopping in Taihape during night hours and disturbing nearby residents.

Under the Land Transport (Offences and Penalties) Amendment Regulations 2004, NZ Police can issue an infringement fee to any person offending clause 7.4(2) of the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 which states that “a person must not create by any means within or on a vehicle any noise that, having regard to all the circumstances, is excessive”.

In summary we believe this is a matter for the NZ Police to pursue and I have undertaken to discuss this with the police at our next monthly relationship meeting on 29 November.

This report will also go to Council on 28 November as an update.

I have also cc'd Peter Kipling-Arthur into this email as he had also emailed me with similar concerns.

Nga mihi  
 Kevin Ross – Chief Executive

**From:** Gill Duncan < >  
**Subject:** Re: Complaint  
**Date:** 8 July 2024 at 9:38:25 PM NZST  
**To:** < >

Dear

Thank you for your email.

I will look into this and will contact you with what I find out regarding how to address this.

Best wishes, Gill

On 5 Jul 2024, at 7:25 AM, Caroline Stafford < > wrote:

Good morning Gill

I am emailing you as you are one of our local councillors in Taihape. I have an issue that is starting to affect my dad to day running. I did write email the council 12 mths ago and got no help, they passed me to Waka Kotahi who in turn passed me back to council. No one wanted to help. It's in regard to the trucks parking in the main road outside McDonald's facing Weka Street. Refrigerator Units that leave these units running while they stop and have their breaks at BP all hours of the night and early morning. It's worse than engine breaking and wakes me and my neighbours up. To say I'm at my whits end is an understatement. It's starting to affect us due to lack of sleep. I actually get out of bed and go and ask the drivers to turn them off but this is dangerous due to the time/darkness etc, and like pushing poop up hill due to the vast amount of trucks doing this. I have written to the trucking companies but they do not respond. I am now seeking your assistance with this matter, can a sign be erected in the garden outside MCDonalds requesting they turn units off. BP need to take some responsibility for this. I moved into my house before BP became the big store it is today and if they were not open 24 hours there would not be an issue. Please help.

Kind regards

Weka Street Resident  
Sent from my iPhone

----- If you have received this email and any attachments to it in error, please take no action based on it, copy it or show it to anyone. Please advise the sender and delete your copy. Thank you. -----

**Kezia Spence**

---

**From:** Gill Duncan <Gill.Duncan@rangitikei.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 30 November 2024 7:21 pm  
**To:**

**Subject:** RE: Reminder: Memorial Park User Group meeting  
**Attachments:** Park User Group Meeting .docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear All,  
Please find attached my notes from the last Taihape Memorial Park User Group Meeting that I will be giving to Council.  
If there are errors or omissions, please notify me directly.  
Many thanks for your attendance, participation, and care of this exceptional facility.  
Best wishes, Gill

---

**From:** Gaylene Prince <Gaylene.Prince@rangitikei.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2024 3:56 PM  
**To:**

**Subject:** Reminder: Memorial Park User Group meeting

Hello all,

A reminder that the above six-monthly meeting will be held tomorrow evening, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November, at 5.15pm, at the Kokako Street Hall.

We look forward to seeing you, or another representative of your club/organisation, then.

Also, if you have an update but no one can attend the meeting in your place, please feel free to email me (before 3 pm tomorrow) details to share.

Ngā mihi,  
Gaylene

| Gaylene Prince | Northern Area and Property Manager |  
| 46 High Street, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741 | [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz) |  
| P 06 388 0604 or 06 327 0099 |

Note: As I work between Taihape and Marton, please phone if you wish to make an appointment to meet.



----- If you have received this email and any attachments to it in error, please take no action based on it, copy it or show it to anyone. Please advise the sender and delete your copy. Thank you. -----



**Kezia Spence**

---

**From:** >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 December 2024 7:23 am  
**To:** '  
**Cc:** '  
**Subject:** Chorus equipment retirement update  
**Attachments:** CMAR FAQs.pdf; CMAR and CS update Dec 2024.pdf

Hi again Andy

FYI attached is a general update on the retirement of our ageing radio equipment, along with some updated FAQs.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Regards

**Jo Seddon | Community Relations Lead**



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## CMAR FAQs

### Project overview

#### What's happening?

For more than 50 years, radio-based systems have extended the reach of our copper network to provide phone lines to more remote parts of New Zealand. With newer, more reliable, ways of communicating now available everywhere, Chorus is retiring this outdated technology. As of July 2024, there were around 1,800 phone lines nationwide that use the technology.

To retain a landline phone service, addresses impacted by this programme will need to move to a service supported by alternative network technologies like wireless or satellite **by 31 March 2025**.

#### What is the technology that's being retired?

Customer Multi-Access Radio (CMAR) is a local access radio-based system designed primarily for use in remote low density rural situations. Country sets operate alongside some CMAR systems and extend to individual customers via radio. Both systems provide voice only service and there is no broadband capability.

#### Why is Chorus retiring these systems?

The first systems were installed over 50 years ago and the technology supporting them is failing. In addition to this:

- We haven't been able to source parts for some systems for years.
- We've been relying on repurposing decommissioned equipment which is not sustainable.
- There are fewer technicians available now who know how to properly service these systems. Because of this, long repair times leave customers at risk of being out of service for months.
- The technology has high fault rates, which are increasing.
- There are more modern technologies available.

#### What parts of New Zealand are affected?

There are ~1,500 addresses across New Zealand that are affected by the retirement of the CMAR / CS systems primarily in the more remote parts of the country. This includes farming districts, holiday home areas, offshore islands (including Great Barrier), and areas of challenging geography such as the Marlborough Sounds.

#### When is this happening?

Addresses impacted will need to move to a service supported by alternative network technologies like wireless or satellite **by 31 March 2025**.

## Dealing with customers

### **What's the process to notify customers?**

Chorus will notify impacted addresses of this change by mail in mid-August 2024. The first notice will advise them what is happening and why, as well as including information on what steps they can take to remain connected. After this, we will send a reminder in mid-October 2024 and a final notice in February 2025, ahead of the disconnection date of **31 March 2025**.

### **What should affected customers do?**

Affected customers should call their Retail Service Provider (RSP) to understand if they can offer an alternative service. If they no longer have use for it, some may want to cancel their landline phone service at this time. If their RSP cannot provide a service, the options available to customers could be:

- Using their existing broadband service for phone calls using Wi-Fi calling or VOIP
- Moving to a wireless network solution, for phone and / or broadband services
- Moving to a satellite solution for phone and / or broadband service

### **What happens if a customer doesn't respond or does nothing?**

If a customer chooses to do nothing, their current phone service will be disconnected at the end of the notice period.

### **What retail service providers will be impacted by the retirement of this network technology?**

Nearly all of the services affected are customers of one retail service provider and we are working closely with them as part of the transition. We've already been supporting other customers on to alternative technologies in response to a technology failure, or a challenging repair to our copper network. For properties connected to CMAR/CS systems over 95% have access to mobile or a wireless solution. All customers will have options for satellite service.

## Performance, cost and quality of alternative services

### **How much will new phone services cost compared to existing?**

Depending on the solution the customer selects, there are a range of products and pricing. As an example, Spark offers a wireless and broadband and voice bundled service for \$45 a month compared to \$65.20 a month for a copper landline without broadband.

There are also a range of services provided by Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPs) at a community level and depending on the provider, can offer both phone/voice services and broadband.

In terms of satellite services, Gravity Internet offers a home phone that operates over VOIP for \$60 per month. Starlink offers a broadband service from \$79 a month and customers can add a separate voice service for \$10 a month from specialist VOIP provider (Kiwi VOIP).  
*(Prices as at 8 July 2024 and excludes any set up costs)*

**Will customers be able to keep their old number and phone handset?**

Yes. All alternative technologies support solutions which allow customers to keep their landline number, use their wireless handsets as usual and still get dial tone when they pick up the handset. Some customers may prefer to move to mobile only using WiFi calling supported by a broadband service outside mobile coverage areas.

**How well do the alternative network technologies perform**

Phone services delivered by wireless, and satellite are more reliable than customers would experience on phone lines using CMAR / CS technology over the copper network.

Any services delivered over the Chorus copper network can degrade due to distance, cable age and condition. They also rely on high volume of electronics between exchange and premise which are susceptible to moisture.

The situation is even worse for CMAR / CS phone lines which have fault rates approximately twice that of a customer on a standard copper service. When there is a fault, CMAR / CS services usually have much longer response times to fix.

Having a phone line supported by satellite and wireless technology avoids these issues as the phone service is delivered over an internet connection. While this puts the focus on the quality of that connection, both wireless and satellite broadband services perform well for speed and reliability in regular testing by the Commerce Commission.

**Will new landline phone services work in a power cut?**

No. All communications technology requires power and no phone or internet services in the home should be relied on during a power outage – even traditional landlines over the copper network. It is prudent for consumers, especially those in more remote or rural areas or with patchy mobile coverage, regardless of what connectivity technology they're on, to be self-sufficient and have a back-up power supply (portable power station or generator).

**My current phone service over the CMAR/CS network technology works with no power though?**

The CMAR radio system that enables their phone line, may work for a short period of time when there is a mains power outage. However, this is only due to a back power supply in the form of a battery, and in some limited cases, a generator on site or at the node, that keeps it running.

However back up is limited and isn't always guaranteed. Battery capacity is degraded by recurring power outages and general decline as the batteries age, while generators are dependent on fuel to function.

More importantly though, our Customer Multi-Access Radio (CMAR) systems were installed over 50 years ago and the technology supporting them is failing.

While a customer may feel their phone line works fine currently, this is increasingly less likely to happen in the future. A much more reliable solution is to go with a voice service delivered by wireless or satellite technology and combine that with a solid power redundancy such as a generator to see you through until mains power is restored.

**Power goes out frequently in my area**

It is recommended customers, especially those in more remote or rural areas or with patchy mobile coverage, have a back-up power supply (such as a portable power station or generator) regardless of what connectivity technology they're on.

**I have no power**

All communications technology require power, and it's end users responsibility to make sure it's supplied. Since different devices and technologies have different power needs, it's a good idea to explore their options for power sources to find what works best for them.

**This is my H&S lifeline/means for calling 111**

For some properties, the landline phone service that the CMAR system provides is seen as a last resort form of communication. That's because it can work for a short period of time when there is a mains power outage. However, this is only due to a back power supply in the form of a battery, and in some limited cases, a generator on site or at the node, that keeps it running. Back up is limited and isn't always guaranteed. Battery capacity is degraded by recurring power outages and general decline as the batteries age while generators are obviously dependent on fuel to function. As a result, it shouldn't be seen as a reliable way of communicating in emergencies.

More importantly though, as outlined in the notice, CMAR systems were installed over 50 years ago and the technology supporting them is failing. Chorus hasn't been able to source parts for some systems for years and we've been relying on repurposing decommissioned equipment.

While customers may feel their phone line works fine currently, this is increasingly less likely to happen in the future. If they're concerned about being put at risk due to limited ability to communicate in an emergency, a more reliable solution is to go with a voice service delivered

by wireless or satellite technology and combine that with a solid power redundancy such as a generator to see them through until mains power is restored.

**What about customers who need extra support to contact 111 during an emergency?**

Under the Commerce Commission's 111 Contact Code, retail service providers need to support vulnerable consumers who rely on a landline phone through alternative technologies to call 111 for a period during a power cut.

Further details about the 111 Contact Code are available through the New Zealand Telecommunications Forum (TCF) website: [tcf.org.nz/landline/111-contact-code](http://tcf.org.nz/landline/111-contact-code)

## Copper network retirement

### **Is this part of the Chorus copper retirement programme in fibre areas?**

No. The process to retire the CMAR / CS systems is not part of the Chorus Copper retirement programme, which began in 2021 and is happening in areas where fibre's available.

### **I've been told in areas where fibre isn't available, the copper network will continue to deliver phone and broadband services?**

In the short term, the Chorus copper network will continue to provide some phone and broadband services to areas of Aotearoa where fibre's not available. However, Chorus has been clear that we intend to retire the entire network from service within this decade as it is legacy technology that is not providing what consumers need and is increasingly difficult to maintain. There are now better alternative services available to all New Zealanders.

Copper lines have a high fault rate, are vulnerable to weather events, and degrade over time. Modern technologies like fibre, wireless, and satellite are better equipped to provide the speeds and service quality for New Zealanders future data needs.

In remote rural areas, where maintaining the copper network is particularly challenging, the retirement is happening sooner, particularly if the technology delivering services has high fault rates such as the CMAR and Country set radio systems.



Chorus  
Level 11 Aon Tower  
1 Willis St  
**WELLINGTON**

2 December 2024

Kia ora

As part of the nationwide retirement of the Customer Multi-Access Radio (CMAR) and Country Set (CS) technology on the Chorus copper network, Chorus is committed to keeping you updated throughout the process.

### **Why are we retiring the CMAR & CS technology?**

As you know, we are retiring the CMAR & CS radio systems on 31 March 2025, with a small number being retired on 30 April 2025. Since September 2024, we have been engaging with affected customers to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible for them and their homes, businesses and communities.

To re-iterate why we are retiring the network technology that provides impacted properties with a phone service, our reason for doing so is that the first systems were installed over 50 years ago and the technology supporting them is failing. In addition to this:

- We haven't been able to source parts for some systems for years.
- We've been relying on repurposing decommissioned equipment which is not sustainable.
- There are fewer technicians available now who know how to properly service these systems. Because of this, long repair times leave customers at risk of being out of service for months.
- The technology has high fault rates, which are increasing.
- There are more modern technologies available like wireless and satellite.

I have also attached to this letter a copy of a comprehensive Q&A document which answers many of the questions constituents raise around retirement.

If customers require support to transition off the CMAR and CS network and onto new technologies, Chorus has a dedicated team accessible by

Chorus New Zealand Limited





phone or email. The Chorus team is helping customers understand the retirement and what options might be available to them, and in some cases providing support with the costs associated with transition to a new phone service.

**Where are we at?**

By now, all affected customers will have received their first notice from Chorus, and many remaining on the network technology have received a reminder notice. On 22 November we also started a proactive outbound calling campaign, to promote awareness of the retirement and offer customers support with the transition.

We have already seen the success of this work – 14 % of those on the CMAR and CS technology have already moved off it. As our outbound calling campaign ramps up, we expect to see more customers actively moving off and engaging with us.

A third and final notice to customers will be sent to them in early 2025 and our Rural Customer Support team will continue to actively engage with customers to support the transition to new technologies until 31 March 2025.

We are aware there is concern from some in the community regarding the retirement of the network technology. It is important to keep these concerns in context. To date, we have 122 active cases in our system requiring more information or support – fewer than 10 per cent of all customers.

In addition, we have closed the same number of cases after providing support. We are confident that we can provide the assistance customers require to transition onto new technology without it causing concern for you.

**What next?**

As we continue to transition customers off the radio systems onto more modern network alternatives to receive a phone service, we recognise there could be more queries raised with you as local members of parliament.

In addition to the information I have already provided you, we are more than happy to meet directly with you and your colleagues should you think it is helpful. We will also continue to work through with each customer any challenges or concerns they may face.

Chorus New Zealand Limited



We have been grateful for your interest to date in our retirement plans.

We will continue to keep you informed throughout the process.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jo Seddon".

Jo Seddon  
Community Relations Lead  
Chorus

Chorus New Zealand Limited

## 9.4 Small Projects Fund Update - December 2024

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

### 1. Allocation

- 1.1 The allocation of the 2024/25 Small Projects Fund for the Taihape Community Board is \$9,718, this includes the carry-over funds of \$4,718.

### 2. Breakdown

- 2.1 Staff have included the financial breakdown in an excel sheet as requested by the Chair. This shows the previous earmarked payments for the last financial year and the current financial year payments.
- 2.2 Payments made in 2024/25:
  - 2.2.1 Payment to Hautapu Rural Supplies for \$114.80 for the supplies for the Photo Board
  - 2.2.2 Payment to the Taihape Museum and Historical Society of \$1,500.
  - 2.2.3 Payment to the Anglican Church of \$200.
  - 2.2.4 Payments for the rural workshops totalling \$170, this breakdown is included below.
  - 2.2.5 Payment to the Taihape Arts Society of \$700
- 2.3 Remaining funds for 2024/25 is \$6,843.20.

### 3. Earmarked Funds

- 3.1 The earmarked funds from the previous financial year are listed below.
  - 3.1.1 Hobby Hutt Planters- \$600

### 4. Rural Workshops Allocation

- 4.1 The allocation for Rural Workshops was \$360.
  - 4.1.1 \$80 has been paid to Awastone (Mangaweka Adventure Company)
  - 4.1.2 \$30 for printing out the flyers for the Mangaweka meeting.
  - 4.1.3 \$60 to Mataroa Hall.
- 4.2 The remaining funds are \$190 for the rural workshop allocation.

### 5. Small Projects

- 5.1 The Chair requested that the repairs of X 2 at Dog Park and Quickstop Corner be considered by the board.

#### Attachments:

1. **Small Projects Fund- Excel Sheet** [↓](#)

#### Recommendation

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

	Income	Expenditure	Amount Paid	Tagged future expenses	Amount
<b>Total earmarked</b>					
12-Jun-24				Hobby Hutt Planter Boxes	\$600
<b>Financial Year 2024/25</b>					
<b>Allocation</b>	\$5,000				
<b>Carry Forward 2023/24</b>	\$4,718				
<b>Total Funds available 2024/25</b>	\$9,718				
12-Jun-24		Rural Workshops	\$190		\$170
26-Jul-24		Hautapu Rural Supplies	\$114.8		
24-Aug-24		Taihape Museum and Historical Society	\$1,500		
11-Sep-24		Anglican Church	\$200		
4-Dec-24		Taihape Arts Society	\$700		
<b>Remaining</b>	\$6,843.20				

## 9.5 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	Consultation 21 Mar - 22 Apr								
Fees and Charges	Janna														
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										

## 9.6 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 147<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **10 Discussion Items**

### **10.1 Taihape Community Board: Workshops December 2024**

**Author:** Peter Kipling-Arthur, Chair

1. This item is included as a standing item for discussion.

#### **Recommendation**

If needed:

**11 Meeting Closed.**