



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

# ORDER PAPER

## TAIHAPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, 9 April 2025

**Time:** 5.30pm

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

---

**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

For any enquiries regarding this agenda, please contact:

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

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

<b>Contact:</b>	0800 422 522 <a href="mailto:info@rangitikei.govt.nz">info@rangitikei.govt.nz</a> <a href="http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz">www.rangitikei.govt.nz</a>  (06) 327 0099				
<b>Locations:</b>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u>            Head Office            46 High Street            Marton         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u>            Bulls Information Centre            Te Matapihi            4 Criterion Street            Bulls         </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u>            Taihape Information Centre            102 Hautapu Street (SH1)            Taihape         </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape	
<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					
<b>Postal Address:</b>	Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741				
<b>Fax:</b>	(06) 327 6970				

**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, 9 April 2025 at 5.30pm.**

## **Order Of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Forum</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest Declarations</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Confirmation of Order of Business</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....	<b>5</b>
	6.1 Confirmation of Minutes .....	5
<b>7</b>	<b>Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings</b> .....	<b>16</b>
	7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings .....	16
<b>8</b>	<b>Chair's Report</b> .....	<b>18</b>
	8.1 Chair's Report - April 2025 .....	18
<b>9</b>	<b>Reports for Decision</b> .....	<b>19</b>
	9.1 Huriwaka Windfarm Update .....	19
<b>10</b>	<b>Reports for Information</b> .....	<b>25</b>
	10.1 Verbal Update- Northern Area and Property Manager .....	25
	10.2 Small Projects Fund Update – April 2025.....	26
	10.3 Mayor's Report - 27 March 2025 .....	30
	10.4 Updates from Taihape Community Development Trust.....	70
	10.5 Inward Correspondence .....	71
	10.6 Consultation Tracker - March.....	72
	10.7 Funding Schemes Update - March 2025 .....	74
<b>11</b>	<b>Discussion Items</b> .....	<b>77</b>
	11.1 Where's Annual Plan & Co @ Rangitikei? .....	77
	11.2 Workshops for 2025 .....	79
	11.3 Traffic Issues .....	80
<b>12</b>	<b>Meeting Closed.</b> .....	<b>81</b>

## **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 12 February 2025** are attached.

#### Attachments

1. **Taihape Community Board Meeting - 12 February 2025**

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Taihape Community Board Meeting held on 12 February 2025 [**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.

ITEM 6.1

# MINUTES



ATTACHMENT 1

## UNCONFIRMED: TAIHAPE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, 12 February 2025

**Time:** 5.30pm

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

---

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

In attendance                Mrs Carol Gordon, Deputy Chief Executive  
                                     Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager

**Order of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome / Prayer</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Forum</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest Declarations</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Confirmation of Order of Business</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....	<b>3</b>
7.1	Follow-up Action Items from Taihape Community Board Meetings .....	3
<b>7</b>	<b>Chair’s Report</b> .....	<b>4</b>
8.1	Chair's Report - February 2025 .....	4
<b>8</b>	<b>Reports for Information</b> .....	<b>4</b>
9.1	Verbal Update- Northern Area and Property Manager .....	4
9.2	Small Projects Fund Update - February 2025.....	6
9.3	Mayor's Report - 12 December 2024 .....	7
9.4	Consultation Tracker - December .....	8
9.5	Funding Schemes Update - February 2025 .....	8
9.6	Inward Correspondence .....	8
<b>9</b>	<b>Discussion Items</b> .....	<b>8</b>
10.1	Workshops for 2025 .....	8
10.2	Traffic Issues .....	8
10.3	Rangitikei District Council Consultation: Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy and TAB Venue Policy .....	9
10.4	Letter from Rugby Club on Taihape Granstand.....	9

**ITEM 6.1  
ATTACHMENT 1**

Unconfirmed

## 1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Mrs Gordon to the meeting. Mrs Gordon will commence her role as Council's Chief Executive on 1 March.

## 2 Apologies

No apologies received.

## 3 Public Forum

Mary Haggie and Lily Alabaster, Taihape Netball Centre Inc., spoke to their submission requesting \$500 from the Taihape Community Board Small Projects Fund for Taihape Netball's upcoming Children in Sport Workshop.

The Mayor left the meeting at 5.40 pm.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no Conflict of Interest declarations.

The Mayor returned to the meeting at 5.41 pm.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

The Chair accepted a verbal report from Taihape Community Development Trust as item number 10.5.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

**Resolved minute number 25/TCB/001**

That the minutes of Taihape Community Board Meeting held on 11 December 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.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms G Larsen. Carried



## 7 Follow-up Actions

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

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number** 25/TCB/002

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

Ms E Abernethy/Cr G Duncan. Carried

## 8 Chair's Report

### 8.1 Chair's Report - February 2025

The Chair noted the following amendments to his report:

- Glen Transport NZ should read Land Transport NZ
- Final paragraph, second sentence "I would like ..." should read "Taihape Community Board would like ..."

The Chair asked for clarification on the amount allocated to the Taihape Community Board Small Projects Fund, noting the amount stated as available in the report on the Agenda was different to the amount stated on Council's website.

The Chair advised that the Board would like consideration to be given to indexing their annual small projects funding to CPI in future years.

#### Undertaking

Mrs Gordon to clarify the correct allocation for the Taihape Community Board Small Project Fund.

**Resolved minute number** 25/TCB/003

That the Chair's Report – February 2025, as amended, be received.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms E Abernethy. Carried

## 9 Reports for Information

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

Ms Prince provided a verbal updated to the meeting:

### Welcome to the District Billboards

- Report was presented to the Board in August regarding the intention to replace the current signs. The Billboards are about to be printed, and we'll then start replacing the old signs.

### Parks & Reserves

- Taihape Cemetery – Previous request for hand washing entranceway taps – staff have commenced investigation and costing to renew a number of below ground water lines at the Cemetery. Installation of hand washing facilities at each entrance is also being investigated and costed.
- Taihape Main St Litter Bin Refurbishment – The Parks team hope to commence the re-staining of litter bins throughout the Main Street over the next 2-6 weeks. Bench seats/picnic tables will also be included if time/weather conditions allow.

### Mataroa Road Watermain Renewal

- The project is progressing well. The major milestone of having the mainline pipe installed has been achieved and the contractors are now installing all the fittings, such as hydrants and isolating valves, service connections and the fitting required to connect to the existing pipes. This should be completed this week. Disinfection and testing will then occur. Assuming this goes as expected the cut over to the new system will occur in the next few weeks. At this stage the project is expected to be completed in February as planned.

### Roading

- Taihape Napier Road – on going maintenance following heavy traffic damage (extra traffic from mill closures).
- Reseal Programme in and around Taihape is underway and should be complete by end March.
- Road Maintenance and Services Contract will be considered by Council (public excluded) on 26 February.

### Main Street Better Off Funding Programme

- Town Map – drafting is underway. This is taking some time due to staff capacity and priority in other areas.
- Outback area – quotes are being sought for a covered picnic area. Once pricing is agreed, the location will be confirmed and construction can begin.
- Gumboot Park at the Gumboot Sculpture – work is underway to design improvements, which include walkways, safety improvements and garden planting.

### Taihape Grandstand:

- As advised at the last meeting, Three concept strengthening options were presented to Council. Only one of those was close to the remaining available budget. Also as noted at the

last meeting, the design option does not allow for the lower level to be used by the community. Feedback was received at the last meeting from Taihape Rugby that they wished to continue to use the Grandstand. Council is waiting for feedback from the community to discuss a way forward.

### **Taihape Town Hall:**

- Maycroft presented their concept seismic design along with estimated costs during to the December 2024 Council meeting, public excluded. These designs and the costings have been peer reviewed by specialist consultants. Maycroft will now continue to work on the rest of the project scope and return with estimated cost for the whole project. It is anticipated this will be for the March 2025 Council meeting.
- As part of their presentation for the Dec 2024 council meeting, Maycroft put in alternate proposals for Council's consideration (no designs were presented), which are:
  - Lowering the fly tower roof to the same height as the hall roof. The stage area has no insulation and any building space reduction will help reduce the impact on the heating system.
  - Retain the front two storey structure along with the library, but demolish and re-build the Hall and stage area. This option will provide a new building that is easy to build, operate and maintain.
- Staff organised a meeting with the User group on 3<sup>rd</sup> February to provide a progress update along with discussing Maycroft's proposed alternate options. Only two of the members from the User Group attended the meeting. Information from the meeting was shared with the User Group today, to enable feedback from the whole of the group.

### **Resolved minute number 25/TCB/004**

That the 'Verbal Update' be received.

Ms E Abernethy/Ms G Larsen. Carried

### **9.2 Small Projects Fund Update - February 2025**

The Board discussed:

- Tagging another \$300 for rural workshops. It was noted that Annual Plan, and Local Water Done Well consultations would be held in March/April. Board members agreed to wait for dates for these meetings before considering their workshop schedule.
- It was agreed that \$200 be tagged for replacement directional signage for the Dog Exercise Park.

- The Board discussed Taihape Netball Centre Inc's request for \$500. Noting that Taihape Netball had two events planned, the Board encouraged Taihape Netball to apply to the Event Support Scheme for funding, but confirmed earmarking \$500 for Taihape Netball, that could be used for either event if required.

**Resolved minute number 25/TCB/005**

That the report 'Small Projects Fund Update – February 2025' be received.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Cr J Wong. Carried

**Resolved minute number 25/TCB/006**

That \$500 be earmarked for the use of Taihape Netball Centre Inc., for their use, should it be required for either the Children In Sport Workshop, or the proposed 2-day Net-Fix workshop

Cr G Duncan/Ms G Larsen. Carried

### 9.3 Mayor's Report - 12 December 2024

The Mayor congratulated, and presented a Certificate to Mr L Clarke, on his King's Service Medal.

Further to his report, the Mayor spoke/acknowledged:

- the death of Dame Tariana Turia.
- the Rātana Celebrations.
- the implementation of a daily logging train, now taking logs from Tangiwai to the Napier Port, via train, instead of trucking them across the Taihape Napier Road, which had caused considerable road damage.
- Local Water Done Well, noting that Ruapehu District had not yet confirmed their preferred option for delivery of water services (Rangitīkei's preferred option was a multi Council Controlled Organisation with Whanganui and Ruapehu District Councils).
- Rates Pegging, explaining to Board members that in the Government's view, rates were excessively going up, and explained that the Government could set a rates peg (cap) as a way of managing rates increases across the country. It was noted that depreciation had a big impact on Council's rate percentage.
- Bench-marking, the Government had also signalled its intention to begin bench-marking Councils before the local body elections.
- Mayor's Task Force for Jobs (MTFJ) – acknowledged the good result of Council's MTFJ Mahi Tahi, but noted that the amount of funding had been reduced for 2025/26. Rangitīkei was in Tier 2 for funding.

**Resolved minute number 25/TCB/007**

That the Mayor's Report – 12 December 2024 be accepted.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Cr J Wong. Carried

**9.4 Consultation Tracker - December**

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 25/TCB/008**

That the report 'Consultation Tracker - December' be received.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Cr J Wong. Carried

**9.5 Funding Schemes Update - February 2025**

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 25/TCB/009**

That the Funding Schemes Update – February 2025 be received.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms G Larsen. Carried

**9.6 Inward Correspondence**

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 25/TCB/010**

That the inward correspondence be received.

Mr P Kipling-Arthur/Ms E Abernethy. Carried

**10 Discussion Items****10.1 Workshops for 2025**

Noting the Annual Plan, and Local Water Done Well Consultations, this item was not required.

**10.2 Traffic Issues**

Board members raised the following items:

- Mirror at Paradise Terrace/Kaka Road – this was previously investigated in 2018, with notes from that time noting that while there is a problem, it was not considered that a mirror was the answer. If Board members considered there was still a problem a Request for Service should be logged.
- Signage advising of Public Toilets, Ngā Awa – Request for Service should be logged requesting signage.
- Gretna intersection: islands and signage – NZTA had asked their contractor to tidy up the Gretna corner, reinstate the centre island, and include new pedestrian poles. This should happen shortly.
- Tui Street/Robin Street – no Give Way signage which was confusing for motorists. A Request for Service should be logged requesting that this be investigated.

Footpath near Brown Sugar (Tui Street) – Full remedial work would require extensive excavation, so Council and Higgins were working on options to fix the trip hazards.

### **10.3 Rangitīkei District Council Consultation: Gambling Venue (Class 4) Policy and TAB Venue Policy**

Councillor Duncan explained the reason for the Policy consultation. If Board members wished to submit they would do so as individuals.

### **10.4 Letter from Rugby Club on Taihape Grandstand**

The Chair asked if Rugby could continue to use the Grandstand for the 2025 season. The Northern Area and Property Manager reiterated her advice as provided to Rugby representatives at the December meeting; the grandstand could be used while it was safe to do so (noting the current earthquake notifications on the building), however if any other safety issues arose, the Chief Executive could determine that the building be closed to use effective immediately.

The Chair determined that this item was not required.

### **10.5 Verbal Update from Taihape Community Development Trust**

Mr L Clarke provided a verbal update on behalf of the Trust, highlighting:

- 2024 Christmas Dinner

- CCTV project
- Coaching – Junior Tennis
- Signage – street banner system – it was noted that if contractor wished to access the Town Hall Street Banner system, they needed to be aware that the building was closed because of high risk to life in the event of an earthquake, and that there was a requirement for working at heights certification.

**Undertaking:**

That this item (Update from Taihape Community Development Trust) be added as a standing item to future Board Agendas.

**The meeting closed at 7.22pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Taihape Community Board held on 9 April 2025.**

.....  
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	12-Feb-25	Updating the Taihape CB small projects fund.	Kezia	The Finance Team have updated the total funds available annually to \$6,216 - this does not include GST- which is \$7,200 in total.	Complete
2	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	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.

## 8 Chair's Report

### 8.1 Chair's Report - April 2025

Author: Peter Kipling-Arthur, Chair

#### Northern Matters

#### Taihape Community Board April 2025

The months of February and March have seen me attend the Taihape consultation meeting on Local Water Done Well. Though poorly attended it gave useful insights as to the rationale behind the recommendations from Council.

The matter of the traffic islands and pedestrian safety at the Gretna corner are still outstanding. I hope that we can work with the Council roading team to make more progress on this soon.

The Town Hall and the Grandstand Projects have progressed since our last meeting. There is to be further outreach from the project manager to the town hall users group this month. The grandstand has been fully discussed at two meeting of the Parks users' group and progress is being made in creating small lead group to push on from theoretical to practical plans. I would like to acknowledge the work of Councillor Duncan and the RDC staff in making this happen and also acknowledge the input from both rugby clubs. It will not be a rapid fix, but what is proposed should provide the district with a facility for the long term.

The subject of Community Board workloads etc has been discussed at CBEC and also we were asked to respond to a survey on workload and remuneration which I did.

Again, a reminder that we will be looking at this year to make full use of the Small Projects Fund. Some of the items under consideration could well require longer than one year to come to fruition. As a consequence, we do need to discuss with RDC the possibility of a small CPI increases in our budget each year. For as pointed out last time having a fixed budget from the past five or more years does limit the effectiveness of the Community Board if it is spending to the maximum.

#### Recommendation

That the Chair's Report – April 2025 be received.

## 9 Reports for Decision

### 9.1 Huriwaka Windfarm Update

**Author:** Johanna Verhoek, Planner

**Authoriser:** Johan Cullis, Group Manager Regulatory Services and Emergency Management

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Committee on Manawa Energy Ltd's Proposed Huriwaka Wind Farm and the consent process that this proposed project will follow.

#### 2. Context

- 2.1 The Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (Act) came into force in December 2024. Its purpose is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.
- 2.2 The Huriwaka Wind Farm proposal by Manawa Energy Ltd was listed in the Act as eligible for the fast-track process. A brief description of the proposed application is to construct and operate a wind farm comprising approximately 60 wind turbines and transformers to connect and supply electricity to the national grid. It is proposed to be located on the Hihitahi Plateau, 123 km north of Taihape and 10 km southeast of Waiouru.
- 2.3 An expert panel appointed by the Environmental Protectional Authority (EPA) will consider the substantive application once it is lodged, rather than Council in its regulatory function under the Resource Management Act 1991. The panel will decide whether to hold a hearing and set conditions if the application is approved.
- 2.4 If approved and conditions are issued, the obligation to monitor the activity and enforce the consent and conditions is Council's.

#### 3. Discussion and Options Considered

- 3.1 The proposal is located within both the Ruapehu and Rangitikei Districts. The regulatory arms of these Councils (Rangitikei & Ruapehu) have agreed to engage SLR Consulting, specifically Louise Cowan, to act on our behalf when responding to requests from Manawa Energy Ltd to engage on the application pre-lodgement, and in response to requests from the EPA to engage in the Fast-track Approvals process once the substantive application has been lodged.
- 3.2 Manawa Energy Ltd has commenced pre-lodgement engagement with Council and other parties. Early analysis has commenced, which is attached to this report for consideration and feedback.
- 3.3 Manawa Energy Ltd has advised that they intend to submit their substantive application with the EPA in May 2025. Once this application has been lodged the process and timeframes are driven by the Act, and Council will have only a limited amount of time to provide comment on the application to the Panel for their consideration.

**4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**5. Impact on Strategic Risks**

5.1 There is potential for risk in relation to Council's trust and confidence being tarnished. Resource consent in the early 2000's for a windfarm at the site (known as Central Wind) which was a controversial project when it was initially consented and strongly opposed by certain groups within the community, in particular the Moawhango Village. There is potential for people to misunderstand Council's role in this process, in that the Council will not be hearing or deciding the substantive application to the EPA. Instead, the consideration and decision-making process sites entirely with the expert panel, who will be appointed by the EPA.

**6. Strategic Alignment**

6.1 This proposal is in alignment with the Council's Strategic Framework, as the planned windfarm contributes to climate change initiatives, thereby supporting the Environmental Wellbeing of the District. Additionally, if approved and constructed, the windfarm will create local employment opportunities during the construction phase, enhancing the District's Economic Wellbeing, in particular for Taihape. However, it is important to note that when the windfarm was initially consented in the early 2000s, it faced significant opposition from the broader Taihape community, particularly from Moawhango Village. The concern was that the project would negatively impact the Cultural Wellbeing of the community by altering the connection residents have to the village, a relationship they highly value.

**7. Mana Whenua Implications**

7.1 No mana whenua implications have been identified in association with this report.

7.2 SLR will ensure that Manawa Energy Ltd are engaging with Mana Whenua. Furthermore, the Act requires consultation with any relevant iwi authorities and any relevant treaty settlement entities.

**8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

8.1 There are no Climate Change impacts associated with this report.

**9. Statutory Implications**

9.1 There are no statutory implications associated with this report.

**10. Decision Making Process**

10.1 This report is for information and there are no decisions requested.

**Attachments:**

1. **Planning Memo Hiriwaka** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the 'Huriwaka Windfarm Update' report is received.

**Planning Memo – Huriwaka Windfarm**

<b>Background:</b>	<p>Manawa Energy Limited (MEL) have a project listed in Schedule 2 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA 2024) identified as Huriwaka Wind Farm. This project entails the construction and operation of a wind farm comprising approximately 60 wind turbines and transformers, and connection and supply of electricity to the national grid. This project is different from the previously consented (now lapsed) Project Central Wind by Meridian Energy Limited, in that it has moved further away from the Moawhango Village community and has more and larger turbines. MEL have commenced a pre-lodgement consultative process with Rangitikei District Council and Ruapehu District Council, including the provision of draft application documents for comment. MEL are looking to lodge the substantive application, involving resource consents under both the Ruapehu and Rangitikei District Plan, with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) by the end of May 2025. Consents will also be required under the Horizons One Plan.</p>
<b>Site:</b>	<p>The Site is situated approximately 123km north of Taihape and 13km south-east of Waiouru. The Site comprises approximately 71 km<sup>2</sup> of privately owned rural pastoral farmland and part of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Training Area. The first 6km of the primary site access, which forms part of the Project Envelope, navigates the NZDF managed area. The Site spans the boundary between Ruapehu and Rangitikei District Councils and is within the jurisdiction of Horizons Regional Council. The Site consists of a number of high plateau areas, with deeply incised, steeply sided drainage valleys. The wind turbines are proposed to be on plateau areas known as the Motukawa Plateau, in the south-western sector, the Mounganui Plateau, in the northern sector, and the Pukemako Ridge in the south-eastern sector of the 'Project Envelope'. Along the northern boundary of the Site, where the Mounganui Plateau drops steeply to lower levels via a northerly facing slope, there are several smaller incised drainage gullies draining to the north and into the Hautapu Stream that drains the Waiouru Army Training Area (NZDF area).</p>
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>The civil works associated with the Huriwaka Wind Farm will involve construction of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 60 wind turbine foundations.</li> <li>• 9.5 km of primary access roading from SH1 through the NZDF land to those areas of the Project Envelope where wind turbines and key infrastructure will be established.</li> <li>• 43.5 km of access roads within the Project Envelope which connect the turbine sites which are mainly situated on higher plateau areas.</li> <li>• 3.5 km of access roading which connects the Electricity Switching Yard to the entrance off Te Moehau Road.</li> <li>• 4 km of HV transmission line access tracks which provide access within the Project Envelope to each of the transmission line towers; and</li> </ul>

- 10.5 km of maintenance tracks (including upgrades to existing tracks) to provide construction access, along with access for daily operations / maintenance post construction. The design of the Huriwaka Wind Farm also includes three bridges, turbine hardstands and associated crane pads, laydown areas, disposal sites, four permanent meteorological masts and four temporary meteorological masts, a temporary concrete batching plant, underground reticulation cabling, underground transmission lines, pylon platforms a substation, switching yard and operation and maintenance facilities.

The final selection of a specific wind turbine has not yet been confirmed. However, for the purposes of assessing potential effects associated with the civil works a maximum height of 230m to the blade tip has been assessed. The following dimensions have been utilised for the civil works (i.e. width of access roads, radii of corners, etc):

- Hub Height: 135 m
- Rotor Diameter: 150 m
- Blade Length: 73 m.

Earthworks associated with the proposal include total cut volume of 468,000m<sup>3</sup>, total fill volume of 241,700m<sup>3</sup>, total topsoil stripping of 263,600m<sup>3</sup> over a total disturbed area of 133ha. Erosion and sediment control management will be undertaken across the site, including silt fences and super silt fences, decanting earth bunds, sediment retention ponds and the like.

The primary access road is a 6m wide unsealed road that provides access from the new entrance at SH1 through to the parts of the Project Envelope where the wind turbines and primary infrastructure will be located. This primary access road is to be constructed through land which is under the ownership and management of the NZDF.

Post construction of the wind farm, the primary access road width is to remain at 6m to allow access for heavy maintenance activities over the life of the wind farm. Day to day operational access to the wind farm will be via Motukawa Station. Concrete required to construct each turbine foundation is proposed to be batched on site by establishing a mobile concrete batching plant. Each foundation is likely to require around 1,080cu.m of concrete each.

To construct the road pavements, approximately 280,000cu.m of aggregate needs to be imported from external quarries to the north and south of the project.

As part of the establishment of the site for construction the Manawa and the contractors will need to establish temporary security, site offices and worker facilities. It is anticipated that this will be required at two locations, one near the entrance of SH1 and one at Motukawa Station on Te Moehau Road. These will typically consist of temporary portacom style buildings, ablution block (with temporary holding tanks) and supporting unsealed carparking areas. Rainwater harvesting, power and communications connections will be provided. Wastewater will be

	<p>managed using holding tanks which will be pumped out and trucked offsite to an appropriate facility.</p> <p>A 33kV internal cable reticulation system is required between the turbines and the site substation. These cables will be placed in trenches running along the formed access roads to connect turbines to the proposed substation.</p> <p>The substation will consist of a building and fenced off area of 6,500m<sup>2</sup> to house the control room (typically 250m<sup>2</sup>), switch room (typically 250m<sup>2</sup>), transformers and associated electrical hardware to connect into the overhead transmission line.</p> <p>At the termination point of the wind farm transmission line a switching station is required to connect the site transmission into the Transpower 220kv transmission line.</p> <p>A transmission line will be constructed between the central substation and switching station location near Te Moehau Road.</p> <p>The expected construction duration from commencement of civil works until completion of turbine erection is 36 months.</p>
<p><b>Application Documents:</b></p>	<p>To date Council have received the following draft documents for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aeronautical Assessment</li> <li>• Archaeological Assessment</li> <li>• Civil Infrastructure Report</li> <li>• Ecology Reporting</li> <li>• Economic Assessment</li> <li>• Geotechnical Assessment</li> <li>• Integrated Transportation Assessment</li> <li>• Landscape Assessment</li> <li>• Noise Effects Assessment</li> <li>• Preliminary Site Investigation – Contaminated Land</li> <li>• Radio Compatibility Report</li> <li>• Recreation Assessment</li> <li>• Shadow Flicker Assessment</li> <li>• Stormwater Report</li> </ul> <p>Council are still waiting to receive the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of Environmental Effects, which sets out the planning considerations for the proposal.</li> <li>• Records of Title to identify the relevant properties and ownership.</li> <li>• Construction Management Plan</li> <li>• Traffic Management Plan</li> <li>• Ecology – Long Tailed Bat Assessment</li> <li>• Cultural Impact Assessment</li> <li>• Any evidence of consultation with other stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zoning</b></p>	<p>Rangitikei District Plan Rural Zone</p>
<p><b>Limitations/Overlays &amp; Controls:</b></p>	<p>Adjoining: Protected Areas – Conservation, Protected Areas – Reserve (Hihitahi Sanctuary) Proximity: High Voltage Transmission Lines</p>

ITEM 9.1

ATTACHMENT 1

<b>Overall Status:</b>	<a href="#">Renewable electricity generation, other than domestic scale wind turbines</a> – Discretionary Activity in accordance with Rule REG-R3 of the Rangitikei District Plan. As a Discretionary Activity there are no matters over which discretion is restricted.
------------------------	--



## 10 Reports for Information

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

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

#### 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.

#### Recommendation

That the 'Verbal Update' be received.

**10.2 Small Projects Fund Update – April 2025****Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****1. Allocation**

1.1 The allocation of the 2024/25 Small Projects Fund for the Taihape Community Board is \$10,979, this includes the carry-over funds of \$4,718. Staff have amended the financial year funding to \$6,261.

**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

2.2.6 Payment to Taihape MusicRoom of \$300

2.2.7 Payment to Taihape Netball of \$500

2.3 Earmarked

2.3.1 Mckays Contract Gardening - \$460

2.3.2 Picinic Table \$700

2.4 Remaining funds for 2024/25 is \$6,144.20

**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 included updates for small projects

- 5.2 A repaired heavy-duty table has been verbally quoted at \$700 and will be ready end of March for placement at quick stop
- 5.3 Replacement Directional Signage for up to \$200 for the Dog Park
- 5.4 Investigations:
  - 5.4.1 Town clock bells: discussions with Murray Bond and investigations underway.
  - 5.4.2 Remembrance Ode: the chair is investigating with Darrell O’Hara the feasibility of this concept.

**Attachments:**

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

**Recommendation**

That the report ‘Small Projects Fund Update – April 2025’ 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>	\$6,261				
<b>Carry Forward 2023/24</b>	\$4,718				
<b>Total Funds available 2024/25</b>	\$10,979				
12-Jun-24		Rural Workshops	\$170		\$190
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		
22-Jan-25		Taihape MusicRoom	\$300		
12-Mar-25		Taihape Netball	\$500		
				Mckays Contract Gardening	\$460
				Picnic Table	\$700
<b>Remaining</b>	\$6,144.20				



**10.3 Mayor's Report - 27 March 2025****Author: Andy Watson, His Worship the Mayor****Local Water Done Well**

Government has replaced the Three Waters legislation with Local Water Done Well (LWDW). This is National's version which is very similar to Labour's.

I am concerned that Council will end up voting on our position to form a regional CCO (Council Controlled Organisation) with very little knowledge of it by the community. The turnout at recent public meetings and interest in our consultation has been just about non-existent. This is the most important decision that our Council has faced over the last 40 years. So, a quick summary –

**A. What is Local Water Done Well?**

- The provision of waste-water (sewerage)
- The provision of drinking water (potable water)
- Dealing with stormwater (water run-off)

Council currently provides all of these services and that may change.

**B. Why is this an issue now?**

- All Councils have not spent enough money (under-investment) to maintain these services over the last 50+ years.
- The pipes that service these waters are at the end of their life.
- Our Council has invested over the last few year, but significantly more money is required (\$100m+).

**C. What is the option for a Regional CCO?**

- We pass on all of our water assets (sewerage, drinking etc) to an independent business.
- We retain ownership of them by way of shares in the business but they operate them.
- We also pass over the debt (loans) that we have for these plants.

**D. What is different in National's version to Labour's 3W position?**

- Very little difference
- New legislation which allows the new business (entity) to borrow large amounts of money over a very long term (many years)
- National has left the decision options to the community or Council.

- But if Government doesn't agree with our decision they will decide for us!

E. What are our Council options?

- Continue as we currently do with Council providing the service (business as usual with no regional CCO).
- Form a regional CCO with Ruapehu District Council, Whanganui District Council and ourselves. **This is our preferred option.**

F. Why?

- A long term regional CCO will reduce the cost to ratepayers. It has been calculated that in 10 years time it will reduce the average cost for a household by over \$1000 per year compared to the cost of Council continuing to provide the service.
- The new entity will be more efficient and the operational costs are shared by more people (a scale).
- The significant costs of loans will be lower and spread over many more years.

G. What are the risks?

- There will be a loss of Council/community voice. The CCO entity will make business decisions for us. They will decide where money in the three districts is spent.
- The entity will decide on the costs that ratepayers face (they will set their own costs).
- It is possible that some parts of our district will face higher charges than other parts.
- It is likely that water meters will be required so that you pay for what you use.
- Will there will be a setup cost for the new entity – yes, and initially there will not be, in my opinion, direct savings because of this.

H. What is the process?

- We have already had many meetings between the three Councils to look at the plan and options.
- Costs have been worked out by using Long Term Plan costs that each Council currently has.
- Community consultation is now happening.
- The Council decision following consultation will be sent to Wellington.
- Government then makes a decision to accept our position or change it.
- The CCO becomes operational in 2028/2029.

Notes**ITEM 10.3**

If we have the CCO you will still get –

- a rates bill from Council for all other Council services which will include a charge for water that Council uses for parks etc.
- a rates bill from the entity for waste-water, drinking water and stormwater
- an Horizons bill as usual.

Please ask if you want further information or clarification – I cannot stress enough the importance of these decisions.

**Kainga Ora Housing**

Recently Graeme Broderick, Regional Director of Kainga Ora, met with me to announce a series of changes regarding housing. Government has re-set the direction for housing which includes –

- A refresh of the Kainga Ora Board and Chief Executive
- A pause in the construction programme
- A change in attitude where they will be prepared to evict tenants for poor behaviour after a process, i.e. a fair but firm process.
- A renewal programme for housing, the target of 3000 homes per year as a build/replace/demolition process.
- A large reduction in staff as directed by the Minister of Finance.
- Bad debts will be dealt with by way of payment plans which, if adhered to, may involve some write-offs.

For the Rangitikei, we note –

1. We currently have 48 people in need on the housing register, down from 69 in March 2022.
2. We have had new units built in Wellington Road and Pukepapa Road in Marton.

**All of Government and Rural & Provincial Sector Meeting**

I have included the presentation notes from the LGNZ Sector Meetings in Wellington on 27-28 March as an appendix to my report and I will provide comment if possible as a tabled item for this meeting giving my interpretation of the changes that are coming our way and how they will affect our district.

As everyone knows Council needs to replace our main office building in Marton under the earthquake prone legislation. As part of that process we need to have a modern Civil Defence building (technically referred to as an IL Level 4 building) separate to Council's main facility. It is our



intention to build a building that can be used by the community as well but is absolutely ready to act as a Civil Defence centre for Marton. Some time ago I was at a meeting in Wellington where I questioned the Hon. Mark Mitchell – Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery - around whether Government should support the need for these buildings. He expressed interest at that time in possible Governmental support. As part of the process in deciding what type of building would best fit, myself and some councillors and staff visited the new buildings that have been built in Gisborne (as a standalone Civil Defence building) and National Park by Ruapehu District Council. The Ruapehu building was seen to be a preferred option and could be used as a community function as well. Given Minister Mitchell's public interest in this space I have written to him requesting a discussion and assistance and in the appendix I enclose the letter of request and the Minister's reply. Unfortunately the Minister's reply does not indicate support at this time.

With the election of Councillor Paul Sharland for the Southern Ward it requires another slight change where I have appointed him as an alternate for the Bulls Community Committee position and I enclose the recommendation as such.

### **Marton Pool**

I continue to chase the future of Marton Pool and the work that will be required. Absolutely my aim is, if at all possible, to have the pool operating for next summer. The timeframe for that process is tight. Council cannot look at just repairing the damage to the roof in isolation. As a consequence to that Council now has a report on the total facility including the building strength and what is required structurally. The report also includes compliance with modern electrical and safety standards and potential options around heating replacements etc. The report is exhaustive. We are now waiting on information around each different aspect of that with the initial focus on the cost of repair to the roof and structures. I am hoping to be able to announce to the community what those options are and how they will be funded. I am also hopeful that we may be able to receive significant outside funding other than just relying on ratepayer source.

### **Marton Rail Hub**

Recently there has been an article in Stuff News regarding the funding of the Marton Rail Hub by Kanoa which is the Government's Regional Economic Development and Investment arm. Originally we were awarded under Minister Jones' PGF Fund \$9.1m as support to the Rail Hub. We applied to have 217ha of land just outside Marton bordering State Highway 1 and Makirikiri Road to be zoned industrial. Council received approval for 40ha of industrial land. The next stage was that we were taken through an Environment Court process that lasted around 5 years. That process resulted in 65ha of land being approved as an industrial zone. It is now up to commercial interests as to whether that land is purchased and a rail hub established. The delay in the Environment Court process and the purchase of the land has meant the balance of the \$9.1m awarded under PGF that has not been spent has been withdrawn by Kanoa. There is still significant interest by commercial partners and industry who want to establish new business to the Rangitikei and operate a new railhead. Kanoa still sees this as a significant potential development for our region. However, funding will need to be through a different process. The interest is high and I am hopeful that the development proceeds in a reasonably short space of time. What we have is 65ha of industrial land bordered by State Highways 1 and 3 and adjacent to the principal rail junction in the lower North Island. This opportunity will be taken up by some businesses at some time and is a significant step forward for this district.

### **Horizons Ballance 2025 Farm Environment Awards & Ford Ranger New Zealand Rural Games**

Recently I have attended the Ford Ranger New Zealand Rural Games held in the Square in Palmerston North on 8 March and the celebration at the New Zealand Rural Sports Awards on the night preceding the games. The Rural Games headed by Steve Hollander have built from strength to strength over the past few years and this year the games celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We had a number of competitors from the Rangitikei in sports such as fencing and the gumboot throwing competition which is iconic to Taihape. Similarly, I attended the Horizons Ballance 2025 Farm Environment Awards on 13 March where the Regional Supreme Award was won by the Cousins family from Hiamoe Farm, operating just outside of our district in Whanganui. This year's event celebrated 20 years since the awards began in the Horizons region.

### **Rural Transport Committee**

I represent the Rangitikei on the Regional Transport Committee at Horizons. There are a few points that the community may wish to be aware of –

- NZTA has taken over the speed camera function from the New Zealand Police. There will be 51 new cameras and enforcement will be a partnership between the Police and NZTA and these cameras will be in vehicles and/or trailers.
- There will also be the use of average speed cameras – this is where a camera uses photo recognition of number plates to record average speeds across the district.
- Unfortunately within our district we have had a number of fatalities in recent times. Speed is often a factor.
- NZTA has asked for a transition to a risk based approach of temporary traffic management. This refers to very high costs of up to 35% of work being done on roads attributed to the traffic management rather than the construction. This is something that we need to put onus on our contractors when they are doing road repairs. Consideration should be given to whether it is cheaper and more effective and faster to close roads rather than have traffic management or absolutely to consider the risk to the people and the need for significant traffic management processes.
- A very good example of road closures was nationally on the Desert Road between Waiouru and Turangi that had to be closed for a new bridge replacement. Extensive work on other roading aspects was also carried out during that closure. The closure enabled effective work to be done at far faster rates than would have happened if the road had have been operating. The road is now open and recently I have driven over it and huge areas have been resealed etc.

### **Infrastructure Symposium**

I recently attended a one day summit meeting in Auckland on infrastructure. It was expensive as a one day programme with both travel and attendance charges however it was incredibly worthwhile. The presentations regarding climate change, sea level rises, potential closures of roads nationally in the future because of those things were very significant. We as a country need to absolutely look at these effects with a 10-20-30 year lens. The presentations by Minister Bishop and the Hon. Chris Faafoi ahead of the insurance commission were also really interesting. I will look to provide a tabled report at Council with regards to the symposium.

## Mayor's Engagements

March 2025

1	Attended Hunterville 4WD Safari Fundraiser
3	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attending meeting with ratepayer Attended Accelerate35 Lead Team Meeting Attended Climate Action Joint Committee Meeting Attended Mayoral Forum
4	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Emergency Management Joint Standing Committee Meeting Attended Regional Transport Committee Meeting Attended Erewhon Rural Water Scheme Meeting Attended Weekly Meeting with Deputy Mayor Attended meeting with Scotts Ferry residents
5	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended monthly Governor's Q&A at Executive Leadership Team Meeting
6	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Annual Plan Workshop Attended online meeting regarding industrial land
7	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Local Water Done Well Mayoral Steering Group online meeting Attended fortnightly economic development meeting with staff Attended NZ Rural Sports Awards
8	Attended Official Opening of Ford Ranger NZ Rural Games
10	Attended Joint Discussion Meeting regarding industrial land
11	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended Local Water Done Well Public Meeting in Bulls Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor
12	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended LGNZ Online Focus Group for Mayors & Chairs Attended briefing on Manawatu/Rangitikei Health Meeting held 11 March Attended Bulls Community Committee Meeting
13	Attended meeting with Chief Executive Attended weekly meeting with Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor Attended Marton Office & Library Project Governance Meeting Attended Assets & Infrastructure Committee Meeting

## ITEM 10.3

	<p>Attended Policy/Planning Committee – TAB/Gambling Policies Hearing</p> <p>Attended 2025 Horizons Ballance Farm Environment Awards</p>
14	Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Core Group Meeting in Wellington
15	Attended Child Cancer Foundation Street Appeal collection event
17	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Governance Group Online Meeting</p> <p>Attended Oral Hearing to Parliament re RDC’s submission on Local Government Water Services Bill</p>
18	<p>Attended Infrastructure Symposium in Auckland</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
19	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Risk &amp; Assurance Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Taihape Grandstand User Group Meeting</p> <p>Attended Local Water Done Well Public Meeting in Taihape</p>
20	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Leadership Group Online Hui</p> <p>Attended Local Water Done Well Public Meeting in Marton</p>
21	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended fortnightly economic development meeting with staff</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Manu Whenua Strategic Advisor</p> <p>Attended monthly meeting with Police</p>
24	<p>Attended Breakfast Meeting with Mayor Helen Worboys</p> <p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended fortnightly meeting with Comms Staff</p>
25	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Regional Transport Matters   Regional Chiefs Fortnightly Zoom Catchup</p> <p>Attended NZTHA Local Planning online meeting</p> <p>Attended Citizenship Ceremony in Bulls</p> <p>Attended weekly meeting with Deputy Mayor</p>
26	Attended meeting with Chief Executive
27	<p>Attended meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>Attended Marton Office &amp; Library Project Governance Group meeting</p> <p>Attended Finance &amp; Performance Committee Meeting</p> <p>Attended Council Meeting</p> <p>To attend Business After 5 Meeting in Hunterville</p>
28	<p>To attend meeting with Chief Executive</p> <p>To attend weekly meeting with Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor</p>

	To attend Te Kopuka Quarterly Hui at Parakino Marae Whanganui
31	To attend meeting with Chief Executive To attend quarterly catchup meeting with National MP Suze Redmayne

**Attachments:**

1. Letter - Mayor to Hon Mark Mitchell - February 2025 [↓](#)
2. LGNZ All of Government and Rural & Provincial Meeting Presentations [↓](#)
3. LGNZ Four Monthly Report to February 2025 [↓](#)
4. Letter from Hon Mark Mitchell to Mayor Andy Watson - March 2025 [↓](#)
5. Councillor Attendance 2025 [↓](#)
6. Mayor's Report - Tabled Document [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the Mayor's Report – 27 March 2025 be received.

FROM THE  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



12 February 2025

3-EP-3-8

Hon Mark Mitchell MP  
Emergency Management and Recovery

[mark.mitchell@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:mark.mitchell@parliament.govt.nz)

Good Morning Minister

Last year at a Local Government Meeting you spoke regarding your role in Civil Defence. During question time I suggested that assistance with Civil Defence specialised IL4 buildings for Councils permanently set up ahead of major events would be a fantastic initiative and partnership between Central Government and Councils. At that time you indicated a general support for this concept which myself and other Councils saw as a positive step.

The Rangitikei District Council is in the process of building a new council centre which will most likely be scaled down in size to meet with cost and Government expectations. However, we have decided that we have a definite need for a separate building on the same site dedicated to Civil Defence. I have been Mayor of the Rangitikei District Council for 4 terms and Deputy Mayor for 2 terms prior to that, a total of 21 years in Local Government. During this time the Rangitikei has declared Civil Defence emergencies, largely for flooding, on numerous occasions. When these events occur both State Highway 1 and 3 are closed and it is difficult to get resources and equipment in and the need for a dedicated IL4 centre in Marton is high.

I have taken the time to travel to view both the National Park Civil Defence centre that I believe you opened and the purpose-built Civil Defence building in Gisborne. I believe the building at National Park would absolutely meet our District's needs.

I would welcome a conversation with you in Wellington around how we could potentially work together and note that I am in Wellington at a series of Local Government meetings on 27-28 February, but am happy to travel to see you at any time you may be available.

Yours sincerely



**Mayor Andy Watson - Rangitikei**  
027 6177668

*Making this place home.*

06 327 0099 027 617 7668 [andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:andy.watson@rangitikei.govt.nz) [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz) 46 High Street, Private Bag 1102, Marton 4741

**ent:** Monday, 10 March 2025 10:49 am

**To:** Andy Watson <Andy.Watson@rangitikei.govt.nz>

**Subject:** LGNZ's February All-of-local-government meeting: presentations and highlights

No images? [Click here](#)



#### ALL-OF-LOCAL-GOVERNMENT MEETING



#### THANK YOU

Thanks for being part of LGNZ's All-of-local-government meeting and individual sector meetings: you'll find slides, notes and more below.

Our next All-of-local-government meeting is on 1 May, followed by sector meetings on 2 May. Confirmed speakers already include Minister Chris Bishop and former Minister Steven Joyce – we'll be releasing the full draft programme and inviting registrations later in March.

---

#### SPEAKER SLIDES

**All-of-local-government**

- Mike Wakefield, Partner, Simpson Grierson – [Overview of the Government’s reform programme](#)
- Laura Cannon, Acting Assistant Auditor General and Andre McConnell, Deputy Auditor-General, Office of the Auditor General – [Improving how councils demonstrate value](#)
- Philippa Fourie, Manager Local Government & External Affairs, Fonterra and Mayor Grant Smith, Palmerston North City Council – [The power of partnerships](#)
- Clinton Jury, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government South Australia – [Lessons from across the ditch](#)
- Sarah Baddeley, Martin Jenkins, MC and Harriet Shelton, Director Advocacy & Strategic Partnerships, LGNZ – [Practical ways to demonstrate value](#)

**Rural & Provincial**

- Allan Prangnell, CEO, Taumata Arowai – [New wastewater standards](#)
  - Michael Lovett, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Te Tiriti, DIA – [Local Water Done Well](#)
  - Dr Grant Davidson, Chief Executive, Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network, Bill Eschenbach, CEO, Waitaha Primary Health and Mark Eager, CEO, Mobile Health – [Rural health](#)
  - Scott Necklen, Deputy Chief Executive, LGNZ, Andrew McKillop, Programme Director, Road Efficiency Group Te Ringa Maimoa and Dawn Inglis, General Manager, Waipā District Council – [Transport kōrero](#)
  - Katrina Casey, Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery Unit, DPMC – [Cyclone recovery](#)
  - Karen Mitchell, Principal, Deal Advisory, KPMG – [Funding infrastructure](#)
-





**LINKS TO SPEECHES**

- Parliamentary Under-Secretary Simon Court – [Political Address: 27 February](#)
- Housing Minister Chris Bishop – [Going for Housing Growth: 28 February](#)
- Parliamentary Under-Secretary Simon Court – [Speech to LGNZ Metro, Rural and Provincial Sectors Forum](#)

---

**AOLG – KEY TAKEAWAYS**

**READ THE TAKEAWAYS**

---

**RURAL & PROVINCIAL – KEY TAKEAWAYS**

**READ THE TAKEAWAYS**

---

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

Last week’s LGNZ All-of-local-government meeting drew the attention of media outlets from across the country, on a range of topics from rates capping and four-year terms to a new stalking bill and housing growth.

Local Government Minister Simon Watt’s speech and LGNZ’s stance on [rates capping](#) took centre stage on Thursday, with [Newsroom](#) leading with a well-written piece alongside stories on [NBR](#), [BusinessDesk](#), [RNZ](#), [The Press](#) and [The Post](#).

[Four-year terms](#) for local government were also a hot topic, with LGNZ President Sam Broughton appearing on [Mike Hosking breakfast](#) on [Newstalk ZB](#) to discuss the issue, with his comments also included in [The Post](#) and [Waikato Times](#) – the topic also causing significant debate on both sides in various opinion columns.

LGNZ Chief Executive Susan Freeman-Greene and Invercargill councillor Alex Crackett also spoke with [Stuff/ThreeNews](#) and [Newstalk ZB](#) about the Government’s proposed [stalking legislation](#).

Housing Minister Chris Bishop’s announcement at LGNZ’s Metro and Rural & Provincial sector meetings on Friday caused a media scrum, with [1News](#) and [ThreeNews](#) running stories and [RNZ](#) livestreaming the Minister’s speech.

Analysis articles also ran on [Stuff](#), [NZ Herald](#) and [Gisborne Herald](#), with Stuff’s Luke Malpass penning an insightful piece appearing in [The Press](#), [The Post](#) and the [Waikato Times](#).

**USING THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE TO ADVOCATE AGAINST RATES CAPPING**

As part of our broader advocacy against rates capping, we’ve set up meetings between Local Government South Australia CE Clinton Jury and Minister Watts’ office. Minister Watts has also instructed his officials to connect with Clinton to get more information about the South Australian experience.

**Ngā manaakitanga,  
The team at LGNZ**



[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Share](#) [Forward](#)

Local Government New Zealand  
Te Kāhui Kaunihera o Aotearoa

Level 8, 175 Victoria Street, Te Aro, Wellington, 6011  
[www.lgnz.co.nz](http://www.lgnz.co.nz)

Want to change how you receive these emails? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe below.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



---

# LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils

// November 2024 – February 2025





## 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.

Please consider putting this report on the agenda for your next council meeting so that all councillors can review it and provide feedback. Sam, Susan or other National Council members are very happy to join council meetings online to discuss the report or any aspect of it – just let us know.

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

### Contents

- Introduction** ..... 4
- Champion** ..... 5
  - Government relations ..... 5
  - Media ..... 6
  - Local government funding and financing ..... 7
    - Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS) ..... 7
    - Infrastructure funding and financing ..... 8
  - Regional deals ..... 8
  - Rates capping ..... 9
  - Water services reform ..... 9
  - Resource management reform ..... 10
  - Transport ..... 10
  - Climate change ..... 11
  - Electoral Reform Working Group ..... 12
  - Other policy issues ..... 12
    - Earthquake prone buildings ..... 12
  - Update on 2024 remits ..... 12
- Connect** ..... 15
  - 2025 calendar ..... 15
  - Vote25 ..... 15
  - All-of-local-government meetings ..... 15

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 2




---

Metro Sector .....	15
Regional Sector and Te Uru Kahika .....	16
Rural & Provincial.....	16
SuperLocal25.....	16
Te Ao Māori.....	17
Iwi engagement .....	17
Te Maruata.....	17
Young Elected Members Network .....	17
Community Boards .....	18
Women in Local Government .....	18
Member visits .....	18
<b>Support .....</b>	<b>19</b>
Ākona .....	19
Te Korowai – CouncilMARK.....	19
Roothing Efficiency Group.....	20
Governance support .....	20



---

## Introduction

This four-monthly report covers the summer holiday period when you hopefully had a well-deserved break. LGNZ continued to work hard on your behalf, delivering two All-of-local government events, meeting with Ministers, making submissions and producing resources for members.

January's Cabinet reshuffle meant a new Minister for Local Government, Simon Watts. LGNZ had dinner with the Minister on his first official day in the job, hosted him at February's All-of-local-government event and had our first formal meeting of the year on 6 March. As the Minister said at our February event, we have a positive relationship and want to work together. He acknowledged local government was fatigued by waves of reform and that a lot of the cost and burden that falls on local government is because of central government legislation (as LGNZ's research last year demonstrated). We're looking forward to working constructively with the Minister.

The political year unofficially starts at Waitangi, which offers many opportunities to mix formally and informally with Ministers, MPs and Iwi leaders. This year LGNZ stepped up our involvement and had a strong presence, including a number of National Council members, who were part of an official pōwhiri and delivered a prayer for the nation at the Dawn Service.

In the advocacy and policy space, in November we launched a set of [funding and financing tools](#) that could make a difference for local government. These tools, which include things like sharing GST on new builds, congestion charging and value capture from growth, gained strong media coverage. We also highlighted to media the potential negative implications of rates capping, with Australian guest speakers at both our November and February All-of-local-government events underlining the negative fiscal impacts for Australian councils and communities.

Other highlights of this period included:

- A range of quality submissions shared with members, including on resource management and water services reform.
- The launch of our Electoral Reform Issues paper, with the draft position paper launching 13 March. As well as four-year terms this covers the inevitable decline of post and how to respond.
- Members can now access for free more than \$1.2 million worth of professional development assets via our Ākona professional development platform (this is what it would cost councils to commercially develop the 15 Ako hours and 22 courses available).
- We distributed a free Vote 25 toolkit to all member councils just before Christmas – which you can use and adapt to promote voter registration, standing and voting.

We always welcome your comments and feedback.

Ngā mihi  
Sam and Susan



---

## Champion

### Government relations

In January a reshuffled Cabinet meant a new Minister for Local Government along with other portfolio shifts relevant to local government, including a new Transport Minister. We have seized on the reshuffle and our already-strong relationship with incoming Local Government Minister Simon Watts to reset the relationship between central and local government. Sam and Susan had dinner with Minister Watts on his first official day in the job, we've locked in regular ongoing meetings, and the Minister spoke at our All-of-local-government meeting on 27 February. As well as staying as long as he could to answer questions, the Minister joined Mayors, Chairs and Chief Executives for morning tea ahead of his session.

As well as sending the Minister [an immediate letter](#) on key issues, we have developed a briefing for the Minister that sets out the state of play of local government issues, including where there are opportunities to work together in support of New Zealand's economic development. [Read the Briefing to the Incoming Minister.](#)

We have confirmed quarterly meetings with the Prime Minister throughout 2025. We also meet regularly with Infrastructure and Resource Management Reform Minister Chris Bishop, who now holds the Transport portfolio as well, with Regional Development Minister Shane Jones, and of course Minister Watts. During this four-month period, we met with Minister for Building and Construction Chris Penk and got a good insight into what he would like to achieve in the portfolio. He is keen to make changes work on the ground and, as he put it, "make life easier for councils not harder". We are in conversation with MBIE as to how options for the building consents regime might be received by councils and how they might work in practice.

We secured a strong line up of Ministers and representation from the Opposition at both the November and February All-of-local-government meetings and individual sector meetings.

Waitangi Day kicks off the political year and this year LGNZ had a strong delegation that included a number of National Council members. We held formal and informal meetings with local MPs and iwi leaders, and had the opportunity for conversations with a range of Ministers we would not normally meet with, like Education Minister Erica Stanford. Sam, Campbell and Susan attended the Waitangi Trust's dinner alongside with political leaders, including Minister Watts and the Leader of the Opposition. We had a particularly useful meeting with Northland MP Grant McCallum, who was sympathetic to our safety concerns relating for Māori elected members given the tenor of debate around Māori Wards referenda. He was action-focused and was keen to support neutral messaging that promoted safe and informed local elections. He was also interested in looking into working with us to brief National MPs on other local government issues such as funding and financing.

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 5





## Media

Our media engagement means balancing standing up for councils with being seen as a constructive partner of the Government. LGNZ has gained proactive media coverage of our perspective on rates capping, and our launch of funding and financing tools, and the closure of regional newspapers. Our advocacy positions on all three topics tied into our wider strategy to make local government feel more relevant and improve ratepayers' understanding of issues faced by councils.

Over the past 12 months, the media landscape has shifted significantly with the closure of major platforms, key newsrooms and culling of experienced journalists. These shifts made it harder to place proactive stories but we have intensified our efforts and continue to gain traction on major advocacy issues important to councils and our communities.

An example of these efforts coming to fruition was the coverage of LGNZ's All-of-local-government meeting, which drew the attention of media outlets from across the country on a range of topics, from rates capping and four-year terms to a new stalking bill and housing growth.

We got coverage on our position on [rates capping](#), including [Newsroom](#) leading with a well-written piece alongside stories on [NBR](#), [BusinessDesk](#), [RNZ](#), [The Press](#) and [The Post](#). [Four-year terms](#) for local government was also a hot topic, with Sam Broughton appearing on the [Mike Hosking breakfast](#) on [Newstalk ZB](#) to discuss the issue, with his comments included in [The Post](#).

LGNZ's CE Susan Freeman-Greene and Invercargill Councillor Alex Crackett also spoke with [Stuff/ThreeNews](#) and [RNZ](#) about the Government's proposed [stalking legislation](#) and the need to increase safety for elected members.

On Friday, Minister Bishop's announcement around new and improved funding and financing tools to reduce the disincentives for housing growth for councils made headlines. Analysis articles ran on [Stuff](#), [NZ Herald](#) and the [Gisborne Herald](#), with Stuff's Luke Malpass penning an insightful piece on the financial conundrum facing councils that appeared in [The Press](#), [The Post](#) and the [Waikato Times](#).

Some other specific media highlights in the past four months include:

- LGNZ's rollout of [a funding and finance toolkit](#) for councils got plenty of traction.
- We urged caution around central government's proposed [rates capping](#) introduction in New Zealand.
- We advocated to the Government [to share IVL funding](#) with councils to reduce pressure on ratepayers.
- We [welcomed the new Minister of Local Government](#) and presented the reshuffle as an opportunity to collaborate more.
- Sam penned an [op-ed](#) for Stuff, talking about the benefits of a true partnership between local and central government.
- LGNZ spoke out about the proposed Government changes to the [water and waste levies](#).



- We [welcomed the move](#) towards benchmarking and more transparency, but pushed the Government to ensure any report card provides a 'full and accurate picture'

### Local government funding and financing

In late November we launched a [set of 25 tools](#) to help councils better fund infrastructure and services – from sharing GST on new builds to value capture to improving councils' ability to recover costs.

It's a pragmatic list with three distinct tiers:

1. Tools that are on the Government's agenda
2. Tools the Government has shown an interest in
3. Tools councils want but the Government isn't interested in, so need longer-term advocacy.

While rates will always be local government's primary funding tool, these tools could make a real difference to the challenges councils face. We are starting to see the fruits of this work with the Government's announcement at our February All-of-local-government meeting on new tools that will see development contributions replaced with a development levy system, allowing councils to charge developers a share of long-term infrastructure costs – more on this below.

As well as the [set of tools](#), we developed some resources to support councils' conversations with communities and central government:

- [A set of key messages](#) explaining why we need new tools
- [Slides](#) with key messages and data
- [A draft op ed](#) that you can repurpose
- [A draft letter to your MP](#)

Treasury has released advice to the Minister of Finance on funding tools available to councils. The Minister is seeking to reduce funding calls on the Crown. Treasury considers that council funding tools are generally fit for purpose. Their view is that the barriers to the full use of these tools relate to political economy, such as a general resistance to increasing rates. This is a valid point, but LGNZ believes these tools need improvement to allocate costs better, address affordability, improve efficiency, and align government objectives with local incentives.

The Government's stance against rates increases and its consideration of rates caps risks deepening public resistance to existing funding tools and increasing pressure on Crown funding. LGNZ will continue to engage with Ministers on this issue and work to enhance public discourse on the relationship between the costs of services and infrastructure and rate rises.

### Ratepayer Assistance Scheme (RAS)

The new Local Government Minister has expressed interest in progressing the RAS. The RAS would allow ratepayers to cheaply borrow for specific improvements or ratepayer charges and in support of local and central government priorities. By leveraging the high credit quality of local government



rates, it accesses efficient capital market financing, passing savings to ratepayers. The RAS lends directly to ratepayers, keeping councils financially whole.

We are looking to capitalise on the Minister's interest and secure the necessary financial commitment and legislative changes. Minister Watts is positive about the scheme and has identified potential alignment with his energy portfolio if the RAS could foster investment in rooftop solar generation. We are working with Rewiring Aotearoa, an electrification advocacy group, to develop this element of the scheme.

### Infrastructure funding and financing

In November, the Government released an [infrastructure funding and financing framework](#). This framework outlines the principles and processes underpinning the Crown's funding and financing decisions. It will have implications across water, energy, housing, climate adaptation, and transport. The framework makes it clear that the Government intends to only fund or finance projects as a last resort (and in minimal viable quantities). The Government also expects user pays and private financing to play a greater role in infrastructure funding and financing. Local government is not mentioned in this framework.

LGNZ will engage with new government agency *Infrastructure Funding and Financing Ltd (NIFFCo)* to ensure this framework is operationalised with councils in mind. Operationalising the framework will be challenging, given the substantial investment required for future infrastructure and the limitations of user-pays models in some sectors, as highlighted by the Infrastructure Commission.

We are also engaging with DIA and MHUD on their current work on changes to the development contributions system.

The Minister for Infrastructure announced changes to New Zealand's infrastructure funding and financing settings at February's All of Local Government meeting. The Government will replace development contributions with a development levy system, allowing councils to charge developers a share of long-term infrastructure costs. There will be regulatory oversight of development levies to ensure charges are fair and appropriate. Councils will also have more flexibility to set targeted rates that apply to new developments. Finally, the Infrastructure Funding and Financing (IFF) Act will be improved for developer-led projects and expanded to support major transport projects like those led by NZTA.

LGNZ has welcomed these changes, which were in our funding and financing toolkit. We will await further detail and work to ensure these reforms work effectively on the ground for councils.

### Regional deals

Instead of the initially announced approach of inviting five regions to participate, all councils were eligible to express interest in a Regional Deal by 18 December 2024.

The Minister was clear that councils should work together across a region when submitting an expression of interest. This meant providing a light-touch proposal with an outline of the drivers of economic growth in a region, what the region will do to unlock growth, and what the region needs

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 8



---

from central government to assist. These expressions of interest will be assessed, and the Infrastructure and Investment Ministerial Group will decide which regional deals proceed to the next steps, which involve a MoU process and final negotiation.

Our understanding is that new Minister may be interested in seeing more than one deal agreed by the end of 2025 (we will certainly be encouraging this), with more agreed by the end of 2026.

### Rates capping

Rates capping was a significant topic at both the November and February All-of-local-government meetings. This included presentations on the operationalisation and impacts of rates capping from local government representatives from New South Wales and Victoria (in November); and on transparency as an alternative from South Australia (in February).

In Australia, while rates capping has been effective in terms of constraining rates increases, it has failed to deliver an optimal mix of local services and rates. It has degraded council delivery and left councils increasingly financially unstable. In every overseas jurisdiction that has implemented rates capping, councils are advising us to oppose it as strongly as we can because of its negative impacts on councils' ability to deliver for communities.

We raised concerns about rates capping in meetings with numerous ministers, highlighting this policy's risks for communities and advocating for alternative measures. We are suggesting performance reporting and benchmarking should be prioritised instead – and that these would better achieve the Government's aims.

### Water services reform

The Local Government Water Services Bill was introduced in December, with submissions closing in late February. This piece of legislation will establish enduring settings for the new water services system and is expected to be enacted in mid-2025. The bill sets out arrangements for the new water services delivery system, a new economic regulation and consumer protection regime for water services, and changes to the water quality regulatory framework and the water services regulator (Taumata Arowai). To help members prepare their submissions, in December LGNZ shared an [explainer on the stage three legislation](#) with members, based on [proactively released decisions](#) on the future system. In January, we circulated a draft submission on the Local Government (Water Services) Bill for member input, and we expect to present our oral submission in March.

The Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) carried out a short consultation on levies to fund water services regulation, with submissions closing in late January. These levies will be collected from councils or their water organisations, and will fund or part fund the water services regulatory functions of Taumata Arowai and the Commerce Commission. These agencies are already empowered by legislation to charge levies in this way. Taumata Arowai proposes to recover \$20.658 million per annum for the next three years from local government through this levy, around 84% of its operating costs. The Commerce



---

Commission is seeking to recover \$6.5m per annum for the next two years from local government (or their water organisations) from their levy. They both propose to allocate these on a population basis, resulting in a total for both levies of \$5.44 per person per year.

Councils will soon start consulting on aspects of their Water Service Delivery Plans (WSDPs), which must be finalised by 3 September 2025. As councils consult their communities, for some councils it will become obvious how difficult it is for water services to be financially sustainable, especially if charges to consumers are kept low. We will support member councils by providing information, connecting members to support from DIA, and advocating for DIA to increase this support. The Minister was also clear when speaking at LGNZ's All-of-local-government event on 27 February that councils should reach out for help now rather than wait till September.

### Resource management reform

We are awaiting Cabinet decisions on the "blueprint" for new legislation to replace the Resource Management Act (RMA), which we understand was presented to the Minister Responsible for RM Reform last month.

In the meantime, the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act, and the Fast Track Approvals Act were both passed by Parliament.

In February, we submitted on the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill. This legislation progresses targeted amendments to the Resource Management Act to improve its performance while work on replacing the RMA continues. We are still awaiting the accompanying changes to National Direction, which LGNZ will also submit on.

Some councils have approached LGNZ seeking support for removing specific projects from the Fast Track process. For example, Waimate District Council has written to Ministers raising concerns about the inclusion of the proposed Waste to Energy Plant at Glenavy, primarily on the basis of environmental, health and economic impacts. While LGNZ can't lobby central government about specific projects for individual councils, this serves as another illustration of the tension between central and local government decision making. The Fast Track Approvals Bill aims to speed up consenting for major infrastructure, but the inevitable trade-off is less input from local communities on significant proposals that affect their area. We will continue to reflect this broader concern in our advocacy work.

We are currently working on a plan for how LGNZ will respond to the significant volume of consultations expected in the RM space over the next 12-18 months.

### Transport

We have surveyed Transport Forum members to get an idea of the cost of implementing the Government's new policy of variable speed limits in school areas. While councils are at varying stages in terms of quantifying the impact of this policy, early indications are that this is having a



---

significant fiscal impact on councils that are already facing significant fiscal pressure as a result of funding decisions made in the NLTP 24-27.

Transport Forum meeting dates have been locked in for 2025, and following the letter from Sam and Neil to Simon Bridges, NZTA board members Paul Dougherty and Warwick Isaacs attended the Transport Forum meeting in February.

In November, the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi released a discussion document on increasing the private share (i.e. the portion of fares not subsidised by central or local government) of public transport operating expenditure, and wrote to regional councils suggesting specific targets for this share. This had been signalled in both the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and the National Land Transport Programme, both of which were released earlier in 2024. The Regional Sector and LGNZ have raised concerns about the impact on passenger fares in the media and with Ministers.

The new Transport Minister also holds the Housing, Infrastructure, and RM Reform portfolios, presenting significant opportunities for alignment. We have secured a meeting with Minister Bishop in March and also have briefed him in writing on the LGNZ Transport Forum, which met on 10 February and discussed how best to work with the new Minister.

The Government's 2025 Q1 action plan commits to passing the first reading of the Land Transport Management (Time of Use Charging) Bill. This bill, which was introduced last year, would enable time of use charging (aka congestion charging). This is one of our tier one funding and financing tools and LGNZ will be submitting on this legislation: the model adopted needs to give councils as much flexibility as possible.

### Climate change

In November, the Office of the Auditor General has released a report [How well four councils are responding to a changing climate](#). The report highlights that climate change poses significant challenges for councils, requiring long-term strategies, governance clarity, and collaboration. While the four councils audited have taken steps to prioritise climate action, gaps remain in embedding these priorities into planning and resourcing. Recommendations include enhancing collaboration, setting clear climate objectives, strengthening performance measures, ensuring governance clarity, and improving public reporting. The Auditor-General encouraged all councils to consider these recommendations.

On 29 January, the Government published its [response](#) to the Finance and Expenditure Committee's inquiry into climate adaptation (which outlined high-level objectives and principles to guide development of New Zealand's climate change adaptation policy framework). The response signalled the Government intends to adopt a decentralised approach to climate adaptation, with decision-making and resource allocation occurring at the most-local level possible. This suggests residents and councils will generally bear the cost of adaptation. LGNZ will keep advocating for councils to be provided with adequate funding and policy tools to meet adaptation obligations. The Government has said it will consider the committee's recommendations as it finalises the adaptation framework and associated legislation, which is expected to be introduced this year.

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 11



**Electoral Reform Working Group**

Thank you for all your feedback on the Working Group’s issues paper, which has been taken into account by the group in developing a draft position.

Mayor Nick Smith will be launching the Electoral Reform Working Group’s draft position paper in March, including presenting to all zone meetings to get your feedback. As well as looking at a four-year parliamentary term, the group has also been looking at the unsustainability of postal voting and considering alternatives.

**Other policy issues**

**Earthquake prone buildings**

The steering group set up by MBIE to inform its comprehensive review of the seismic strengthening system has had its first meeting, with Nigel Bowen, Helen Craig, and Liam Hodgetts (all put forward by LGNZ) providing a local government voice at the table.

LGNZ has also set up our own informal Seismic Strengthening Group, chaired by Manawatū deputy mayor Michael Ford, which met for the first time in late November. This was a positive meeting that underscored what members want from the Government’s comprehensive review of the seismic strengthening regime. This group will meet on an as-needed basis to help guide LGNZ’s response to the Government’s review, and to support wider advocacy for the remit from Manawatū District Council passed in 2023.

**Stalking**

We produced [a submission](#) on the Crimes Legislation (Stalking and Harassment) Amendment Bill, which introduces a new stalking and harassment offence and other measures to reduce the harm that victims experience. In our 2022 survey of elected members, 43% had experienced harassment, prejudice, threatening or derogatory behaviours in their role. Aggressive and abusive behaviours can constitute stalking – or be a precursor to it – and we want to see elected members better protected.

**Update on 2024 remits**

Remit	Progress update
<p><b>Appropriate funding models for central government initiatives</b> That LGNZ proactively promote and lobby for the development of a more equitable and appropriate funding model for central government initiatives.</p>	<p>This remit is being progressed as part of the wider funding and financing work programme (and is a core objective of this work).</p>
<p><b>GST revenue sharing with local Government</b> That LGNZ be proactive in lobbying central government on sharing GST revenue with local</p>	<p>This remit is being progressed as part of the wider funding and financing work programme. We understand the Government is looking at</p>

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 12



<p>government, derived from local government rates and service fees related flood protection mitigation, roading, and three waters, for investment in these areas.</p>	<p>alternatives to this policy (such as more enabling changes) and will consider advice on this later this year.</p>
<p><b>Local Government Māori Wards and Constituencies should not be subject to a referendum</b> That LGNZ lobbies central government to ensure that Māori wards and constituencies are treated the same as all other wards in that they should not be subject to a referendum. We oppose the idea that Māori wards should be singled out and forced to suffer a public referendum.</p>	<p>Now that legislation has been passed, we know that 42 councils will be holding a referendum on Māori wards. See the separate National Council paper on Māori wards, which discusses how LGNZ will support Te Maruata and the wider membership around the referendums and elections broadly.</p>
<p><b>Proactive lever to mitigate the deterioration of unoccupied buildings</b> That LGNZ advocate to Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For legislative change enabling local authorities to compel building owners to remediate unoccupied derelict buildings and sites that have deteriorated to a state where they negatively impact the amenity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• To incentivise repurposing vacant buildings to meet region-specific needs, for example, accommodation conversion.</li> </ul>	<p>Late last year we had an initial discussion with Gisborne District Council to determine the work programme for progressing this remit, which was also discussed at the first meeting of the LGNZ Seismic Strengthening Group. Information from GDC is currently being used to develop a work programme.</p>
<p><b>Representation Reviews</b> That LGNZ advocate for changes that support the provision of timely and accurate regional and sub-regional population data to councils for use in council representation reviews.</p>	<p>Statistics NZ is reviewing the methodology for the 2028 census. We are monitoring this process in case it provides an opportunity to progress this remit. A move to a four-year term, which we are actively lobbying for, would require a change in the timings of representation reviews so this remit is also informing the thinking of the Electoral Reform Working Group.</p>
<p><b>Community Services Card</b> That LGNZ advocate to Central Government to amend the Health Entitlement Cards Regulations 1993 so that the cardholder can use the Community Services Card as evidence for the purposes of accessing Council services which would otherwise rely on a form of means testing.</p>	<p>We wrote to relevant Ministers asking that councils be allowed to make use of the Community Services Card when offering discounts to council facilities. We have yet to receive a response. We also put out a media release, which got good coverage, and engaged via social media.</p>
<p><b>Graduated Licensing System</b> That LGNZ advocate for changes to the fee structure for driver licensing, better preparing young people for driver licence testing, and greater testing</p>	<p>MTFJ has agreed to progress this remit because it relates to its work with the Driving Change Network.</p>

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 13





---

capacity in key locations throughout New Zealand, in order to relieve pressure on the driver licensing system and ensure testing can be conducted in a quick and efficient manner.	
--	--



---

## Connect

### 2025 calendar

We released a [final version of the 2025 calendar](#) in early December (though this remains subject to change if the need arises).

### Vote25

In December, we shared our [free Vote25 toolkit](#) with member councils. This includes a set of creative assets that councils can customise, such as posters and social media tiles. The campaign covers all three phases: register to vote; stand for election; and vote.

### All-of-local-government meetings

The November meeting, with a strong programme that focused on local government reform, drew more than 170 members. It was an opportunity to lay the foundations for stronger advocacy on key parts of reform in local government, such as rates capping. At that event we also launched the funding and financing toolkit discussed above, which gained strong media coverage.

February's All-of-local-government meeting focused on accountability and demonstrating value, with more than 180 members attending. Government speakers included Local Government and Climate Change Minister Simon Watts; Infrastructure, Transport, RMA Reform and Housing Minister Chris Bishop; and RMA Reform and Infrastructure Parliamentary Under-Secretary Simon Court. This was Minister Watt's first chance to address a large local government gathering in this role, and he set out his intention to work in partnership with local government while delivering on the reform agenda. Our guest speaker from South Australia's local government association shared how they managed to convince their government to not implement rates capping by implementing greater transparency; an advocacy approach that LGNZ is also taking.

The theme of the 1 May meeting is delivering infrastructure for growth. Confirmed speakers so far include Minister Chris Bishop and former Minister Steven Joyce – we'll be releasing the programme and inviting registrations in March. As usual, individual Regional, Metro and Rural & Provincial Sector meetings will happen on the following day.

### Metro Sector

The Metro Sector meetings on 22 November and 28 February confirmed the group's focus areas for the remainder of the current electoral term, as follows:

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 15



1. Enabling and supporting economic development and growth by showcasing the role of cities as engines of the national economy and driving regional collaboration.
2. Lift LGNZ governance and accountability in order to improve LGNZ's impact.
3. Improve alignment of central and local government investment cycles to reduce inefficiencies and encourage more bipartisan agreement on key infrastructure decisions.

### Regional Sector and Te Uru Kahika

The final meeting of the Regional Sector for the year included engagement with Hon Mark Mitchell, the Minister for Emergency Management, a discussion with Hon Simon Upton, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment on water and land use roles, and discussions on Taumata Arowai's stormwater performance standards and phase 3 of resource management system reforms.

LGNZ has met new Te Uru Kahika Executive Director Iain Maxwell to welcome him on board and build on the positive relationship we enjoyed with his predecessor Liz Lambert. We work closely to coordinate Regional Sector meetings and collaborate on policy work.

February's Regional Sector meeting included new Transport Minister Chris Bishop, Taumata Arowai on wastewater performance standards, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on significant natural hazard events and recovery settings. This meeting also welcomed new Taranaki Regional Council Chair Craig Williamson, with Cr Charlotte Littlewood recently standing down from the Chair position.

### Rural & Provincial

February's R&P meeting canvassed a number of areas impacting rural and provincial councils, with Local Water Done Well a key topic on people's minds, as well as new wastewater standards. The Department of Internal Affairs and Taumata Arowai spoke at the first R&P event of the year and took questions. Rural health was also a big topic so we had speakers address growing concerns over access to health in our rural communities and provided some examples of the hands-on role some councils are playing to bridge the gap. The Roading Efficiency Group also delivered a presentation.

Minister Chris Bishop used our February event as a platform to announce some major changes to local government funding and financing as part of his Going for Housing Growth programme. The event wrapped up with a session with KPMG's infrastructure financing expert Karen Mitchell on infrastructure funding and financing options such as using debt and PPPs.

### SuperLocal25

Planning for SuperLocal25, which is from 16-17 July at the Te Pae Convention Centre, is well underway: the conference's theme will be Brilliant Basics and Beyond. We are currently finalising the programme and will open registrations in April.

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 16



Based on feedback from SuperLocal24, we have compressed the programme so that the event starts much earlier on the first day (the AGM will be at 8.30am on the Wednesday) and wraps up with the awards dinner on the Thursday night. This leaves Friday for visits to the wider region or travel home. Te Maruata and Young Elected Member hui will be held on Tuesday, before the conference, and there will be a breakfast for Women in Local Government at 7am on the Wednesday morning before the AGM.

### Te Ao Māori

#### Iwi engagement

Waitangi presented new opportunities for engagement, thanks to LGNZ's representation by National Council. The Iwi Chairs Forum held one of their conferences ahead of the Waitangi commemorations at Waitangi, which allowed us to continue building that relationship as well as with Northland Iwi, hapū and whanau. It was the first year we were formally included in a pōwhiri at Waitangi, alongside the legislature, diplomats and the Waitangi Tribunal.

#### Te Maruata

Te Maruata met early in November to reflect on 2024 and look forward to 2025. The Treaty Principles Bill and broader election-related issues, including how to support members, were also a hot topic. Te Maruata also provided support to LGNZ's participation at Waitangi.

Te Maruata Rōpū whakahaere will hold its first official meeting of the year at the beginning of March. The focus will be on fleshing out plans for Elections 2025, preparations for Te huinga o ngā roma – the in-person whānui hui in April – and plans for the Te Maruata hui at SuperLocal25.

Te huinga o ngā roma will be held from 3-4 April in Taupo. Te huinga o ngā roma acknowledges the tributaries of Lake Taupō and the role of water in the revitalisation and connection of people and place, which will ground the event. There will be a range of inspiring speakers, workshops and discussions to equip, support and inspire members.

### Young Elected Members Network

The annual YEM Hui took place in Christchurch from 16-18 October. It was held there despite Christchurch City Council's decision to withdraw from LGNZ, because the YEM Committee had 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. We also had former YEM Lan Pham from the Greens and Cameron Luxton from the ACT Party give their perspectives on how to deliver for communities.



Tikanga sessions were organised to support members to prepare for the whakatau at the commencement of their hui.

Planning is now underway to work through how the YEM network want to address voter turnout and get more young people to stand in the next local election.

The YEM Committee met at the end of February to develop a plan for the elections – this includes how to get more young people to stand and vote, as well as induction material specific to supporting YEMs. We will also be holding a three-hour YEM hui before SuperLocal25.

### Community Boards

The Community Board Executive Committee met in early November and again in February. The committee welcomed a new member, Ross Munro from Pleasant Point community board (who replaces Simon Britten who stepped down due to Christchurch City withdrawing from LGNZ).

The meeting reflected on discussions with the Remuneration Authority on the formula for setting community board remuneration and an option for recognising and compensating boards which have additional responsibilities.

CBEC is keen to strengthen alignment with both YEM and Te Maruata, and also discussed using Ākōna for community board members and community board induction, and the impact of representation reviews and on community boards

CBEC is continuing to work on its Relationship Agreement guide for councils and community boards, with a draft available soon for consultation. CBEC is also working on a community board workshop session for SuperLocal25; providing support to boards going through representation reviews; and liaising with the Remuneration Authority ahead of its review of elected members' remuneration.

### Women in Local Government

Last year we brought women elected members together online and in person at SuperLocal24 (at a pre-conference lunch with keynote speaker Nicola Willis). We've had a lot of feedback that this work is valuable and should continue. As a result, we've developed a plan for this work that includes creating opportunities to connect; advocacy for system change that improves all elected members' safety (like submitting in support of the stalking legislation currently before Parliament); and championing this work.

### Member visits

Susan and Sam are on track to have visited all councils since Sam became President, with the last visits scheduled in early 2025. For the remainder of the triennium, we will have a structured programme of calling Mayors and CEs (by Susan and Scott) as well as ad hoc visits/calls as needed.

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 18



## Support

### Ākona

We are seeing an increase in users as members realise how comprehensive it is, and that they can use it to suit their needs. Ākona has about 500 active users, with 42 users choosing to engage with the platform over the summer break. Over 200 users have made use of the skills analysis tool and 483 members have enjoyed the top five e-modules.

Between November and February, we held six Ako hours attracting a total of 184 registrations – and many individual registrations were for groups attending together.

The value of Ākona to councils continues to grow. An interactive professional development platform with 15 Ako hours and 22 courses would cost about \$1.2 million if you paid for it commercially.

The Induction 2025 pre-elected package of learning is on track for release at the end of March. This package teaches people about what it means to be an elected member, including what councils actually do, and will include a series of animated videos, along with interactive e-modules. You'll be able to share this pre-elected package with anyone interested in standing for council (they don't have to be members).

The Mayor Induction Hui and EM Induction hui around the country have been booked and details released to councils, which have welcomed the early communication. We'll also be holding a Chair Induction Hui after regional councils have elected their chairs.

The Ako Hour Academy, which will provide post-induction learning for all elected members, is being built collaboratively with members, in our governance bi-monthly hui. The response has been very positive, with everyone we have spoken to committing to weaving Ākona into local induction activities. Our Learning and Development Manager is meeting with each council in turn to discuss what materials they could upload into the new Ākona platform so it's a one-stop shop for all elected member learning.

### Te Korowai – CouncilMARK

Te Korowai has progressed from three successful trials to a soft launch.

We are now seeking registrations of interest for participation in Te Korowai in 2025. There are multiple ways to engage with the programme:

- **Full programme cycle:** This includes an independent assessment by external assessors, an evaluation by the independent evaluation panel, and a development workshop following the evaluation report.
- **Integrity survey:** This serves as a stepping stone for councils wanting to assess their ability to function with integrity. Similar to an engagement survey, it involves an organisation-wide

---

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 19



---

rollout — including elected members — followed by an in-person workshop to discuss the findings.

### Roading Efficiency Group

LGNZ is a founding partner of the Road Efficiency Group Te Ringa Maimoa (REG) sector partnership, which is entering its 12<sup>th</sup> year. We welcome the continued collaboration with RCAs and support REG in rolling out a number of exciting initiatives:

- A new governance dashboard in the Transport Insights web portal that provides elected members with valuable insight into the performance and benchmarking of their road network and RCA – [www.transportinsights.nz](http://www.transportinsights.nz)
- An extensive learning and development programme to continue to raise capability.
- Delivering the Consistent Condition Data Collection project, which captures surface condition data for all sealed roads for local authorities.

Learn more at [www.nzta.govt.nz/reg](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/reg)

### Governance support

The 2025-2028 edition of the LGNZ standing orders template was [published in late December](#). This version has been updated to include recent legislation and additional principles. It's also been redrafted in plain English. As we have done previously, three templates have been developed, one for city and district councils, one for regional councils and one for community boards.

The 2025-2028 Guide to Standing Orders will be published in March. It has been updated and expanded with additional guidance, including:

- Advice on implementing the Ombudsman's Guidance on public access to workshops;
- More information on delegations and setting agendas;
- Guidance on issues that emerged in the last term, such as using co-chairs and vacating the chair;
- Protocols for webcasting and people joining meetings remotely; and
- Templates for parental leave and childcare policies.

LGNZ continues to provide support to a number of councils experiencing tension between elected members and/or between elected members and CEs.

**Hon Mark Mitchell**

Minister of Corrections  
Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery  
Minister for Ethnic Communities  
Minister of Police  
Minister for Sport and Recreation



REF: EM COR 2024-25-067

March 6 2025

Mayor Andy Watson  
Rangitikei District Council  
Karen.Cowper@rangitikei.govt.nz

Dear Andy,

Thank you for your letter dated 12 February 2025 regarding potential funding for a new IL4 building in Marton. I can assure you that the Government is committed to strengthening New Zealand's emergency management system. You will also know that the Government is operating in a tight fiscal environment and is balancing competing demands (e.g. health, education, law and order) on the funding it administers on behalf of New Zealanders.

Currently there are no dedicated central funds accessible to Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups for Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) or Emergency Coordination Centres (ECCs).

You will be aware that the Government released its response to the Government Inquiry into the North Island Weather Events (the Inquiry) in October last year. We are in the middle of developing new emergency management legislation and an investment roadmap to support this.

In response to recommendation 7 of the Inquiry we are committed to a series of priority actions to improve the emergency management system, including enabling system interoperability and fit-for-purpose ECCs in each region.

A key area for the Government is enabling the different parts of the system to work better together at the national level. This includes establishing a new National Emergency Management Facility (NEMF) in Wellington, and work on a backup in Auckland. We know that the NEMF must be able to link to regional ECCs, which must also be fit for purpose.

My specific focus is on making sure the Government delivers through building leadership, community capability and capacity, and clearer accountability. We are still working through options and are yet to consider or make decisions on the investment and implementation roadmap.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Mark Mitchell'.

Hon. Mark Mitchell  
**Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery**



Date	Meeting	HWTM	Wilson	Carter	Dalgety	Duncan	Hiroa	Lambert	Loudon	Maughan	Sharland	Raukawa	Wong	Notes
12-Dec-24	Council Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
12-Dec-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
19-Dec-24	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
22-Jan-25	Bulls CC	CB		PR							AT	CB		
10-Feb-25	HRWS	PR			PR			AP						
10-Feb-25	Huntermville CC	PR			PR			AP						
11-Feb-25	TRAK Hui	PR				AP	PR					PR		
11-Feb-25	Ratana CB	PR					AP							
12-Feb-25	Taihape CB	PR				PR							PR	
12-Feb-25	Marton CC	CB	PR											
13-Feb-25	AIN Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	AP	PR		PR	
13-Feb-25	Policy / Planning	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR		AP	
13-Feb-25	Turakina CC	PR		PR										
25-Feb-25	Hearings Committee	PR			PR					AT				
26-Feb-25	Finance / Performance	PR	PR	PR	PR				PR	PR	PR		PR	
26-Feb-25	Council Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	AP	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
4-Mar-25	ERWS	PR								AP			PR	
6-Mar-25	Workshop	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	
12-Mar-25	Bulls CC	PR		PR							AT	PR		
13-Mar-25	AIN Meeting	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	
13-Mar-25	PPL Hearing	PR	PR			PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR		PR	
19-Mar-25	RA Meeting	PR	PR		PR		AP		PR					

Present (and is a member of the committee) PR  
 Apology AP  
 Absent - no apology received AB  
 Not a member of the committee  
 Not a member of the committee (but still attended) AT  
 Not present as on Council business CB  
 Attended via Zoom [this indicator is no longer used] ZM

**MAYORS REPORT TO COUNCIL 27 MARCH 2025 - ADDITIONAL TABLED REPORT**

Good Morning

I apologise that this is tabled rather than being part of the Order Paper.

Council has been exceptionally busy over the last month with many national level meetings for Mayors and Councillors and we continue to grapple with the relationship building around Local Water Done Well. In my earlier report I had said that the turnout for LWDW public meetings was incredibly low and at the time of writing that was the case. The meetings in Bulls and Taihape attracted less than 10 people combined. I thank that handful of people. However the meeting in Marton subsequent to me writing my report was the exception, turnout was huge possibly also boosted by the street collection of rubbish issues.

Recently Council has made the decision to partially fund the pick-up of rubbish i.e. wheelibins and bags across the district following a local company ceasing trading. The Deputy Mayor and I met with senior staff essentially saying we were not prepared for this rubbish to be left to be scattered around our streets or potentially dumped wherever. That did come at a cost and it was a short term fix. Wheelibins and bag collection are a private matter between the property and private contractors and I urge everyone to either take up current contractors' offers that are available now or to use the Transfer Stations directly. Information on this is available on our websites. My thoughts also go to the owners and staff of the company that is in liquidation. They have provided a service for a large number of years, are huge contributors to our district and I feel for them.

Equally for Marton residents, Council has provided a water tanker at the Memorial Hall over the last few weeks to assist with the seasonal odour/taste issues. That has come to an end but the filter station on site will continue to still be available. This will be the last summer when these issues exist, with the transition to bore water happening this winter. This decades old issue of poor tasting water in Marton will soon be behind us.

There are a number of other issues I wish to further comment on.

1. On 18 March I attended an Infrastructure Resilience Symposium in Auckland chaired by Angela Young from Tonkin + Taylor. I will try and make available the presentations but I add these comments now.
  - i) The conference opening comments were from Nick Leggett CE Infrastructure New Zealand and also Chair of Wellington Water. He said this conference is about the need for a national resilience structure to support New Zealand. He stated that "as defined by Lloyds of London we are second to Bangladesh in countries susceptible to national disasters". Think here of Gabrielle, Christchurch etc.
  - ii) The next speaker was Reid Basher a specialist in National Disaster Risk Management. He qualified the scale of the issue in regards to costs for recent events -
    - Canterbury earthquake - \$40b estimate
    - Leaky homes - \$47b estimate
    - Covid - \$58b estimate
    - Gabrielle - \$10b estimate

- New Zealand's debt now sits at \$192b whereas in 2015 it was \$60b.
  - He also noted that you can have significant events such as a 7.8 earthquake shake in Fiordland that caused very little collateral damage – imagine the effect when this happens off the East Coast of the North Island.
  - He then moved onto how you would reduce these disaster risks which are by way of –
    - a) Knowledge/data
    - b) Best practices in construction etc
    - c) Policy/Bylaws, i.e. politics – this is about not building in high risk (flood prone) areas and learning the lessons from the past.
  - He commented that at the time of the event there is always significant interest but post-disaster lessons are forgotten and the invisibility of risks sits there for decades.
  - We as a sector are scared of policy positions because they then threaten property values.
  - He finished by saying that New Zealand has 33 national risks identified.
- iii) Chris Bishop Minister of Infrastructure - his comments were –
- There is a need for a transparent model in New Zealand for who pays for risk management.
  - Risk management is about safeguarding our economy.
  - We have two options – invest to protect; or to insure.
  - 4% of our national GDP is tied to natural hazards.
  - We need to deal with these issues and to highlight to overseas investors that New Zealand is a good place to invest.
  - Our asset management risk processes are poor, partly because of our ageing infrastructure.
  - He gave the example of a \$40m pipe in Wellington buried but not connected and not listed on any asset management plan.
  - His message was clear – work out what we own and how we should look after it and replace it.
  - We have an adhoc response to disaster crises i.e. bespoke political solutions. It leaves councils/districts thinking why should we invest to mitigate if Government will just turn up. This is, I think, partially unfair – think of our roading partnerships with Government and our Local Government share of GDP and our ability to fund.
  - He also criticised Government “We have too many Government people across risk management/civil defence, there is a spaghetti junction of linkages that needs to be sorted”.
  - Government is looking to co-invest with councils using Shayne Jones' fund to protect communities and for relatively small sums of money the payback is huge. (Think of stopbank funding here for Horizons in our region).
  - Minister Bishop talked enthusiastically about PPP (Private Public Partnerships) where there is the ability to lock in processes and costs over a long time. Where buildings etc are maintained by companies who have an interest in them. These build/design/maintain contracts are becoming more widely used in New Zealand.

- He ended with a couple of one-off notes “the RMA should be suspended in times of national disaster” and “that water decisions (LWDW) have been made in New Zealand by politicians rather than by good decision makers, i.e. people with professional expertise”.
- iv) Simon Watts – Minister of Climate Change/Local Government/Minister of Energy
- Speech was on party lines i.e. New Zealand is open to investment and we need to encourage GDP growth.
  - Simon built further on the cost of natural disasters to New Zealand.
  - He is looking to build a national policy on climate change resilience in conjunction with the opposition parties.
  - Adopting to climate change is a long term challenge and there is a desperate need for data.
  - He touched on city/regional deals as a partnership between local/central Government which are 10 year deal structures.
  - He talked about the success of Auckland Water dispelling the myths that are out there in the country.
- v) Panel Discussion – Stuart Smith MP Kaikōura / Simon Court working on RMA reform as a Minister / Kieran McAnulty Opposition Minister of Infrastructure / Chloe Swarbrick Green Party Co-leader
- Cyclone Gabrielle involved many neighbouring districts and in the past the Civil Defence model relied on support from your neighbours. I recognised this as a very good point.
  - Unfortunately this session became tit-for-tat between the relevant political parties i.e. Greens/Labour -vs- Government which was a real pity because it had the potential to be a very very good session.
  - The blame was levelled on Local Government for rate increases -vs- the ability for Local Government to be able to fund itself.
  - A disappointing session but one where Chloe spoke very well compared to the others.
- vi) Jo Hendy – CE Climate Change Commission
- Highlighted the effects of climate change and talked about businesses closing when power goes down (mill closures etc).
  - People will look to migrate to New Zealand under international climate change effects.
  - Food will become more expensive.
  - Climatic events leverage off previous events i.e. a severe drought makes you far more susceptible to floods.
  - Cited the advantages of councils restoring wetlands/solar farms noting that for every dollar spent now it saves \$10 later.
- vii) Aotearoa Futures – Social Cultural Adaption for Resilience – speakers Dr Alanga Rā, Director for Social Investment WSP and Dr Rowan Dixson WSP
- Mana Whenua is often better placed to lead discussions on Climate Change, they are more aligned to the value for the dollar, they are more versatile and react faster in times of disaster.

- Governments will come and go but Iwi will always be there.
  - The Maori population percentage will continue to rise in New Zealand and they have a patient mindset to investment.
- viii) Panel discussion regarding Roading Transport - Vanessa Brown NZTA as lead -
- A limited supply of Government funding and Local Government funding is under pressure.
  - The conversations here were about roads that should not be replaced noting that people elect to live in remote areas and then expect connection.
- ix) The symposium continued with presentations on telecommunication resilience and energy security
- A takeout was that technology is the fourth strand of infrastructure i.e. very similar to the need for having roads.
  - The energy security looked at 90% of New Zealand electricity being from renewable sources, demand is dramatically increasing with electric cars and companies wanting to convert boilers to electricity for national political reasons. The winter storage lakes levels in 2024 were publicly realised to be very low, in 2025 they are potentially worse.
- x) This was a session on who pays for climate change lead by Jonathan Boston from the Wellington School of Business
- The biggest single issue is sea level rise
  - National disasters in 2024 cost an estimated \$320b USD worldwide
  - Talked about the sea level rises in New Zealand - by 2100 it will probably be about 70cm.
  - An example cited was the potential need for the relocation of Westport a town of 4000 residents which would come at a current cost of \$2b.
  - It is seen that the assistance for business owners is less than that of residents.
  - Rental units and second homes should not get as much assistance?? / effectively this is means testing.
  - Those that need relocation see themselves as victims not beneficiaries.
- xi) Final speaker Chris Faafoi CE of Insurance Council
- There is a 75% chance of a magnitude 8 earthquake occurring over the next 50 years.
  - Collectively the Insurance Council covers \$2 trillion of New Zealand assets.
  - There are 8400 FTEs working in the industry.
  - Last year the industry paid out 78% of its income.
  - Insurance in the future will not be available on flood plains.
  - Banks will not lend without insurance so why would council zone flood plains for urban.

**10.4 Updates from Taihape Community Development Trust**

**Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor**

**ITEM 10.4**

**1. Reason for Report**

1.1 Standing item to provide updates from the Taihape Community Development Trust.

**Recommendation**

That the Updates from Taihape Community Development Trust be received.

**10.5 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.
  - 1.1.1 Taihape Town Hall and Library update
  - 1.1.2 Chorus update
  - 1.1.3 Accountability report for grant funding for Carols by Candlelight 2024
  - 1.1.4 Horizons Passenger Transport Committee

**Recommendation**

That the inward correspondence be received.

**10.6 Consultation Tracker - March****Author: Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor****ITEM 10.6****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 March** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the report 'Consultation Tracker - March' be received.



**2025 Consultation Tracker**

Rangitikei District Council



Project	Staff Lead	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25
<b>Gambling Policy / TAB Venues</b>	Janna	Consultation 27th Jan - 21 Feb		Hearing - 13 Mar									
<b>Local Water Done Well</b>	Arno	Adoption of Consultation doc - 26th Feb		Consultation 5th March - 2nd April		Deliberations - 22 May							
<b>District Plan Review</b> Urban Growth Plan Change	Tiffany	Engagement Mar - Apr							Notification				
<b>Annual Plan</b> Fees & Charges	Janna Janna	Adoption of CD & draft annual plan - 27 Mar		Consultation 4 April - 5 May		Hearing - 15 May		Deliberations - 5 June					
<b>Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy</b>	Janna/Bryan	Adopt of draft consultation - 27 Mar		Consultation as part of Annual Plan		Hearing - 15 May		Deliberations - 5 June					
<b>Waste Minimisation Plan</b>	Arno/Raj	Adoption of draft WMMP - 27 Mar		Consultation as part of Annual Plan		Hearing - 15 May		Deliberations - 5 June					
<b>Marton-Bulls Wastewater Strategy</b>	Arno					Adoption		Consultation					
<b>Local Body Elections</b>	Katrina					National, regional, local campaign			Pre-election period - no campaign comms		Election		
Māori Wards Referendum	Katrina					National, regional, local campaign					Election		
<b>Rātana Road Naming (landowners only)</b>	Katrina	Consultation											
<b>Bulls Recreation Master Plan</b>	Katrina			Engagement									

ITEM 10.6 ATTACHMENT 1

**10.7 Funding Schemes Update - March 2025****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 opened on the 01 February 25 and closes 31 March 25. Decisions will be made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 15 April 25.

**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 opened on the 01 February 25 and closes 31 March 25. Decisions will be made at the Community Grants Committee meeting on the 15 April 25.

#### 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 two for 2024/25 opened on the 10 December 24 and will close on the 10 April 25. Decision will be made on the 28 May 25.

#### 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 on the 15 April 25.

#### 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>

**ITEM 10.7**

**Recommendation**

That the Funding Schemes Update – March 2025 be received.

## 11 Discussion Items

### 11.1 Where's Annual Plan & Co @ Rangitīkei?

Author: Sophia Sykes, Communications Manager

#### 1. Where's Annual Plan and Co @ Rangitīkei?

- 1.1 From Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Rangitīkei District Council are consulting on the Annual Plan 2025/26. This document outlines how Rangitīkei District Council plans to prioritise its time and resources in the 2025/26 financial year.
- 1.2 As part of this consultation, we are also asking for community feedback on:

#### 2. The Rangitīkei District Waste Management and Minimisation Plan

- 2.1 Council has a legislative requirement to review its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) every 6 years. This plan sets out the vision, objective and goals for minimising and managing waste in the Rangitīkei.
- 2.2 The proposed approach to managing and minimising waste is not significantly different from the 2018-24 WMMP. The proposed vision has been updated to better reflect the New Zealand Waste Strategy. This proposed vision is *'To maintain a healthy and protected environment for Rangitīkei by reducing our impact on the environment.'* Three new goals have also been drafted to help Rangitīkei achieve this vision.

#### 3. Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2025/26

- 3.1 Council reviews its Schedule of Fees and Charges every year. Some fees and charges are set by legislation and therefore remain unchanged. Other fees and charges have been increased to reflect the actual cost increase of delivering that service. The remaining fees and charges have been increased by 2.3%, the CPI index provided by BERL before being rounded.
- 3.2 In addition, a number of changes outside this scope have been proposed as outlined below.

#### 4. Cemeteries

- 4.1 A full review of the cemeteries fees and charges has taken place. The price of purchasing plots and interment fees have increased to cover the costs of creating and maintaining these plots. Of note stillborn and infants up to the age of one will now receive a plot free of charge and will continue to be interred for free. Children over one years old are proposed to be charged under an "All Plots" category. The Rose Berm Mt View and monumental permit are also proposed to be removed.

#### 5. Regulatory

- 5.1 New seizure and rehoming fees are proposed to cover the cost of seizing and rehoming animals.
- 5.2 A charge has been included to allow alcohol licensees to put their public notice on Council's website instead of going in the newspaper, providing them a cheaper option.

#### 6. Three waters connection

## ITEM 11.1

- 6.1 A new connection fee will be charged to cover administration and inspection costs for any new water, stormwater and wastewater service connection.
- 6.2 A new bond will also be added for any new connection. This bond would be fully refundable if this work does not damage Council roads or footpaths.
- 6.3 The definition of extraordinary water users has been updated to capture any residential property with a pool.

**7. Roothing**

- 7.1 A new bond is proposed for new vehicle crossings. This bond will be fully refundable if this work does not damage Council roads or footpaths.

**8. Hall Charges**

- 8.1 The structure of the hire costs of the hall and meeting rooms at Te Matapihi has been simplified.
- 8.2 All other meeting rooms and halls for hire in the district have been updated to have the same discount structure for multi-hour and not-for-profit bookings.

**9. Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Building Policy**

- 9.1 The Building Act 2004 requires Council to review its policy on dangerous, affected and insanitary buildings every 5 years. This policy provides Council with a means to ensure that dangerous and insanitary buildings are improved to meet building code standards, and affected buildings do not pose a risk to occupants.
- 9.2 All supporting material and draft documents for 'Where's Annual Plan & Co @ Rangitikei' can be found on our website: [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-annualplan-andco](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-annualplan-andco)
- 9.3 We encourage community leaders to take this consultation as an opportunity to connect with the Rangitikei communities they serve. Council welcomes feedback from anyone who calls Rangitikei home. Submission forms can be found on our website ([www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-annualplan-andco](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-annualplan-andco)) or picked up from local Rangitikei Community Hubs.

## **11.2 Workshops for 2025**

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

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

1.1 Item requested by the Chair.

1.1.1 Suggestions at present: Utiku Ohingaiti and Taoroa

### **Recommendation**

If needed:

**11.3 Traffic Issues**

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

**ITEM 11.3**

- 1. Reason for Report**
- 2. This item was requested by the Chair:**
  - 2.1 Huia/Hautapu St intersection
  - 2.2 Gretna intersection: Islands and Signage
  - 2.3 Paradise Terrace T-Junction; Installation of a Mirror
  - 2.4 Toilet Signage to Nga Awa;
  - 2.5 Pedestrian Patrol at school times on both major crossings:
  - 2.6 Footpath near Brown Sugar café. Irregular surfaces.

**Recommendation**

If needed:



**12 Meeting Closed.**