



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

# ORDER PAPER

## TE RŌPŪ AHI KĀ MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 8 April 2025  
**Time:** 11.00am  
**Venue:** Council Chamber  
Rangitikei District Council  
46 High Street  
Marton

---

**Tumuaki:** Ms Piki Te Ora Hiroa, (Ngāti Whitikaupeka)

**Tumuaki Tuarua:** Ms Kim Savage (Ngāti Parewahawaha)

**Nga mema:** Mr Chris Shenton (Ngāti Kauae/Tauira), Mr Thomas Curtis (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauiti), Ms Marj Heeney (Ngāi Te Ohuake), Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri), Ms Leanne Hiroti, (Ngā Ariki Turakina), Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangī), Ms Grace Taiaroa (Rātana Pā), Mr Jordan Winiata-Haines (Ngāti Hinemanu/Ngāti Paki), Cr Coral Raukawa, Cr Gill Duncan, 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 style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Marton</u>            Head Office            46 High Street            Marton         </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Bulls</u>            Bulls Information Centre            Te Matapihi            4 Criterion Street            Bulls         </td> <td style="width: 33%; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Taihape</u>            Taihape Information Centre            102 Hautapu Street (SH1)            Taihape         </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Marton</u> Head Office 46 High Street Marton	<u>Bulls</u> Bulls Information Centre Te Matapihi 4 Criterion Street Bulls	<u>Taihape</u> Taihape Information Centre 102 Hautapu Street (SH1) Taihape
<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 Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting of the Rangitīkei District Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Rangitīkei District Council, 46 High Street, Marton on Tuesday, 8 April 2025 at 11.00am.**

## **Order Of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Karakia / Prayer</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>13</b>
	7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings .....	13
<b>8</b>	<b>Chair's Report</b> .....	<b>15</b>
	8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui April 2025 .....	15
<b>9</b>	<b>Reports for Information</b> .....	<b>16</b>
	9.1 Report from Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor .....	16
	9.2 Local Water Done Well.....	19
	9.3 Economic Strategy Update .....	22
	9.4 External Consultations Update.....	25
	9.5 Project Updates Report - March 2025 .....	30
	9.6 Mayor's Report - 27 March 2025 .....	35
<b>10</b>	<b>Discussion Items</b> .....	<b>75</b>
	10.1 Where's Annual Plan & Co @ Rangitīkei? .....	75
<b>11</b>	<b>Meeting Closed.</b> .....	<b>77</b>

## AGENDA

### 1 Karakia / Prayer

### 2 Apologies

### 3 Public Forum

### 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

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

### 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

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

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

### 6.1 Confirmation of Minutes

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

1.1 The minutes from **Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 10 December 2024** are attached.

#### Attachments

1. **Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting - 10 December 2024**

#### Recommendation

That the minutes of Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meeting held on 10 December 2024 **[as amended/without amendment]** be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

# MINUTES

## UNCONFIRMED: TE ROOPUU AHI KAA MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, 10 December 2024

**Time:** 11.00am

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

---

**Tumuaki Tuarua:** Ms Kim Savage (Ngāti Parewahawaha)

**Nga mema:** Mr Thomas Curtis (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hauiti) (Zoom)  
Ms Marj Heeney Ngāi Te Ohuake  
Ms Moira Raukawa (Ngāti Tamakopiri)  
Ms Leanne Hiroti (Ngā Ariki Turakina) (Zoom)  
Dr Katarina Gray-Sharp (Ngāti Rangī) (Zoom)  
Mr Jordan Winiata-Haines (Ngāti Hinemanu/Ngāti Paki)  
Ms Grace Taiaroa (Ratana Pa)  
Cr Coral Raukawa  
Cr Gill Duncan  
HWTM Andy Watson

**Manuhiri:** Mr Kevin Ross, Chief Executive  
Mrs Carol Gordon, Deputy Chief Executive  
Mr Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer  
Ms Joanne Manuel, Manager Mana Whenua and Community Hubs  
Ms Katrina Gray, Manager Strategy and Development  
Ms Clare Wooding, Senior Strategic Advisor  
Ms Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor  
Ms Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

**Order of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome / Karakia</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>
<b>7</b>	<b>Follow-up Actions</b> .....	<b>3</b>
7.1	Follow-up Action Items from Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meetings .....	3
<b>8</b>	<b>Chair's Report</b> .....	<b>4</b>
8.1	Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui December 2024 .....	4
<b>9</b>	<b>Reports for Decision</b> .....	<b>4</b>
9.1	Marae Development Fund .....	4
<b>10</b>	<b>Reports for Information</b> .....	<b>4</b>
10.1	Update on Proposed Plan Change 3 - Urban Growth .....	4
10.2	Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024.....	5
10.3	External Current and Upcoming Consultations.....	5
10.4	Mana Whenua Verbal Report- December.....	6
10.5	Economic Strategy update .....	6
10.6	Project Updates Report - November 2024.....	6

## 1 Welcome / Karakia

Due to the absence of Ms Hiroa, Ms Savage Chaired and opened the meeting at 11.01am.

## 2 Apologies

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/051**

That the apologies be received from Ms Hiroa.

Ms K Savage/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

## 3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

## 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 5 Confirmation of Order of Business

The Komiti noted that there was a second Marae Development Fund application received.

## 6 Confirmation of Minutes

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/052**

That the minutes of Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meeting held on 8 October 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.

Ms M Raukawa/Ms M Heeney. Carried

## 7 Follow-up Actions

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meetings

Mrs Gordon updated the Komiti that the decision on the macron for Rangitikei has not been made and that there have been objections received regarding the change.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/053**

That the report 'Follow-up Action Items from Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Meetings' be received.



Cr C Raukawa/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

## 8 Chair's Report

### 8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui December 2024

Ms Savage read the Chair's report.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/054**

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

Ms G Taiaroa/Mr T Curtis. Carried

## 9 Reports for Decision

### 9.1 Marae Development Fund

Mr Winiata-Haines arrived at the hui during this item at 11.24am.

The Komiti noted that there had been some korero on this item during the pre-hui. There was concern that Opaea Marae had received funding previously and whether they had submitted a report. Staff answered that the new eligibility was required for subsequent funding applications and that the expectation for a report form will be provided as criteria for this and future funding rounds.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/055**

That the report Marae Development Funding be received.

Ms K Savage/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/056**

That the Komiti does allocate \$15,000 funding to Opaea Marae and requests the Chief Executive submit a formal recommendation for Council's consideration of this request.

Ms K Savage/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/057**

That the Komiti does allocate \$15,000 funding to Kauangaroa Marae and requests the Chief Executive submit a formal recommendation for Council's consideration of this request.

Ms K Savage/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

## 10 Reports for Information

### 10.1 Update on Proposed Plan Change 3 - Urban Growth

Ms Gower provided a PowerPoint presentation at the hui.

Ms Gower responded to questions that there is land available in Taihape, however, there has not been the urban growth as seen in Bulls and Marton and therefore would recommend focus to be south of the district.

The Komiti discussed consultation and what this looks with mana whenua, staff undertook that there will be special consultation with mana whenua and that Ms Pere will support this. The Komiti noted that not every iwi has settled across the district which can cause issues for consultation.

Cr Raukawa left at 12.02pm at the end of this item.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/058**

That the report 'Update on Proposed Plan Change 3 – Urban Growth' be received.

Ms K Savage/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

**10.2 Mayor's Report - 28 November 2024**

The Mayor highlighted that councillors are working through the Chief Executive appointment, the positive announcement from government on the ten million for Rātana and the work on moving logging trucks off the road and on to rail.

The Komiti thanked the Mayor for his continued work.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/059**

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

Ms K Savage/Ms G Taiaroa. Carried

**10.3 External Current and Upcoming Consultations**

Ms Hiroti left at 12.10pm at the beginning of this item.

Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill

Staff provided a PowerPoint presentation at the hui.

The Komiti spoke during the pre-hui regarding the submission, which Ms Henny undertook to write on behalf of the Komiti.

The Komiti will write a submission and requested that this be endorsed by Council and requested that the Council oppose the Treaty Principles Bill. Staff noted that the timeframes for endorsement of the Komiti submission would be before 18 December as this is the last Council meeting before the close of submissions.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/060**

That the report 'External Current and Upcoming Consultations' be received.

Ms K Savage/Mr J Winiata-Haines. Carried

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/061**

That Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa recommends that Rangitikei District Council opposes the Treaty Principles Bill.

Ms M Raukawa/Mr T Curtis. Carried

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/062**

That Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa makes a submission opposing the Treaty Principles Bill.

Ms M Raukawa/Mr T Curtis. Carried

#### 10.4 Mana Whenua Verbal Report- December

Ms Pere introduced herself to the Komiti and provided a verbal update on the current work taking place. Ms Pere spoke of the positive work at Rata marae and the benefit of engagement in her role at Council.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/063**

That the 'Mana Whenua Verbal Report- December' be received.

Ms G Taiaroa/Ms M Heeney. Carried

#### 10.5 Economic Strategy update

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/064**

That the report "Economic Strategy update" is received.

Ms K Savage/Mr J Winiata-Haines. Carried

#### 10.6 Project Updates Report - November 2024

Cr Duncan left at the beginning of the item at 12.44pm.

##### Marton Water Strategy

Mr Benadie explained that there are positive outcomes for this project, and potentially looking at water from the Tutaenui year-round with better quality water for the township.

##### Taihape Wastewater

Mr Benadie responded to questions that the consent process is only just beginning, and this is why there are no updates.

Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment

The Taihape Town Hall is a single contract as this allows the contractor to communicate with all those involved, this is the same as the Marton Offices and Library project.

**Resolved minute number 24/IWI/065**

That the report 'Project Updates Report - November 2024' be received.

Ms K Savage/Ms M Heeney. Carried

**The meeting closed at 1.14pm.**

**The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa Komiti held on 11 February 2025.**

.....  
**Chairperson**

Unconfirmed

## 7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

### 7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings

**Author:** Kezia Spence, Governance Advisor

#### 1. Reason for Report

1.1 On the list attached are items raised at previous Te Roopuu Ahi Kaa 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 Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Meetings' be received.

<b>Current Follow-up Actions</b>						
<b>Item</b>	<b>From Meeting Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Person Assigned</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	13-Aug-24	What MoUs or contracts have we got with iwi across the district - collate these into a table initially. Are there gaps? Opportunities to look at where monetary payments should occur for provision of information or involvement by iwi in meetings etc	Jo / Carol / Fran	In progress	Now that Fran Pere is on board there is a focus on understanding current MOUs and finding a consistent approach to these for now and in future. A further discussion on this will take place at a TRAK meeting.	In progress
2	11-Jun-24	Workshop on maps and archeological information for future workshop	Carol / Kevin / Katrina	Complete	Maps were provided to staff by Piki Te Ora for northern areas. Work is occurring directly with Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa for their rohe.	Complete
3	20-Jun-23	TRAK representation letters for this triennium, follow up on the missing ones.	Kezia	In progress	8 October 2024 - Komiti agreed this action stays on the list.	In progress
4	11-Apr-23	Continue to approach Ngāti Waewae to progress a relationship between them and Council.	HWTM / Carol / Karen	In progress	The next stage is to progress a meeting with HWTM and Ngāti Waewae to consider a river accord approach. Still progressing.	In progress

## **8 Chair's Report**

### **8.1 Chair's Report, Including Updates from Pre-Hui April 2025**

**Author:** Piki Te Ora Hiroa, Chair

The Chair will provide a tabled or verbal report.

#### **Recommendation**

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

## 9 Reports for Information

### 9.1 Report from Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor

**Author:** Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor

**Authoriser:** Jo Manuel, Manager Mana Whenua and Community Hubs

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on key activities, structured around three performance criteria: internal cultural development, iwi engagement and Council projects. It also provides a summary of the Māori Responsiveness Survey.

#### 2. Internal Cultural Development

- 2.1 **Taku Kōwhai Training:** Officers co-facilitated two internal workshops focussed on cultural development. The first workshop facilitated by the Manager Community hubs, Mana Whenua and Mana Whenua Strategic advisor, took place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, at Poupatatē Marae with the Community Hubs Team Leaders. This workshop introduced – *Taku Kōwhai*, the *Aotearoa Library Workforce Capability Framework*, and its alignment with our Council’s strategic framework (Kōwhai). Using council values/ngā pou as a foundation, team leaders set team goals working towards their contributions to the Council Community outcomes.
- 2.2 **Leadership Lab:** The second workshop held at Te Matapihi on Friday March 14<sup>th</sup>, brought together team leaders and managers to explore leadership vs management. The leadership Whakataukī – *Te Kai a te Rangatira* set the foundation for three key themes: communication, collaboration, and manaakitanga. Using these themes, we aligned council values/ngā pou to explore their expressions and the application in both leadership and management roles. The second workshop is scheduled for Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 2.3 **Internal Te Reo Lessons – Te Tīmatanga:** Council have introduced weekly Te Reo Māori lessons, providing staff with regular opportunities to develop their language skills and understanding of tikanga Māori. The blended learning approach will encompass formal and informal language, pronunciation, tikanga, and mātauranga Māori, all specifically tailored to Rangitīkei District Council operations and responsibilities. We had a great turnout for the first lesson.
- 2.4 **Citizenship-Ceremony:**  
On Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Citizenship Ceremony, where new citizens from Samoa, India, Canada, South Africa, and America received their citizenship certificates. It was an honour to participate and celebrate the diverse backgrounds of those who have joined our community.

#### 3. Iwi Engagement

- 3.1 On Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, council hosted an engagement hui with Ngāti Parewahawaha to present two key projects, the Urban Growth Plan Change for the Bulls area and the open spaces planning for Bulls, specifically the Bulls Domain. This hui provided an



opportunity to engage with Ngāti Parewahawaha, share project details, and gather iwi insights and feedback.

- 3.2 Council have had a request from the chairperson of Te Riu o Puanga Marae for support and advice on a development project. Council looks forward to working closely with representatives to provide support.
- 3.3 The Manager Mana Whenua & Community Hubs had a discussion with the Chairman of Winata Marae based on the following:
  - Marae Funding discussion had regarding Winiata Marae Roothing Project
    - (i) Funding submission process provided
  - Marae Emergency Response activation
    - (i) Is there a need to have an overall Emergency Response Activation Plan
    - (ii) Connecting all Marae as part of a Marae Response Activation
    - (iii) Who, what would this look like?
- 3.4 An operational meeting was held with representatives from Te Runanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March, an update was provided on Local Waters Done Well, and shared information on the Urban Growth Plan Change project and the Bulls Open Spaces project. We received insights and feedback from representatives present.

#### 4. Council Projects

- 4.1 Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor is working with the Local Waters Done Well Transition Team to support the current stage of our water service delivery plan. This involves providing support on how iwi involvement can be effectively integrated into the water service delivery plan.

#### 5. Māori Responsiveness Survey

- 5.1 Each year Te Rōpū Ahi Kā members are asked to provide their level of satisfaction with the Māori Responsiveness Framework (across each outcome area) (**Attachment 1**). The survey responses form part of Council's reporting on the statement of service provision – the tracking of the levels of service and performance measures set out in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.
- 5.2 Satisfaction with the Māori Responsiveness Survey is identified as a key performance measure, with a target of 80% or more overall satisfaction. Results from the survey are report to the Finance/Performance Committee and as part of Council's Annual Report which is independently audited. Komiti members should expect to receive a request to fill out the survey in May 2025. A review of the Responsiveness Framework itself is recommended as part of a workshop with the Komiti.

#### 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications.

#### 7. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 7.1 Failure to honour the commitments of Te Tiriti o Waitangi – Officers are working with the Transition Team to ensure iwi interests are integrated into the Local Waters Done Well planning.

**ITEM 9.1****8. Strategic Alignment**

8.1 A trusted partner with iwi is a community outcome in Council's strategic framework. This report has strong alignment with Council's strategic framework.

**9. Mana Whenua Implications**

9.1 Mana whenua implications are noted throughout this report.

**10. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

10.1 There is no direct climate change considerations associated with this report.

**11. Statutory Implications**

11.1 Council developed the performance measure around Māori Responsiveness in the Long Term Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

**12. Decision Making Process**

12.1 There are no decisions required in this report.

**Recommendation**

That the report 'Report from Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor be received

## 9.2 Local Water Done Well

**Author:** Fran Pere, Mana Whenua Strategic Advisor

**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Chief Executive

### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the development of Rangitikei District Council's preferences for water services delivery under the Government's Local Water Done Well (LWDW) legislated programme.
- 1.2 To meet the Government's stated deadline for submission of the required Water Services Delivery model (WSDP), public consultation needs to be conducted in the first quarter of 2025.

### 2. Summary

- 2.1 Local Water Done Well is the Government's proposed solution to ensuring the long-term sustainability of water services. Rangitikei District Council has agreed on its preferred water services delivery model. The key focus is on maintaining clean, reliable, and sustainable water services while working collaboratively with neighbouring councils.

### 3. Consultation

- 3.1 Consultation aims to ensure iwi, key stakeholders, and the community have a voice in shaping the future of water services. We are committed to engaging with iwi and the community to ensure their perspectives and values are reflected in the development of the water service delivery model.
- 3.2 At the Council meeting on Thursday, 12 December 2024, Rangitikei District Council agreed to consult on the following preferences for water services delivery.
- 3.3 **First Preference:** A multi council-controlled organisation (CCO) with Rangitikei District Council, Whanganui District Council, and Ruapehu District Council. In discussing this option, Council spoke to the benefits of working together with councils that directly border Rangitikei to develop a CCO.
- 3.4 **Second Preference:** A multi council-controlled organisation with as many councils in the Manawatū-Whanganui region as possible. Councillors agreed that the cost-effectiveness of a larger multi council-controlled organisation should be put forward for public consultation. The importance of other councils in the region being aware that Rangitikei is willing to work together was also recognised in discussing this option.
- 3.5 **Enhanced Status Quo:** Maintain the current delivery model, in-house management. This is essentially how water services are currently managed in the Rangitikei. Councils are legally required to demonstrate this option as a baseline, despite it being unlikely to meet legislative requirements for financial sustainability.
- 3.6 **Preferred Option:** Rangitikei District Council's preferred option is the establishment of a multi council-controlled organisation (CCO) with Whanganui and Ruapehu District Councils. This model enables greater collaboration and shared resources while maintaining a local approach.

**Consultation Timeline**

3.7 Consultation on the preferred option closed on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Following consultation, Rangitīkei District Council will commence a period of reviewing community feedback in preparation for a final decision on the path forward. During this period, community members will have the opportunity to share their views verbally at an oral hearing.

**4. What Happens Next?**

4.1 In May, Council will make their final decision on its preferred Water Services Delivery Arrangement. Officers will then begin the process of developing a Water Services Delivery Plan which must be submitted to Central Government by September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

4.2 If accepted by Central Government, Rangitīkei District Council (alongside any partners) will then begin the process of implementing its Water Services Delivery Plan. The new water services delivery arrangement is expected to be in full effect from 2028. The community is unlikely to see any change until 2028.

**5. How this looks for iwi**

5.1 Iwi as kaitiaki of the waterways and land hold a responsibility to protect and restore the health of the waterways, upholding Te Mana o te Wai leading restoration efforts in partnership with councils and other agencies. Council is responsible for ensuring a safe and efficient water delivery service that meets regulatory standards, manage and maintain infrastructure, and ensures the water service meets all legal and environmental requirements. To honour these responsibilities, the council seek advice to understand how we can move forward together ensuring a quality water delivery service and the protection and sustainability of our water ways.

**6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report which is for information purposes. The financial implications of the options is provided in the consultation document.

**7. Impact on Strategic Risks**

7.1 There are no impacts on strategic risks associated with this report. The topic has a number of strategic risks.

**8. Strategic Alignment**

8.1 The proposed water service delivery model aligns with our community outcome, a district leading collaboration with tangata whenua.

**9. Mana Whenua Implications**

9.1 Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to facilitate participation by Māori in its decision-making processes, to consider ways in which it may foster the development of Māori capacity to participate, and to provide relevant information.

- 9.2 Noting that a joint arrangement with other councils will necessarily cover multiple rohe and therefore several iwi and/or hapū having mana whenua; there will need to be a high level of communication and engagement with iwi/Māori as the plans are developed.
- 9.3 A Rangitīkei-Ruapehu-Whanganui CCO option could incorporate governance elements and legal instruments within the existing statutory river entities – Te Pou Tupua (for the Whanganui River) and Ngā Wai Tōtā o Te Waiū (for the Whangaehu River).

## **10. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

- 10.1 There are no direct climate impacts that require consideration.

## **11. Statutory Implications**

- 11.1 The Local Water Done Well project is being undertaken in accordance with statutory requirements.

## **Recommendation**

That the report 'Local Water Done Well' be received

### 9.3 Economic Strategy Update

**Author:** Jarrod Calkin, Economic Wellbeing Lead

**Authoriser:** Katrina Gray, Group Manager - Strategy, Community and Democracy

#### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Komiti with a progress update on the Economic Strategy.

#### 2. Context

- 2.1 In August 2024 Council Officers introduced the work to create an Economic Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan.
- 2.2 On 25 September 2024 Council Officers held a workshop with the Komiti to help develop the strategy. Key messages from this discussion noted that wellbeing is holistic and cannot focus on economic alone. That economic wellbeing is much broader than money, Māori have much wider values that are not tied to money. This includes social cohesion, equity, health, connection to place and opportunity to have choice.
- 2.3 In the time between initially scoping the strategy and the development of the draft, Central Government announced 'back to basics' for Local Government. The two changes of most importance to the development of this strategy are:
  - 2.3.1 Removing all references to the four aspects of community well-being.
  - 2.3.2 Reverting to the previous purpose of local government and adding 'while supporting local economic growth and development'.

#### 3. Discussion and Options Considered

- 3.1 The changes mentioned in 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 have led to delays while Council Officers reviewed the scope to ensure we provide a strategy and action plan that delivers against the objectives and meets the Central Government direction for Local Government. In addition, the feedback from the Komiti also led Officers to reconsider the appropriate scope.
- 3.2 After careful consideration, Council Officers have reshaped the purpose of the Strategy to focus develop a traditional economic strategy. Concepts such as choice have been weaved into the document, but from a traditional economic lens.
- 3.3 Council Officers will share the 'Strategy on a Page' and provide some details regarding the direction of the strategy and action plan:
  - 3.3.1 The Strategy and Action Plan is going to be wrapped up in a single document called Rangitīkei Tomorrow!
  - 3.3.2 A visual of the Strategy on a Page is below and we will discuss the details at the meeting.

# RANGITĪKEI TOMORROW

## Economic Strategy and Action Plan



#### 4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

#### 5. Impact on Strategic Risks

5.1 There are no strategic risks relating to this item.

#### 6. Strategic Alignment

6.1 Economic Wellbeing is a community outcome in Rangitikei District Council's strategic framework, giving this item strong alignment.

**7. Mana Whenua Implications**

7.1 Council Officers have held a workshop with this Komiti and provided regular updates on the progress of the Economic Strategy and encourage further feedback on the plan on a page.

**8. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

8.1 There are no climate change impacts or considerations relating to this item.

**9. Statutory Implications**

9.1 There are no statutory implications relating to this item.

**10. Decision Making Process**

10.1 There are no decisions required as a result of this report and the report is for information purposes only.

**Recommendation**

That the report 'Economic Strategy Update' is received.



## 9.4 External Consultations Update

**Author:** Janna Harris, Corporate Planner

**Authoriser:** Tiffany Gower, Strategy Manager

### 1. Reason for Report

- 1.1 To provide an update to Te Rōpū Ahi Kā on the opportunities currently available to submit on consultations run by external agencies.

### 2. Context

- 2.1 The updated list of current opportunities to submit on consultations run by external agencies is attached (Attachment 1).
- 2.2 The Ministry for the Environment has released the [report from the Expert Advisory Group on Resource Management Reform](#). There is currently no consultation being run, the Komiti will be informed when a chance to submit on the RMA reform is available.

#### *Consultations submitted on*

- 2.3 The Commerce Commission was seeking feedback on their Information Disclosure Discussion Paper for the Economic Regulation of Water Services. The feedback submitted by Council can be found on our website: [Submissions made to other Organisations: Rangitikei District Council](#).

#### *Consultations proposed for submissions*

- 2.4 Submissions will also be prepared for the consultation on New Zealand's Wastewater System run by Taumata Arowai (information on the proposed changes can be found here: [Help shape New Zealand's wastewater future - Taumata Arowai - Citizen Space](#)), Parliament Justice Committee's Enabling four (4) year terms, and LGNZ's election reform draft position paper, and the proposed changes to the Central Government electorate boundaries.
- 2.5 There have not been any significant updates to any upcoming consultations that Officers are aware of.

### 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report, external submissions are submitted on within existing budgets.

### 4. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 4.1 Changes to government legislation are transformational
  - 4.1.1 There is a risk that legislation changes result in significant changes for Councils. Council mitigates this risk by keeping track of all potential changes, and takes up opportunities to submit on consultations that will have an effect on Council.

**5. Strategic Alignment**

5.1 Topics of consultations from external agencies have the potential to have an impact on the services Council delivers, which could have an impact on Council's ability to deliver on Council's strategic priorities.

**6. Mana Whenua Implications**

6.1 The Komiti is asked to advise of any mana whenua implications associated with this report.

**7. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

7.1 There are no climate change impacts associated with this report.

**8. Statutory Implications**

8.1 There are no statutory implications associated with this report.

**9. Decision Making Process**

9.1 There are no decision making processes associated with this report, this report is for information purposes only.

**Attachments:**

1. **Current Consultations** [↓](#)

**Recommendation**

That the report 'External Consultations Update' be received.

**Current Consultations**

Name of Initiative	Agency Engaging	Due Date	Description	RDC Action
<b>Currently Open for Submissions</b>				
<a href="#">Economic regulation of water services – information disclosure</a>	Commerce Commission	26 March	The Information Disclosure (ID) Discussion Paper is the Commerce Commission's first step in engaging with water sector stakeholders to understand their views on how they could develop a new performance reporting regime (ID) for water service providers.	Submit
<a href="#">Local water done well PNCC</a>	PNCC	30 March	The Council's preferred water services delivery model is to form a joint CCO with Manawatu, Horowhenua and Kapiti District Councils.	None
<a href="#">Consumer Guarantees (Right to Repair) Amendment Bill</a>	Parliament - Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee	03 April	The Bill will require manufacturers to: reasonably ensure that facilities for repair of goods and supply of parts for the goods are reasonably available for a reasonable period after the goods are supplied, provide the consumer with, upon request, information, spare parts, software, and other tools used for diagnosing, maintaining, or repairing goods.	None
<a href="#">Vehicle Standards Compliance Amendment</a>	NZTA Waka Kotahi	04 April	The Amendment Rule sets out proposed changes to the Rule to reduce: (a) Warrant of Fitness check frequency for vehicles over 40 years old from every 6 months to every year, and (b) Certificate of Fitness check frequency for privately owned heavy motorhome vehicles from every 6 months to every year.	None
<a href="#">Updating New Zealand's engine fuel specifications</a>	MBIE	04 April	The proposal is to move to align with the current European Euro 6d standard by 2028. Options are assessed against the following criteria: (a) Emissions reduction — including keeping pace with international vehicle harmful emission standards, and facilitating adoption of low-carbon emissions fuel, (b) Ensuring consumer protection - ensuring that fuel is fit for purpose; (c) Avoiding disproportionate economic cost to consumers (taking into account impacts on fuel prices and difficulty in sourcing fuel products from overseas refineries), and (d) Optimising government administration (taking into account fuel quality monitoring costs and regulatory burden).	None

## ITEM 9.4 ATTACHMENT 1

<a href="#">Public feedback on Government Procurement Rules</a>	MBIE	08 April	The Government Procurement Rules set minimum expectations when spending public money on goods and services. Value thresholds are \$100,000 for goods, services and refurbishment works and \$9 million for new construction works. The revision has a focus on delivery in the post contract award stage, through new Rules on supplier and contract management, and they emphasise visibility of contracts. Local government is 'expected and encouraged to apply the new Rules'	None
<a href="#">Term of Parliament - Enabling 4-year Term</a>	Parliament Justice Committee	17 April	This bill would create an option to extend the Parliamentary term to four years at the start of each term. The term could be extended to four years only if the overall membership of Parliament's subject select committees was proportional to the party membership in the House of Representatives of the non-executive members.	Submit
<a href="#">Referendum Frameworks Bill</a>	Parliament Justice Committee	17 April	The Bill focuses on the mechanics of a referendum for the next two general elections (potentially 2026 and 2029). The legislative framework for the conduct of referendums will be the same as applies to the conduct of the general election; the Bill replicates the regulatory regime that applies to third-party promoters in respect of election advertisements to apply to any promoters of referendum advertisements.	None
<a href="#">New Zealand's future wastewater system</a>	Water Services Authority - Taumata Arowai	25 April	The four proposed national wastewater standards cover the most common consenting topics (discharging treated wastewater to water or land, safe biosolid use, and managing overflows and bypasses) – with requirements tailored to appropriately manage the level of risk to public health and different environments.	Submit
<a href="#">Land Transport Management - Time of Use Charging</a>	Parliament Transport and Infrastructure Committee	27 April	This bill would enable local authorities to identify areas of high congestion, propose indicative scheme areas, and set out potential charging zones for approval by the Minister of Transport.	None
<a href="#">Reviewing the Biosecurity - Meat and Food Waste for Pigs</a>	Ministry for Primary Industries	27 April	Requirements for feeding meat and food waste to pigs are in the Biosecurity (Meat and Food Waste for Pigs) Regulations 2005. The regulations provide important protection against exotic diseases entering New Zealand that would affect pigs and the livestock sector. The discussion paper outlines four options: (a) Keep the status quo: meat food waste cannot be	None

			fed to pigs unless treated, (b) Prohibit feeding food waste to pigs that contains meat (or has come into contact with meat), (c) Require food waste producers to treat it before it can be distributed and (d) Prohibit feeding any food waste to pigs.	
<a href="#">Proposed changes in electorate boundaries</a>	Representation Commission	27 April	Proposed amendments to electorate boundaries for 2026 General Election. Rangitikei's southern boundary shifts to include Levin; the northern boundary stops before Waiouru, which is now in the Whanganui electorate.	Submit
<a href="#">LGNZ local election reform draft position paper</a>	LGNZ	28 April	Working group position paper on LG electoral reform	Submit
<a href="#">Survivor Support and Recognition Fund</a>	Internal Affairs	30 June 2026	Eligible organisations include local government authorities that have unmarked graves relating to former psychiatric hospitals or other former care institutions within their territorial boundaries.	Will seek funding

**9.5 Project Updates Report - March 2025****Author: Arno Benadie, Chief Operating Officer****Authoriser: Carol Gordon, Chief Executive****1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 This is a monthly report on progress on significant projects currently being delivered by Council's Project Office.

**2. Key Highlights from Current Projects****Wastewater Projects****2.1 Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation (Project Manager – Steve Carne)**

- 2.2 Investigative work on the five shortlisted options previously identified involving disposal scenarios related to land only (1 No.), land-river combination (3 No.) and deep bore groundwater recharge options. (1 No.) is well advanced with a programmed completion of these investigations in late April 2025.
- 2.3 The late February publication of new Draft National Wastewater Discharge Standards by water industry quality regulator Taumata Arowai now means we can incorporate its contents into project considerations. Initial review indicates waterway discharges will require a far lower treatment standard than the current Horizons One Plan requirements. Further clarity has been obtained on requirements for land discharge although the draft Standards are silent on groundwater discharges.
- 2.4 Consideration of rationalisation of the short-listed options is currently being given, with a river discharge option likely to be investigated as a result of the Standards.
- 2.5 It is proposed Steve Carne facilitate a discussion at the next Assets / Infrastructure Committee workshop on 10 April to outline implications of the standards on RDC's wastewater networks and treatment plants district wide.
- 2.6 Prioritised investigative works carried out by the team thus far have concluded that the RDC purchased land will not be able to dispose of more than 65% of current design flows. A land disposal solution will require more land, adding to its costs. This is currently being assessed by the project team.
- 2.7 Other current works are investigating the feasibility of retaining some treatment capability of the existing ponds at Marton and Bulls by way of their refurbishment and better understanding the feasibility of the groundwater discharge option.
- 2.8 Our contracted planners, Good Earth Matters (GEM), is continuing work on preparing for the consent application to follow the site investigations. The new consent application will be dependent on the findings of these investigations.
- 2.9 Dialogue with ANZCO Bulls is ongoing to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of incorporating their discharge into the Bulls plant inlet. ANZCO Bulls would become a trade waste customer of RDC under this scenario. Iwi have indicated that a single discharge at this point would be viewed more favourably by them as part of the consenting process.

- 2.10 Value engineering inputs on the shortlisted options have considered demand management scenarios involving inflow/infiltration reduction and reduction of water consumption.
- 2.11 Identification of a preferred option is programmed for mid-May 2025.
- 2.12 A community awareness and engagement campaign is currently being formulated which will have preparatory information released in the 2025 calendar year but needs to be coordinated with other campaigns around Local Water Done Well reforms.
- 2.13 Agreement from the 2 relevant Iwi has been gained for the pipe bridges on the Marton-Bulls pipeline. This will permit finalisation of the consent and then construction of these pipe bridges by RDC.

### **3. Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land (Project Manager – Blair King)**

- 3.1 The project is in a holding pattern awaiting approval to proceed with track pricing and hard stand construction, needed to enable the pipe materials to be delivered. Work on designing the large dam that will store the treated wastewater, up to Building Consent status, continues with WSP and external experts.
- 3.2 Horizons Regional Council have booked in a pre-hearing in early March to consider the three submissions on the proposed land-based storage and wastewater irrigation.
- 3.3 Delays in construction mean the pricing considered by Council in late 2023 might need revision, and the expected increase in unit rates for power transformer, earthworks, dam liner material and irrigation equipment could be significant and potentially a risk to the viability of the consents being sought.

### **Water Projects**

### **4. Marton Water Strategy (Project Manager – Steve Carne)**

- 4.1 A draft contract and warranty conditions has been tabled to contractor GFS. The finalised warranty condition will be presented to Council for consideration. Contract negotiations are underway.
- 4.2 The trial pilot plant is shortly going to be relocated to the reservoir Bore site. Further testing of pre-treatment and the proposed waste stream recycling regime will be a key part of this phase of the pilot testing.
- 4.3 Queries and clarifications submitted by Council officers and agents are providing further detail on GFS' offer and reduce RDC risk exposure due to insufficient detail around various items. Responses to these clarifications and queries have been obtained and are being considered.
- 4.4 A design consultancy with WSP has almost completed design of the inlet work. This is inclusive of a permanent pump for the new Reservoir Bore.
- 4.5 Details of the waste stream from the proposed plant are being evolved and are likely to involve recycling this stream through partial use of the existing clarifiers and filters infrastructure. The intent of this recycling is to reduce the overall waste discharge down to a level that is near that of the existing discharge and in doing so, reduce the amount of water taken from the bores. Additional works associated with this solution may be the subject of negotiations with the GFS contract.

- 4.6 Details of the proposed warranty and guarantee of plant performance are being finalised with the contractor.
- 4.7 Consent application approval for the water take has been received in preliminary form.
- 4.8 Staff are working towards a communication strategy.

### **Community Facilities**

#### **5. Marton Offices and Library (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 5.1 Council has authorised staff to proceed with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) as a separate project independent of the Marton Offices and Community Hub.
- 5.2 Staff have engaged Planning Engineers and Independent Urban Design Review consultant for the EOC project. Both these teams will work towards a holistic approach for the project but keep the reporting independent for the two developments.
- 5.3 An initial site inspection and discussion with RDC took place on Thursday 20 March 2025.
- 5.4 Staff had discussions with Team Architects regarding their impending appointment for the EOC project.
- 5.5 From the tender responses for the Marton Offices and Community Hub project, staff have identified a Geotechnical Specialist and a Soil Contamination survey specialist to conduct detailed investigations for Soil Contamination and to identify buried tanks. These surveys will be directly managed by RDC, and the findings shall be forwarded to the final selected Design and Build Contractor.
- 5.6 Staff provided a project progress update via email to Len Hetet from Baked Design.
- 5.7 The tender process for the Marton Offices and Community Hub concluded on 17 March 2025 with staff are in the process of selecting the preferred Design and Build contractor. A separate report will be brought to Council seeking approval to enter into a contract with the preferred contractor.

#### **6. Taihape Grandstand (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 6.1 Staff presented a report during the November 2024 Council meeting indicating the anticipated costs for all three concept seismic designs.
- 6.2 Council requested that the community identify their requirements for the lower floor. This needs to include engaging required specialists to design these requirements and fundraising for any work that falls outside Councils remaining budget for the project. Staff are working with the users on a date to meet and discuss these requirements.
- 6.3 A meeting was held on 19 March 2025, there was good attendance from the Memorial Park User Group and Taihape Heritage Grandstand Subcommittee, there has been agreement to meet again within the next three weeks.

#### **7. Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment (Project Manager - Eswar Ganapathi)**

- 7.1 Staff presented the Concept Seismic Strengthening design along with estimated costs during the December 2024 council meeting. These costs were limited to the works associated with seismic upgrade works including meeting code compliance (fire and accessibility) requirements.



- 7.2 Staff also presented an option to retain the front two-storey building along with the library but demolish and rebuild the hall at a similar estimated cost. It was noted that this option does not allow for a separate stage area or the supper room but had considered a demountable stage.
- 7.3 Staff have since had further meetings with the Maycroft team and a comprehensive Concept Design estimate will be presented at the end of March 2025 Council meeting.
- 7.4 Maycroft is also expected to present their amended alternate proposal which should now include the stage and supper room along with estimated costs for this option.

## 8. Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation

- 8.1 RDC engaged experts to complete a comprehensive asset condition assessment of the entire Marton pool facility.
- 8.2 This condition assessment includes all the buildings, the pool, the pool pipework and all associated filter and heating equipment. The engineers completed a two-day site investigation that covered all the items mentioned above.
- 8.3 This work has now been completed and a comprehensive asset condition report has been received early in February. The report identifies all asset renewals and upgrades that will be required to get the facility to comply with current requirements, and identified asset that will need upgrades in the short, medium and long term.
- 8.4 Phase 2 of the investigations will add costs to all identified upgrades and then prioritise the upgrades to clearly group them in like for like renewals or refurbishments of the facility for increased customer experience and a long-term vision of what the facility could be to reduce operating costs and increase use of the asset.
- 8.5 The Phase 2 work has now been completed and a more detailed summary report on the findings of the work will be presented to Council at this March 2025 Council meeting.

### Miscellaneous

## 9. Scotts Ferry

- 9.1 Council staff are working on finalising the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will determine the activities, responsibilities and conditions when the Council owned tractor will be used in conjunction with the pump owned by a local farmer to reduce the risk of flooding at Scotts Ferry.
- 9.2 A draft has been created and is currently being reviewed. The finalised draft will then be presented to the Scotts Ferry group for consideration.
- 9.3 The Scotts Ferry firefighting group have expressed concerns about the lack of sufficient communications regarding progress with the project. RDC staff contacted the group representative and discussed progress with them. More regular updates to the group will follow.

**ITEM 9.5****10. Financial Implications**

10.1 This report does not identify and financial implications.

**11. Impact on Strategic Risks**

11.1 No impacts on strategic risks

**12. Strategic Alignment**

12.1 All projects are aligned with strategic goals.

**13. Mana Whenua Implications**

13.1 All Mana Whenua implications are managed by the individual projects.

**14. Climate Change Impacts and Consideration**

14.1 There is no climate change impact.

**15. Statutory Implications**

15.1 There are no statutory implications.

**Recommendation 1**

That the report 'Project Updates Report – March 2025' be received.

## 9.6 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.

## ITEM 9.6

- 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

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

ITEM 9.6

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



	<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>

## ITEM 9.6

	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

**ITEM 9.6**  
**ATTACHMENT 2**

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

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Champion</b> .....	<b>5</b>
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
<b>Connect</b> .....	<b>15</b>
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





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>



<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



---

<p>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.</p>	
---	--



---

## 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.





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.

LGNZ four-monthly report for member councils: November 2024 – February 2025 // 17



---

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 Ākona 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.



---

## 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



---

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,

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

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand | +64 4 817 6809 | m.mitchell@ministers.govt.nz

ITEM 9.6 ATTACHMENT 5

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				
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 Dixon 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 Rooding 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 Fafoi 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 Discussion Items

### 10.1 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**

- 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.

**Recommendation**

That the discussion item Where's Annual Plan & Co @ Rangitikei be recieved.

**11 Meeting Closed.**