

2025 PRE-ELECTION REPORT.



rangitikei.govt.nz/elections



RANGITĪKEI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONTENTS

Purpose of this report	4
Message from the Chief Executive	5
Our Purpose and Vision	6
Community Outcomes	7
Government Reforms	9
Elected Member Structure	10
Major Projects	11
Council Finances	13
<i>Financial Strategy</i>	
<i>Statement of Cash Flows</i>	
<i>Funding Impact Statement</i>	
<i>Summary Statement of Financial Position</i>	
<i>Statement of Compliance with Council's Financial Strategy</i>	
Elections 2025	17

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report outlines the key opportunities facing the Rangitikei district, and the key challenges on our horizon.

It also highlights the key projects we have planned for the next three years, and offers a high level view of how we plan to fund these.

Why we prepare this report

This report aims to facilitate discussion and inform debate ahead of the 2025 Local Government Election. Its purpose is to provide a factual, non-political overview of both the financial and non-financial performance of Council.

This report is for everyone; whether you are thinking about standing for Rangitikei District Council, one of our Community Boards, or you are simply wanting more information to help you make an informed decision on the candidates best placed to represent you, your needs, and your vision for Rangitikei.

Local Government Elections are important. The people who become your elected members represent you at the decision-making table for the next three years. We hope that this report gives you a better understanding of how Rangitikei District is positioned heading into the next triennium; the key projects, our opportunities, and our challenges.

Want more information?

A pre-election report is required by the Local Government Act, 2002 before every Local Government Election, and is prepared on behalf of the Chief Executive of Rangitikei District Council.

The information found in this report is a summarised version of a number of other reports including Annual Reports, financial forecasts, the Annual Plan 2025/26, and the Long Term Plan 2024-34. This document is not a substitute for the complete information found within these documents. You can find these documents on our website:

- [Annual Reports](#)
- [Long Term Plans & Annual Plans](#)

While this pre-election report has not been audited, and is not required to be, most of the information found within this report has been audited by independent auditors.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Kia ora,

It is a privilege to present you with Rangitikei District Council's position heading into the next triennium.

I encourage voters and potential candidates to read this report to gain an understanding of the big challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for our Council and community over the next three years. Changes to the Resource Management Act, Local Government Act, and Local Water Done Well could mean significant change in how Council operates and looks going forward. All this is occurring while Council continues to face challenges from climate change, aging infrastructure and ever increasing costs.



To face these challenges Council needs strong partnerships and bold leaders that will make decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of our community. In the last Local Government Election, in 2022, four of the 11 seats on our Council were uncontested, this meant that the people who put their hand up, got the role. If you've been thinking about running for Council or either of our Community Boards, and you want to lead, serve and put the community first, I encourage you to stand.

Rangitikei District Council is a busy, dynamic, and exciting place. Our elected members make decisions that impact the everyday lives of Rangitikei residents and contribute holistically to making the district a truly special place to call home. Beyond planning, infrastructure, parks, facilities and roading, elected members are engaged in building strong relationships across the region, enabling economic growth and development, and facilitating community connection and spirit.

Doing all of this (and doing it well) requires not only a level head and the ability to prioritise, but also an inherent passion for the Rangitikei and a desire to ensure we are best positioned for a prosperous future. Behind the spreadsheets and reports is a team of fantastic staff and passionate elected members, all from diverse backgrounds looking to deliver the absolute best for Rangitikei.

This pre-election report is designed to give you the most up-to-date information so you can have important discussions with your whānau, community, peers, and perhaps even your opponents. Whether you agree or disagree with how Rangitikei is positioned and where we're heading, the first step to progress is conversation. I look forward to hearing the key opportunities and challenges facing Rangitikei as you see them - and maybe seeing you around the council table one day soon.

Ngā mihi,

Carol Gordon

Chief Executive

OUR PURPOSE AND VISION

Council has a clear strategic direction for Rangitikei District. This strategic framework identifies our purpose, vision, community outcomes, and strategies and plans. The framework shows a hierarchy, with our purpose at the top, guiding everything we do.

Our framework has been designed to align with our branding centered around the kōwhai. Rangitikei is known for abundant kōwhai. It is a cultural and social icon and it is important but sometimes overlooked feature of our district.

Purpose

He oranga whenua

He oranga tangata

He oranga wairua

Tihei mauri ora!

If our land is cared for

If our people are looked after

If the spirit is strong

We can build a better future for all

Let there be life!

Our purpose guides and supports us in making the best decisions for our community. It shows the importance of caring for our land and people and highlights our focus on building a future for everyone.

Vision

Making this place home

Council's vision reflects our desire to be a key part in making sure our district is a great place to live and do business.

Rangitikei is a special place and it is important to look after our people and land. We want to be known for our lifestyle, culture and natural environment.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

The community outcomes are the outcomes that we aim to achieve to promote the wellbeing of our district. We have five (5) community outcomes and these are explained in turn below.



A trusted partner with iwi

Our goal is to have a high level of trust and collaboration with iwi across the district and to be working together to promote the wellbeing of our communities.

Being a trusted partner with iwi means working closely on a wide range of projects. It means knowing and understanding each other's priorities, and looking for opportunities to collaborate. Building trust is important, to do so we need to be open, act with integrity and deliver on what we say we will do



Economic Wellbeing

Our goal is for Rangitikei to be the place of choice for new and existing businesses to come and grow, with a desirable lifestyle and affordable housing. Economic wellbeing is about the quality of life of our people. For the Rangitikei economic wellbeing is focused on thriving and vibrant retail areas, resilient primary industries, and growing businesses. It's about the Rangitikei brand as a destination, employment for all and ensuring our whole community benefits from sustainable growth.



Social Wellbeing

Our goal is to build relationships with the community and agencies and provide services and spaces that enhance community wellbeing.

Social wellbeing for the Rangitikei is about our people being able to meet their needs and fulfil their potential as an active member of society. It's ensuring all our people, from young to old, have access to support and services, that then enable them to connect and participate as part of the community.



Cultural Wellbeing

Our goal is to provide spaces where our community can connect, promote the diversity of our cultures, and develop relationships that support community led initiatives.

Culture is a way of life, it is about values, behaviours, customs, beliefs and identity that exists with our community. It is dynamic and ever changing. The foundation of cultural wellbeing in our district is belonging and connection to place.



Environmental Wellbeing

Our goal is to ensure our infrastructure, relationships, and regulatory framework support the ongoing development of high quality built environments and improvement in the natural environment.

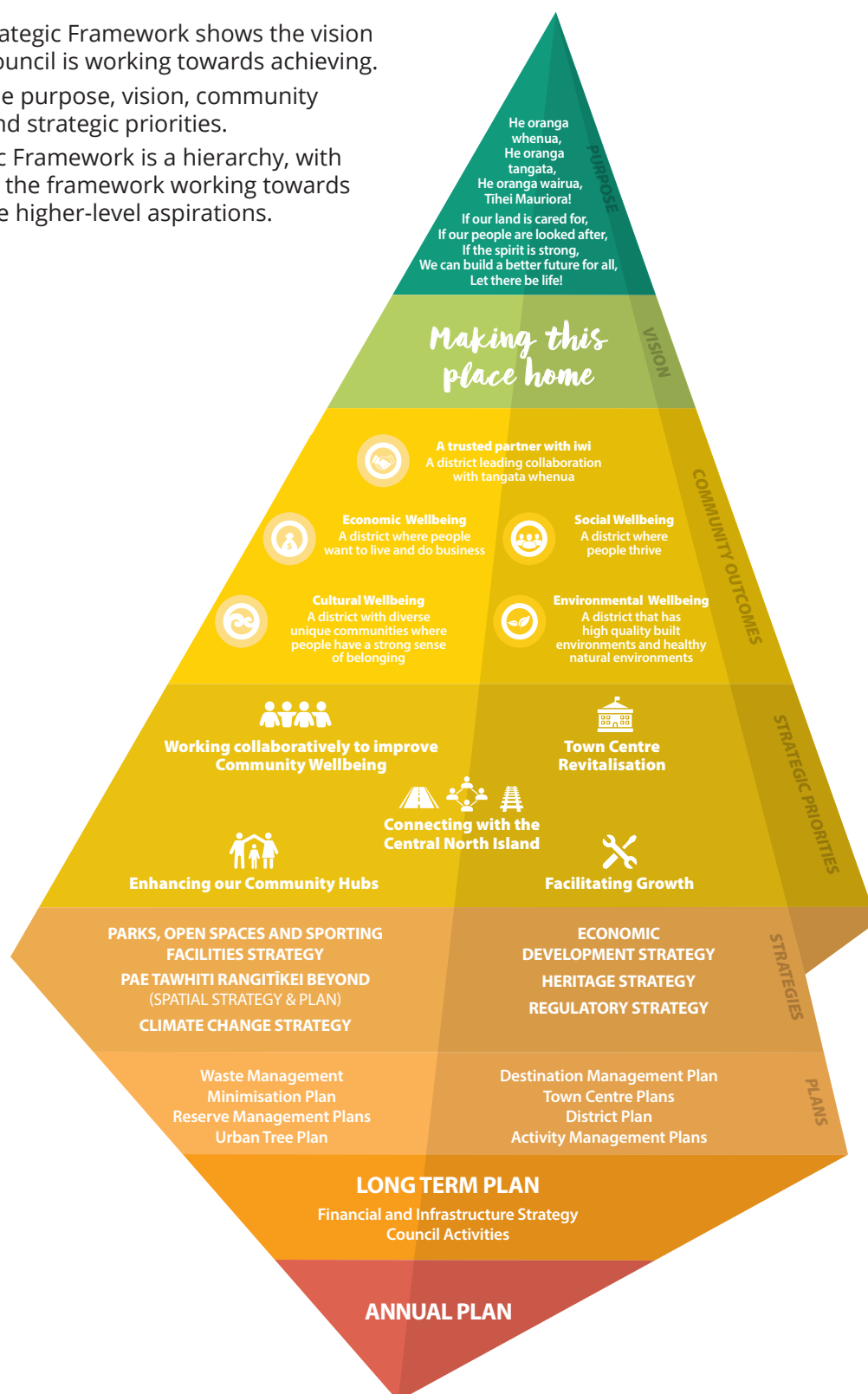
Environmental wellbeing is about the health of people, the natural environment, and the built environment. For us, environmental wellbeing is focused on the health of our waterways and the land. It's about ensuring communities are built in a way that support the health of people and nature.

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Council's Strategic Framework shows the vision and goals Council is working towards achieving.

It sets out the purpose, vision, community outcomes and strategic priorities.

The Strategic Framework is a hierarchy, with each level in the framework working towards achieving the higher-level aspirations.



GOVERNMENT REFORMS

Local Water Done Well

Local Water Done Well is a central-government mandated initiative to address concerns about Aotearoa New Zealand's water infrastructure and water quality.

It seeks to do this by:

- Requiring councils to develop a fit-for-purpose plan to deliver water services to its residents.
- Ensuring water services are future-proofed and financially sustainable.
- Introducing greater central government oversight, and economic and quality regulation.

Rangitikei District Council consulted with our community on three options for Local Water Done Well, with our preferred option being the creation of a multi council-controlled organisation with Whanganui District Council and Ruapehu District Council.

In May 2025, our Council was provided with more information from the Minister for Local Government and the Department of Internal Affairs which stated that for councils to achieve economies of scale that would unlock greater savings, 50,000 service connections would be required.

This information caused a rethink for many councils, including ours. Council therefore has decided to press ahead with new discussions with Palmerston North City Council and Horowhenua District Council, alongside Whanganui and Ruapehu District Councils (should they choose to), to establish a joint Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation.

Our Council will work to finalise a Water Services Delivery Plan, which must be submitted to the government by 3 September 2025.

Local Government Act Reforms

Late 2024 the Government announced that local government will be reformed to refocus councils on delivering essential services and core infrastructure. Central Government has indicated that this will be achieved by rewriting the purpose of Local Government within the Local Government Act 2002. It has been indicated that the new definition will no longer reference the four well-beings (social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being).

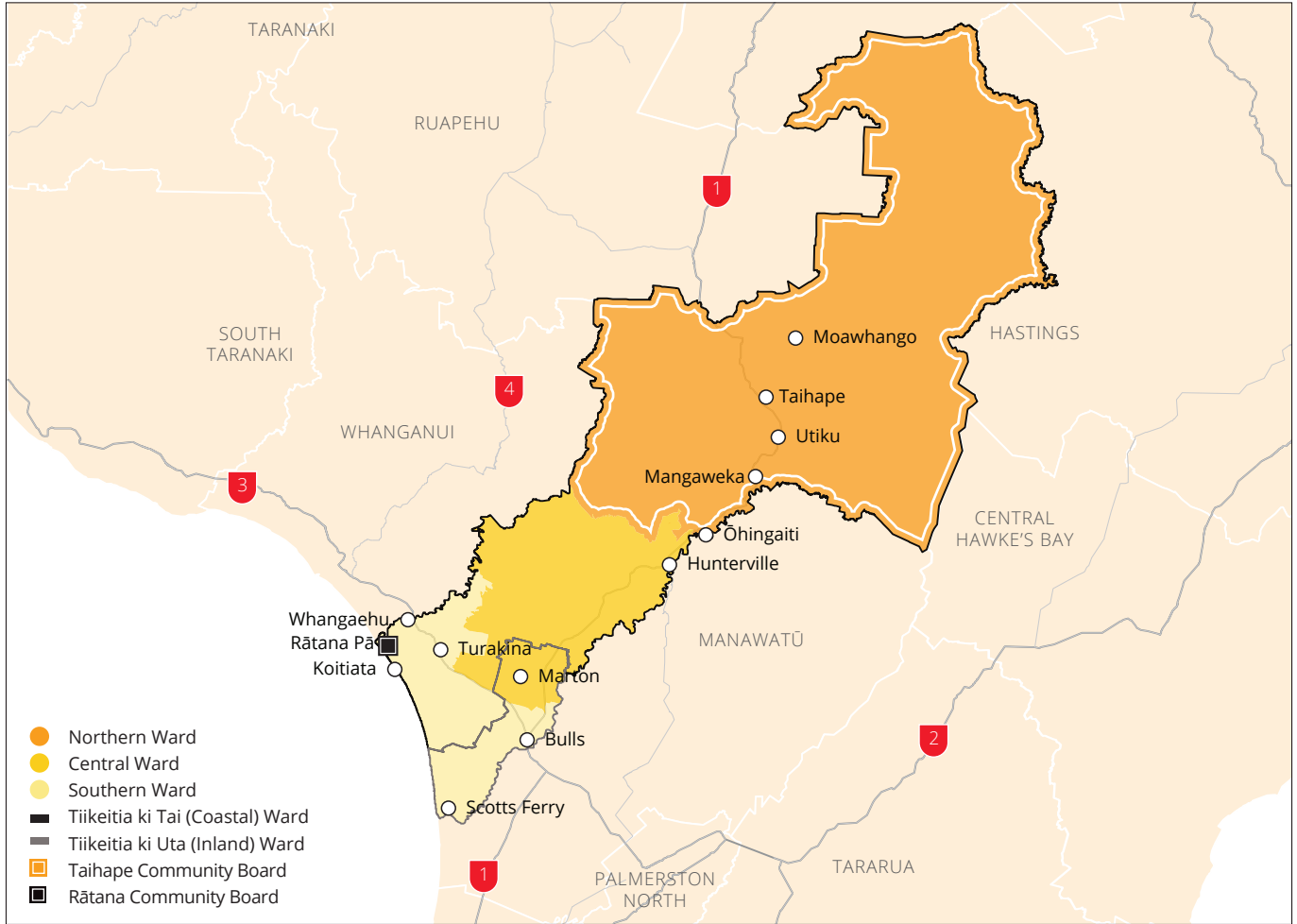
Government has indicated that there will likely be other changes coming in the near future such as introducing a revenue cap. However, the details have not yet been shared with Council.

Resource Management Act (RMA) Reform

Introducing the Nation Direction Packages is part of phase 2 of the Government's plan for the reform of the RMA, which sets New Zealand's planning and resource management system. The first phase was to repeal the legislation that the previous Government had implemented (the Spatial Planning Act and the Natural and Built Environment Act). Phase 3 will be the repeal of the RMA and the introduction of replacement legislation. Government has indicated that phase 3 will occur in 2026.

The Government is consulting on the four National Direction packages during June/July 2025. Each of the four packages focuses on different areas of the resource management system being; Infrastructure and development, primary sector, freshwater, and going for housing growth.

These packages propose to amend and introduce a number of National Policy Statements, National Environmental Standards, and other regulations. The Government has stated that their aim for these changes is to boost growth and productivity, streamline regulatory processes, rebalance freshwater standards to reflect the interests of everyone, and ending New Zealand's housing crisis.



ELECTED MEMBER STRUCTURE

Wards

The District is divided into five wards, three general wards and two Māori Wards.

The Wards are: Northern Ward, Central Ward, Southern Ward, Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Māori, Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Māori.

Community Boards

There are two Community Boards whose members are elected within the board areas and deal with local issues within their areas.

The Community Boards are: Rātana Community Board, and Taihape Community Board.

Community Committees

There are four Community Committees, but unlike Community Boards, Community Committees are not elected during the triennial elections. These committees are established by Council each triennium and are made up of voluntary members.

The current Community Committees are: Hunterville, Marton, Turakina, and Bulls.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Project	Description	Estimated Completion	Budget Estimate
Water Supply			
Marton Water Strategy	Changing the raw water source for the Marton water supply from the Tūtaenui Dams to groundwater, including a new treatment plant to treat this new source of water.	2025/2026	\$12M
New bore for Bulls	The existing water bores in Bulls have been in use for an extended period of time. The new bore will create resilience in supply and take pressure off the existing group of bores. It will also support future growth expected in Bulls due to the developments at Ohakea Air Force base.	2028/2029 – 2029/2030	\$440K
Stormwater			
Follet St stormwater interceptor (Marton)	A new stormwater interceptor will be constructed in Follet St to improve the level of service through Marton. This will also reduce the use of open drains through the centre of the town. A well designed and constructed stormwater interceptor will support residential and business developments in Marton.	2028/29	\$4.8M
Skerman St stormwater upgrade	An additional stormwater main will be constructed in Skerman St Marton. Some residential properties in Skerman St are vulnerable to surface flooding as they are below road level. The additional stormwater line will increase the level of service in this area and reduce the risks of future surface flooding. This additional capacity will also assist in creating more residential areas for development to align with the Spatial Plan.	2025/2026	\$900K
Wastewater and Sewerage Disposal			
Mangaweka wastewater treatment plant refurbishment	The current Mangaweka wastewater treatment plant is almost 20 years old, and part of the plant will be nearing the end of its design life. The suppliers of the plant inspected it in detail and suggested a list of refurbishments to add an additional 20 years of expected life to the asset. This refurbishment will secure the long term treatment capacity for Mangaweka and continue to protect the receiving environment to the desired standard.	2026/2027	\$1.6M
Hunterville wastewater treatment plant upgrades	The Hunterville wastewater treatment plant is struggling to comply with existing discharge consent conditions. Process engineers completed a detailed assessment of the plant to identify upgrades that will result in improved effluent quality and greater treatment capacity within the existing facilities. This study identified a range of upgrades that will be completed over the first four years of this 30-year strategy.	2024-2028	\$1.6M
Taihape wastewater treatment plant upgrade	The Taihape wastewater treatment plant consent expires in 2027 and we are in the process of preparing a new consent application. This new consent will require substantial upgrades to the existing plant and discharge. The final treatment and discharge solution will only be finalised once the consent application process has been finalised and this is expected to take up to five years to complete.	2029/2030	\$34M

Project	Description	Estimated Completion	Budget Estimate
Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation	This project will make the Marton and Bulls wastewater network more efficient, effective and reliable in a culturally sensitive and environmentally responsible way. A wastewater pipeline will be constructed between the Marton and Bulls wastewater treatment plan, and further upgrades to the plants will be made if required.	2025/2026 to 2028/2029 Total LTP budget	\$5.75M \$79M
Community Leadership			
Marton Streetscape Upgrade Implementation	This project aims to enhance the natural beauty of Marton's main street. A draft plan was developed in 2024/25 with the help of the Marton Community and stakeholders. Consultation on the draft Plan and what improvements from the plan will be implemented will occur in 2026.	2026/2027	\$2M
Community			
New Marton Civic Building	The existing buildings are old, earthquake prone and require work to comply with new building code standards. A new building will deliver a modern and multi-use space that incorporates the Marton library. The development of the final concept and detailed designs, the tender process, and construction is expected to take up to four years.	2024-2028	\$19M
Taihape Town Hall	The existing Taihape Town Hall had to be closed to staff and the public due to the building being earthquake prone. Council will upgrade the existing hall to comply with the new building code and create multi-use spaces where possible. The development of the final concept and detailed designs, the tender process, and construction is expected to take up to four years.	2024-2028	\$14M
Marton Pool	The Marton pool was closed in 2024 due to a failure of one of the beams holding the roof up. Council has decided to replace the beam and the roof, alongside other minor improvements to get the pool re-opened as soon as possible.	2025/2026	Unknown
Rubbish and Recycling			
Recycling kerbside collection	The Government has announced it will no longer require household recycling and foodscraps services to be provided to all urban areas from 2027 and 2030 respectively. In 2024, Rangitikei District Council made its decision to proceed with kerbside recycling and foodscraps services based on the government timeframes. Money was included in the 2025/26 year to begin purchasing the required equipment, this budget has been deferred by one year as we work on what this means for Rangitikei.	2028/2029	\$1.0M

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2023 <i>Annual report</i> \$'000	2024 <i>Annual report</i> \$'000	2025 <i>Financial forecast</i> \$'000	2026 <i>Annual plan</i> \$'000	2027 <i>Long-term plan</i> \$'000	2028 <i>Long-term plan</i> \$'000	2029 <i>Long-term plan</i> \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities							
Receipts from rates revenue	26,053	28,280	32,454	33,617	39,891	44,272	48,296
Receipts from other revenue	17,724	19,445	16,770	18,774	21,787	19,900	20,330
Interest received	390	574	486	459	549	549	549
Dividends received	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments to suppliers and employees	(34,959)	(37,031)	(34,658)	(35,208)	(38,221)	(39,625)	(40,955)
Interest paid	(813)	(1,495)	(2,227)	(3,100)	(5,064)	(5,464)	(5,664)
Goods and services tax (net)	-	(222)	-	-	-	-	-
Net cash inflows (outflows) from operating activities	8,395	9,551	12,825	14,542	18,942	19,632	22,556
Cash flows from investing activities							
Receipts from sale of property, plant and equipment	1,440	133	145	253	254	255	257
Receipts from sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acquisition of investments	-	-	-	-	(329)	(6)	(118)
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(22,608)	(23,018)	(20,145)	(39,556)	(31,640)	(19,393)	(26,776)
Purchases of intangible assets	-	(172)	-	-	-	-	-
Net cash inflows (outflows) from investing activities	(21,168)	(23,057)	(20,000)	(39,303)	(31,715)	(19,144)	(26,637)
Cash flows from financing activities							
Proceeds from borrowings	11,684	12,654	10,000	26,600	14,773	-	4,081
Repayment of borrowings	-	-	-	-	-	(489)	-
Net cash inflows (outflows) from financing activities	11,684	12,654	10,000	26,600	14,773	(489)	4,081
Net increase (decrease) in cash, and cash equivalents	(1,232)	(852)	2,825	1,838	2,000	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year*	13,171	11,939	11,087	13,912	11,000	13,000	13,000
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	11,939	11,087	13,912	15,750	13,000	13,000	13,000

FUNDING IMPACT STATEMENT

	2023 Annual report \$'000	2024 Annual report \$'000	2025 Financial forecast \$'000	2026 Annual plan \$'000	2027 Long-term plan \$'000	2028 Long-term plan \$'000	2029 Long-term plan \$'000
Sources of operating funding							
General rates, uniform annual general charge, rates penalties	8,253	8,478	9,792	11,138	12,573	13,876	15,174
Targeted rates	17,935	20,412	22,663	24,435	27,630	30,643	33,352
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	8,982	10,192	6,660	6,335	5,794	5,839	5,967
Fees, charges, and targeted rates for water supply	4,089	2,816	3,071	3,793	3,808	3,898	3,989
Interest and dividends from investments	-	607	486	459	549	549	549
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees, and other receipts	390	896	1,270	1,502	1,482	1,512	1,533
Total operating funding	39,649	43,401	43,942	47,662	51,836	56,317	60,564
Applications of operating funding							
Payment to staff and suppliers	33,912	36,470	34,914	37,163	38,534	39,872	41,185
Finance costs	813	1,495	2,227	3,100	5,064	5,464	5,664
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total applications of operating funding	34,725	37,965	37,141	40,263	43,598	45,336	46,849
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding	4,924	5,436	6,801	7,399	8,238	10,981	13,715
Sources of capital funding							
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	5,276	5,541	5,770	7,143	-	-	-
Development and financial contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) in debt	12,000	12,984	10,000	26,600	14,773	(489)	4,081
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	1,600	133	145	253	254	255	257
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sources of capital funding	18,876	18,658	15,915	33,996	15,027	(234)	4,338
Application of capital funding							
Capital expenditure**							
- to meet additional demand	885	-	-	16,390	2,456	267	7,818
- to improve the level of service	10,615	13,141	9,145	12,469	10,604	1,472	1,558
- to replace existing assets	11,010	10,049	11,000	10,698	18,580	17,654	17,400
Increase (decrease) in reserves	1,290	1,757	928	-	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) in investments	-	(852)	1,643	1,838	2,329	6	118
Total applications of capital funding	23,800	24,095	22,716	41,395	33,969	19,399	26,894
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding	(4,924)	(5,437)	(6,801)	(7,399)	(18,942)	(19,633)	(22,556)
Funding balance	-	(1)	-	-	(10,704)	(8,652)	(8,841)
<i>Note: Depreciation expense not included above</i>							
	17,496	17,384	18,650	20,048	11,457	11,554	11,680

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2023 Annual report \$'000	2024 Annual report \$'000	2025 Financial forecast \$'000	2026 Annual plan \$'000	2027 Long-term plan \$'000	2028 Long-term plan \$'000	2029 Long-term plan \$'000
Assets							
Current Assets							
Cash and cash equivalents	11,939	11,087	13,912	15,750	13,000	13,000	13,000
Debtors and other receivables	3,862	4,545	5,349	5,349	3,846	4,247	4,626
Prepayments	252	429	730	252	252	252	252
Other financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-current assets held for sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total current assets	16,053	16,061	19,991	21,351	17,098	17,499	17,878
Non-current assets							
Plant, property and equipment	787,831	788,133	789,628	815,857	941,776	993,582	1,005,240
Intangible assets	666	717	-	717	666	666	666
Forestry assets	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
Other financial assets	853	1,182	1,182	1,182	2,377	2,365	2,467
Total non-current assets	789,411	790,093	790,871	817,817	944,880	996,674	1,008,434
Total assets	805,464	806,154	810,862	839,168	961,978	1,014,173	1,026,312
Liabilities							
Current Liabilities							
Creditors and other payables	5,017	4,150	2,433	3,008	4,527	4,722	4,891
Employee entitlements	800	1,050	1,378	912	964	1,010	1,050
Income in advance	1,143	1,217	1,296	1,413	1,553	1,707	1,856
Borrowings / Other financial liabilities	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Total current liabilities	6,976	6,433	5,123	5,349	7,060	7,455	7,813
Non-current liabilities							
Employee entitlements	8	-	8	10	10	10	11
Provisions	149	149	149	160	160	164	168
Borrowings	31,048	44,032	54,032	80,632	110,969	110,464	114,545
Total non-current liabilities	31,205	44,181	54,189	80,802	111,139	110,638	114,724
Total liabilities	38,181	50,614	59,312	86,151	118,199	118,093	122,537
Net Assets	767,283	755,540	751,550	753,017	843,779	896,080	903,775
Equity							
Accumulated funds	465,260	460,477	455,505	450,052	454,878	451,938	451,296
Special and restricted reserves	4,588	4,640	4,693	5,621	4,588	4,588	4,588
Other reserves	297,440	290,424	291,352	297,344	384,314	439,554	447,891
Total equity	767,288	755,541	751,550	753,017	843,780	896,080	903,775

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Rangitikei District Council specifies financial limits as part of its long term plan and reports on them annually as part of its annual reports. The table below reports on the actual results against those limits

The Council set the following limits:

Criteria			2021/22 annual report compliance	2022/23 annual report compliance	2023/24 annual report compliance	2024/25 forecast annual report compliance
Rates (increase) affordability	21/31 LTP = Long-term plan quantified limit on rates increase of <7.5% in 21/22 and 22/23 and an average of <5% for the remaining 8 years		Not Achieved 7.10%	Not Achieved 7.76%	Not Achieved 9.49%	
	24/34 LTP = Long-term plan quantified limit on rates increase of <13.5% in 24/25					Achieved - 11.5%
Interest Rate Exposure	21/31 LTP = Net interest payments as a ratio of total revenue must be less than 20%		Achieved .53%	Achieved 1.81%	Achieved 1.81%	Achieved 3.5%
	21/31 = Net interest payments as a ratio of annual rates revenue must be less than 25%		Achieved .92%	Achieved 3.1%	Achieved 3.07%	Achieved 5.36%
Liquidity	18/28 LTP = Total interest exposure on net external debt will not exceed 15% of total rates income or	Interest / Rates	Achieved 3.1%	Achieved 5.2%	Achieved 6.8%	Achieved 8.7%
	10% of total income	Interest / Total Income	Achieved 1.8%	Achieved 3.05%	Achieved 4.48%	Achieved 5.66%
	18/28 LTP = The ratio of net external debt to annual rates income will not exceed 150%		Achieved 24.3%	Achieved 72.9%	Achieved 114%	Achieved 123.6%
	21/31 LTP = Net debt as a ratio of total revenue must be less than 175%		Achieved 14.07%	Achieved 42.54%	Achieved 67.31%	Achieved 80.70%
	21/31 LTP = External debt plus liquid investments divided by external debt must be more than 110%		Achieved 169%	Achieved 138%	Achieved 125%	Achieved 126%
Debt Servicing Benchmark	Planned borrowing costs are equal or less than 10% of planned revenue		Achieved .70%	Achieved 1.81%	Achieved 3.05%	Achieved 4.48%
Balanced Budget	Total revenue as a percentage of total operating expenses is greater than 100%		Achieved 113%	Not achieved 85.15%	Not achieved 91.45%	Not achieved 89%

ELECTIONS 2025

What does an elected member do?

Rangitikei District Council's governing body is made up of 20 elected members. This consists of 1 Mayor, 11 Councillors, and 8 Community Board members. Each person serves for a three year term, if a person wishes to represent their community for another term they will be required to run for election and win the vote again.

Candidates fill all of these roles based on the outcome of the communities' votes. All of these roles exist to represent the communities that they have been elected within. However, there are differences in the responsibilities and functions of these roles.

What does a Councillor do?

While Councillors are elected by the community within their ward, once they become an elected member their role is to represent the Rangitikei District as a whole when making decisions.

A councillor's role requires high-level strategic thinking to contribute to things such as setting policy direction, setting council's budget, and reviewing council's performance.

What does the Mayor do?

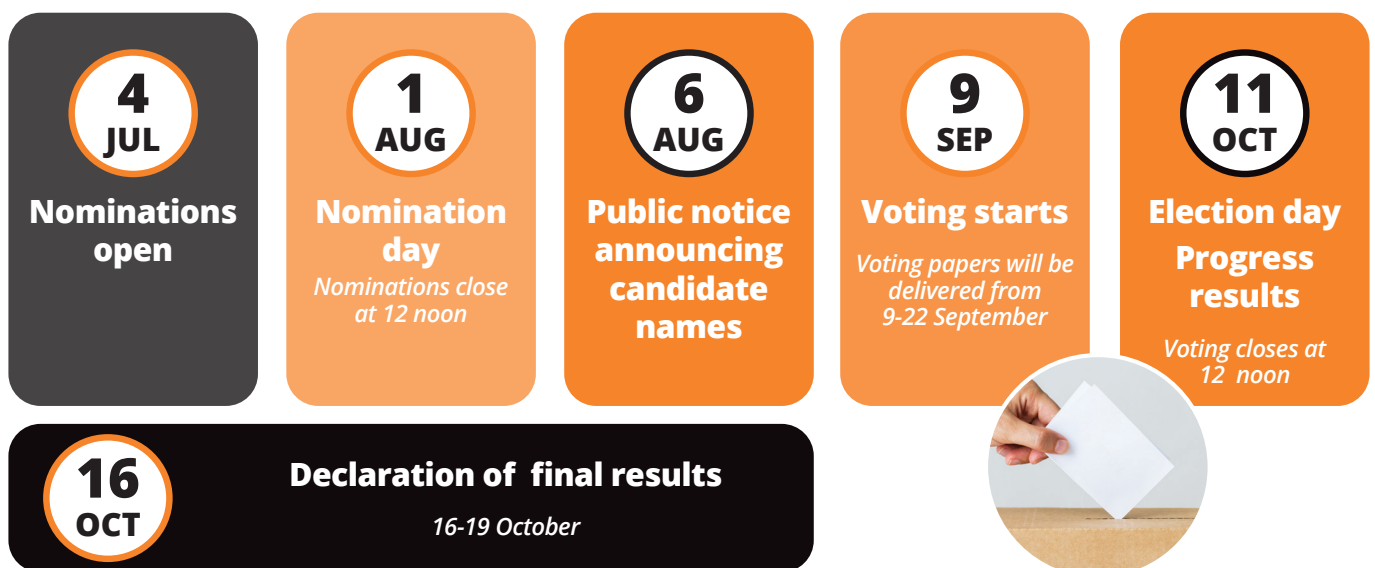
The Mayor is elected by the entire district, and has a leadership role within the governing body, provides leadership to the people in the Rangitikei District, performs other civic duties, and leads the development of plans, policies and budgets for the consideration of other councillors. Powers of the Mayor include appointing the Deputy Mayor, establish committees, appoint a chairperson for the committees, and serve as a member of each committee.

What does a Community Board Member do?

Community board members are elected by their community to represent the views of the community. The purpose of the board is to be a link between the community and Council. These boards have the responsibility of ensuring their community can have a say on local issues.

If you are thinking about standing for the local body elections but are not sure if you are ready to take on the role of a councillor, putting your name forward for your local community board could be a great way to start.

Key Dates



Standing

How to become a candidate

Nominations open 4 July 2025 and all nominations forms need to be handed in before 12 noon on 1 August 2025.

To complete your nomination you must

- Have two people nominate you. They must be over 18 and be enrolled to vote in the area you wish to be a candidate for.
- You must agree to being nominated.
- A \$200 nomination deposit must be paid for all positions you would like to be a candidate for.
- Your nomination must be received before 12 noon on 1 August. Late nominations are not able to be accepted.

Further information on becoming a candidate can be found in the LGNZ Candidate's Guide or the Rangitikei District Council Candidate Handbook.

How many positions can you be elected for?

If you are elected to more than one position, you will take the highest ranked position.

If you are standing to be a councillor, you cannot be a candidate for more than one ward.

You cannot stand as a candidate for both the Rangitikei District Council and Horizons Regional Council.

Māori Wards Referendum

The Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2004 was passed by Central Government on 30 July 2024. It requires all councils that established Māori Wards without holding a poll following the changes made in 2021 to hold a binding poll as part of the 2025 elections or disestablish the Māori Wards.

Rangitikei District Council established two (2) Māori wards (being the Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Ward and the Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) Ward) without holding a poll. As Rangitikei District Council decided to retain the Māori Wards, a binding poll is taking place as part of these local government elections. The outcome of the poll will apply to the 2028 and 2031 elections.

Regardless of the outcome on this referendum, it does not impact the 2025-2028 term, the Māori wards will remain in place as they currently are for this coming term.

Voting

Electoral system

The Rangitīkei District Council elections use the first-past-the-post electoral system.

Voters cast a single vote, and those elected are the candidates with the most votes. For example, if there are five candidates, and only three positions, the three candidates that get the most votes will be elected.

Enrolment criteria

If you are on the electoral roll and your information is up to date then you are ready to vote in the upcoming local elections.

If you are 18 or older and a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and have lived in New Zealand for more than one year continuously at some point in your life you are eligible to enroll to vote.

You're not eligible to enrol and vote if any of the following statements are true:

- You're a New Zealand citizen who has not been in New Zealand within the last 3 years.
- You're a permanent resident of New Zealand who has not been in New Zealand within the past twelve months.
- You have to leave New Zealand by a set date, such as a date on a student, work, or visitor permit.
- You're serving a prison sentence of 3 years or more in a New Zealand prison.
- You've been in a psychiatric hospital for over 3 years after being charged with a criminal offence.
- You've been convicted of a corrupt practice and added to the Corrupt Practices List.



rangitikei.govt.nz/elections

