

# Framing 2022/23: Analysis and Responses to Submissions

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## 1. Introduction

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Framing 2022/23 is the Rangitikei District Council's Annual Plan for 2022/23, the second year of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. The Annual Plan sets out projects and priorities for the year, highlighting any changes from what was indicated in the Long Term Plan.

Feedback from the community was sought during the formal consultation period in April/May 2022. Throughout this period, Council provided a wide range of opportunities for the community to respond to the key choices outlined in the plan and provide additional feedback. These opportunities included drop-in events, Facebook conversations, and sharing feedback in person, on paper, or online. A summary flyer was delivered throughout the District inviting feedback.

The Framing 2022/23 consultation included three key choices:

- The application of a differential on the roading rate for forestry land.
- The establishment of a Council Controlled Organisation to manage Council's contribution to the Marton Rail Hub.
- Feedback on Climate Change.

## 2. Key Choice One – Forestry Differential

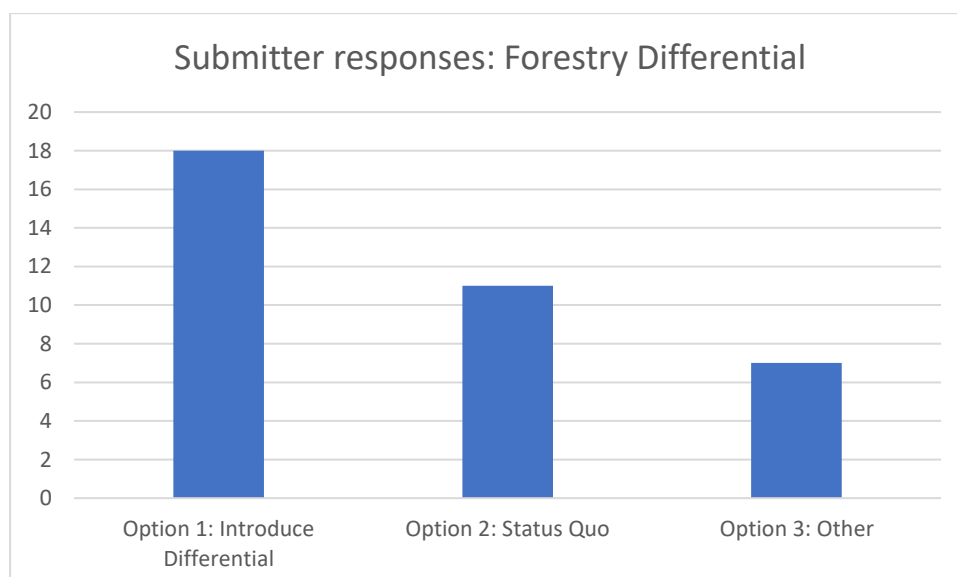
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### 2.1.1. Introduction

One of the key choices listed in Council’s Annual Plan consultation for 2022/23 was the establishment of a differential on the roading rate for Forestry. As part of the development of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Council signalled a potential rating differential on land classified as ‘forestry’. A differential of 1.5 was proposed to apply only to the Roading Rate.

Council’s preferred option was to establish a forestry differential on the roading rate of 1.5 for the 2022/23 and 1.5 for the 2023/24 year, with future differential rates considered as part of the development of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan. The other option identified was the status quo, where there is no differential.

Council received 39 submissions on this key choice. The table below shows the preferred option indicated by submitters.



Of the 39 submitters, 21 also provided comments and 8 submitters at the Oral Hearing commented on this proposal.

Comments from submitters and officer responses are outlined below.

### 2.1.2. Submitters

Heather Thorby (007), Paul Geurtjens (008), Forest Owners Association (009), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitīkei (013), John Turkington (014), Federated Farmers (059), Earnslaw One (017), Te Runanga o Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa (018), Tim Whitehouse (029), T&J McIlwaine (031), Pete Galpin (033), Lynda Bradley (034), Anonymous (037), Grant Wilson (042), Murray Guy (047), Robert Snijders (051), Geoff Mills (056), Wayne Aldridge (057), Sally Patrick (058), Southern North Island Wood Council (060), Peter Lissington (061).

### **2.1.3. Summary of submissions**

A range of submission points were raised in relation to the proposed differential:

- A differential is needed, and a higher differential is likely to be required, monitoring is important (013, 059, 029, 034, 037, 051, 058).
- A differential is not a useful method as it does not reflect the impact of logging large areas, compared with smaller blocks or farms with forests on them (056, 061).
- More information on the proposed differential is needed (008, 017, 058).
- Forestry provides a range of benefits (008, 009, 047, 060, 061).
- Dairying is often on better quality roads than forestry harvesting (059).
- There are a range of other road users, forestry operations only occur once every 25- 30 years, roading rates are being paid during this time (007, 008, 017, 037, 057, 060, 061).
- The proposed differential is unfair – extra charge for roads that might not be needed for another 25 years and is a one-off event (031, 033, 047).
- Coastal forests access roads that require little repair (047, 061).
- There needs to be greater consultation / engagement (007, 008, 009, 018, 060).
- Submitter 017 provided a comprehensive submission with alternative options proposed.
- Submitter 009 identified a range of calculators that would assist in Council's planning.
- One submitter questioned the need to consult publicly, that consultation was only needed with those directly affected (042).
- It is important to ensure funding generated through the targeted rate is used for works associated with damage from forestry traffic and provided comments on the use of the funds (009, 014, 017, 051).
- Questions the role of Horizons in relation to slash (051).
- Increased clarity was needed on which properties the proposed differential would apply to and the appropriateness of using the QV classifications. Some suggested alternative methods provided (007, 008, 014, 059, 017, 034, 061).
- Differential should only apply to the roading rate (014).
- Council should advocate with Government for a more proportional share of the Road User Charges (008).
- Consider the use of a bylaw as an alternative (007, 059).
- Work with the forestry sector closely to ensure the best outcome for the network (009).
- Clarification needed on the new targeted rate which is currently sitting under Community and Leisure Assets and a question about the targeted rate figure of \$180,466 (059).

### **2.1.4. Council comment**

The differential was proposed as a mechanism of funding damage to the District's roads that is being caused as a result of forestry harvesting operations. This approach has been taken by a number of other local authorities in New Zealand, such as in the Whanganui and Wairoa Districts.

A differential of 1.5 generates an additional \$50,000 excluding GST for the 2022/23 year. This funding was included in the draft Annual Plan document. There was a minor

coding error in the draft Annual Plan document where the income was showing under the Community and Leisure Assets group which would be rectified by Officers if Council decides to proceed with the proposed differential. In response to the query raised by submitter 059, the \$180,000 identified is the whole of the targeted rate that would be collected and is a value that includes GST. Of this, \$120,000 would have been collected had there been no differential, with \$60,000 including GST as a result of the differential (\$50,000 excluding GST rounded).

The intent is that only properties categorised in the following QV categories would be impacted: Forestry Exotic, Forestry Indigenous or Forestry Vacant. Using the QV categories had been proposed as the most efficient manner of implementing a differential throughout the District that captures the major forestry blocks. There are approximately 90 rating units impacted by this proposal. This means agricultural properties that may have forestry on them as part of a wider farming operation, but are not classified as 'forestry' would not be captured by the proposed differential.

Council notes the benefits that the forestry sector provides to the Rangitikei District. All properties proposed to be affected were contacted directly via email or letter notifying them of the proposal and consultation.

Officers appreciate the valuable suggestions raised by submitters, particularly those from the forestry sector. Officers welcome the opportunity to work alongside the forestry sector in ensuring the best possible outcome for the community in the funding and maintenance of roads impacted by logging activities. Many of the suggestions will take time for Officers to fully explore and consider. There is not sufficient time before Council is required to deliberate on submissions and adopt the Annual Plan for 2022/23 to undertake this analysis. Therefore, Officers recommend the proposal to introduce a differential on the Roding Targeted Rate for the forestry sector is put on hold until the 2023/24 Annual Plan to explore the suggestions raised and engage further with the sector and iwi during the 2022/23 financial year.

Given the low value of additional funding the differential would have generated, the impact on the roading programme for 2022/23 will be minor. The additional funding generated would most likely have been used for minor unsubsidised projects to improve roads which have high forestry use.

#### **2.1.5. Resolution**

That Council defers the intention to establish a targeted differential on the roading rate for forestry, and instead undertakes further targeted consultation with the forestry sector and iwi before the 2023/24 financial year.

### 3. Key Choice Two – Rail Hub CCO

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#### 3.1.1. Introduction

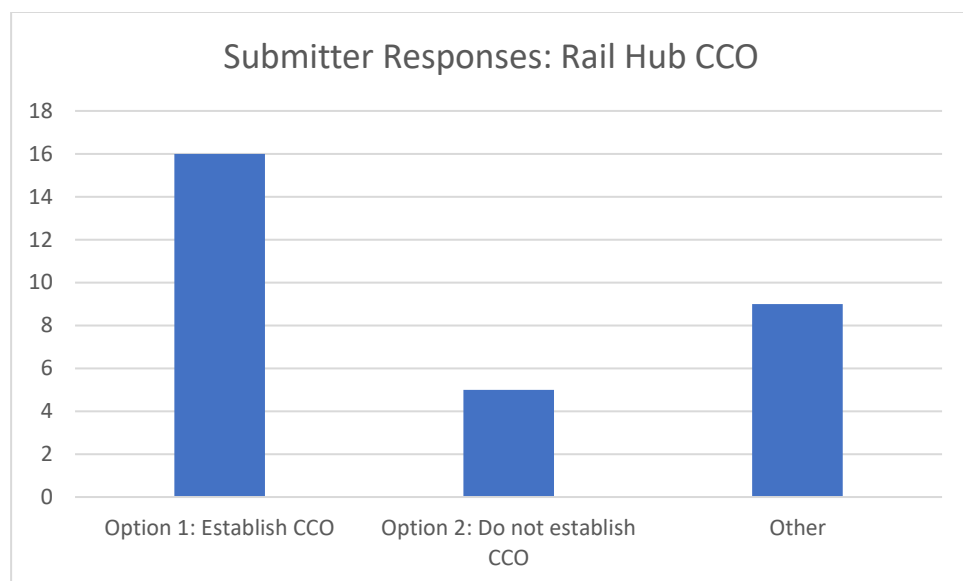
One of the key choices listed in Council’s Consultation Document for the 2022/23 Annual Plan was the establishment of a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) for the purposes of developing, operating, and maintaining the Marton Rail Hub and associated assets.

Under Council’s preferred option, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) would be created to invest in the Marton Rail Hub, with Council’s contribution invested via a CCO. The CCO will be required to report back to Council and manage Council’s investment in the Marton Rail Hub and Portfolio. Revenue will be used to develop, operate, and maintain the rail hub and associated venues.

If a CCO and SPV are not created, control of the rail hub project would be handed over to a third party, without reporting requirements or the ability for Council to leverage the CCO as a source of income.

Council received 32 submissions on this issue.

The following table shows the preferred option indicated by submitters, with 16 responses in support of the establishment of a CCO and 5 responses not in support.



Of the 32 submissions, 20 respondents included comments, and 5 submitters who spoke at hearings commented on this proposal. Comments from submitters and officer responses are outlined in this document.

#### 3.1.2. Comments

- Topic 1 Consultation Process
- Topic 2 Financial Implications
- Topic 3 Leadership of CCO
- Topic 4 Rail Hub

Topic 5	Council Controlled Organisations
Topic 6	Other

### 3.2. Topic 1: Consultation process

#### 3.2.1.Submissions

Lynne Sheridan (004), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitīkei (013).

#### 3.2.2.Summary of Submissions

Submitters 004 and 013 indicated concern that insufficient information was available and questioned whether sufficient process and disclosure were undertaken. Submitter 004 requested information on whether Council is following the Significance and Engagement Policy or undertaking the Special Consultative procedure.

Submitter 004 requested more information on risks and benefits of SPVs and CCOs.

Submitter 013 suggested it was not appropriate for Council to consult relating to the Rail Hub at this time, considering that the issue is before the Environment Court.

#### 3.2.3.Council Comment

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy notes that the establishment of a CCO requires consultation to take place via the Special Consultative Procedure (SCP). Under the Local Government Act 2002 56(2), Council may combine consultations requiring the SCP, such as the establishment of a Council Controlled Organisation and the Annual Plan.

Although the Rail Hub is still before the Environment Court, Council decided to undertake consultation on the establishment of a CCO for this purpose at this time, to combine with the Annual Plan consultation which already required the use of the Special Consultative Procedure.

Any CCO is subject to robust business processes and reporting to Council, with monitoring and reporting requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2002, Sections 65 to 69. Council's contribution to a future SPV via the CCO is limited to the amount already identified in the Long Term Plan, the majority of which is from central government.

### 3.3. Topic 2: Financial Implications

#### 3.3.1.Submissions

Carolyn Bates (012), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitīkei (013), Federated Farmers (059), Anonymous (020), Anonymous (030), Lyn Duncan (041), Robert Snijders (051), Sally Patrick (058).

#### 3.3.2.Summary of submissions

Submitter 012 indicated a preference for the entity to be not-for-profit, with any proceeds put into the community to reduce rates.

Submitter 013 questioned the timing of putting ratepayer funds into the project at this time given that it is before the Environment Court.

Submitter 015 suggested that the Rail Hub CCO be funded from targeted rates on the Marton township.

Submitters 030 and 058 indicated concern that establishing a CCO would result in higher costs – overheads, staff.

Submitter 020 suggested that the project be put on hold until the cost of living crisis looks better.

Submitter 041 indicated that they are not in support of the proposal if it will come at a greater cost to ratepayers.

Submitter 054 expressed concern over Council's history funding large projects, alleging that the Bulls Civic Centre was overspent with a total cost of \$12m. The submitter suggested a business plan is necessary before expecting the community to agree, and suggested Council look at other funding options before asking ratepayer to fund.

### **3.3.3.Council Comment**

The establishment and running of the CCO is anticipated to derive a dividend and offset costs. Any dividend derived from the CCO would be subject to Council decision but may be used to take pressure off rates.

Although the Rail Hub project is before the Environment Court, combining the consultation required to establish a CCO with the Annual Plan consultation will inform a decision to be made on a possible CCO in the future, saving money and staff resources.

Council has already set aside the funding required for its share of the Rail Hub project in the Long Term Plan and are not proposing to allocate further funding to the project. Decisions about Council's financial contribution are not being sought at this time.

An economic evaluation has been conducted in February 2022 by Market Economics on the economic effects of the Marton Rail Hub, indicating that the project would create economic benefits for the community in terms of both GDP and employment, as well as attracting new activities to the District.

Should a CCO be created, a business plan would be developed as part of formalising the CCO.

## **3.4. Topic 3: Leadership of CCO**

### **3.4.1.Submissions**

Carolyn Bates (012), Grant Wilson (042), Robert Snijders (051).

### **3.4.2.Summary of submissions**



Submitter 012 indicated that the Board of the CCO should be locals and not receive payments for their positions.

Submitter 042 requested information on the membership of the governance team appointed to the project in 2021.

Submitter 051 indicated that membership of the CCO shouldn't include any Council membership due to concern over Council's management of assets.

### **3.4.3.Council Comment**

Under the LGA 2002 57(1), Council is required to adopt a policy on the appointment of directors. This is required to be provided on the Council website. Suitably qualified local candidates are welcome to apply for such a position when it arises.

This is no separate governance team appointed to the project in its current form. The governance team are the elected members of the Rangitikei District Council, however there is an advisory board providing advice to the Council. This advisory board is chaired by Peter Beggs (Chief Executive of RDC), and the members are Mayor Andy Watson, Cr Dave Wilson, Cr Nigel Belsham, and three independent advisors – David Warburton, Pahia Turia and Michael Kerr.

## **3.5. Topic 4: Rail Hub**

### **3.5.1.Submissions**

NZ Forest Owners Association (009), Ernslaw One (017), T&J McIlwaine Ltd (031), Grant Wilson (042), Anonymous (049), Geoff Mills (056), Southern North Island Wood Council (060).

### **3.5.2. Summary of submissions**

Submitter 009 indicated that it was essential for Council to be involved in this process and indicated appreciation for Council considering the Rail Hub project, regardless of the conclusion.

Submitters 017, 031 and 060 indicated support for this project.

Submitter 042 and 056 questioned the purpose of the rail hub and suggested more information should be provided on the project.

Submitter 049 requested that the Rail Hub be made attractive and respect the land it is on.

### **3.5.3.Council Comment**

The comments in support of this project are acknowledged.

The rail hub is an access point for the rail freight network, as well as establishing a site for other tenants with appropriate co-benefits, including those that contribute to sustainability. Council seeks to increase communication on this and other projects.

This project is expected to bring a range of benefits to the district. A report from M.E Consulting to Council in February 2022 outlined the predicted benefits and quantified possible outcomes. Benefits identified in this report include directly and indirectly increasing job numbers and GDP and expanding the range of commercial activities taking place in the district. These benefits align with Council's goals to promote prosperity and wellbeing in our communities.

The request to ensure the Hub is attractive and respects the land it stands on aligns with Council's goals for this and other projects.

### **3.6. Topic 5: Council Controlled Organisations**

#### **3.6.1.Submissions**

Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (013), Jane Russel Bowen (024), Anonymous (030), Pete Galpin (033), Sally Patrick (058).

#### **3.6.2.Summary of submissions**

Submitter 013 noted that Council's previous CCO was liquidated in 2001 and questioned the risk of having a CCO.

Submitter 024 questioned the wording "associated assets" indicating concern around what else may be included.

Submitter 030 queried why a CCO was required over keeping the project internal but acknowledged that a CCO is better than complete outsourcing.

Submitter 033 indicated a preference for a privately owned and operated organization.

Submitter 058 noted the following concerns over the establishment of a CCO. The CCO may have a stronger focus on the CCO objectives over Council-wide collaboration and prioritise efficiency over community outcomes. The submitter also noted that there can be a fragmentation of Council functions and services, and there is a risk of diminished say by the community over the services provided by the CCO.

#### **3.6.3.Council Comment**

It is prudent for Council to establish a CCO in order to participate in the SPV. This is a joint venture including funding from a range of sources including Central Government, and investing via the establishment of a CCO allows Council to isolate the financial risk, as well as attracting expertise relevant to the project. Should Council not establish a CCO, the other option considered is Council contributing the Central Government and Council investment in the project to a separate entity. This would mean there are no reporting requirements to Council, nor would dividends that may arise be available to Council.

The associated assets described are those related to the Rail Hub. Both the SPV and the CCO would be set up with a specific scope and would not be leveraging any assets outside of the Rail Hub.

Council acknowledges comments on the risks around a CCO. In this case the nature of the CCO being separate from Council is appropriate to participate in the SPV. While concern is stated by the submitter on the disconnect between a CCO and Council's overall goals, the CCO reporting to Council allows Council input into the direction of the SPV, and the potential to derive income, without exposing the community to undue risk.

### 3.7. Topic 6: Other

#### 3.7.1.Submissions

Nerolie Goddard (035), Robert Snijders (051).

#### 3.7.2.Summary of submissions

Submitter 035 indicated that this was not relevant to them due to being in Hunterville.

Submitter 051 suggested another vehicle that includes independent oversight.

#### 3.7.3.Council Comment

Council is required to consult with the community before establishing a CCO.

The options identified by Council are to establish the CCO to participate in the SPV, or not retain an interest in the SPV. This submitter suggesting another vehicle appears to be in support of option 2.

#### 3.7.4.Summary

Comments from submitters made it apparent that there was confusion on the scope of the question and a lack of clarity of the purpose and differentiation between a CCO and the SPV.

This Key Choice is only regarding the establishment of a Council Controlled Organisation. Council has already made the decision to contribute to the Rail Hub. Council's contribution is \$750,000 towards the necessary infrastructure such as roading access. An additional \$9.1m has been contributed by the Crown. The \$750,000 contributed by Council is already included in the Long Term Plan, Council is not proposing a further financial contribution.

The question posed in this consultation is regarding mechanisms to enable Council's continued involvement in the Rail Hub project. The proposal is for the project to be governed by a "Special Purpose Vehicle", a type of legal entity established to fulfill certain objectives. A number of investors will be contributing to the project, and the Special Purpose Vehicle is a way to formalise the agreement.

Council would establish a CCO to retain a connection to the investment made – the CCO operates at "arm's length" from Council but would still be required to report back to Council and represent Council's interests in the Rail Hub project.

The other option explained in the Annual Plan consultation is for Council to vest the funds contributed by the Crown and Council in a third party, which would have no fundamental requirement to report back to Council or work towards Council's objectives.

#### **3.7.5.Resolution**

That Council accepts this consultation as meeting requirements under the Significance and Engagement Policy and Local Government Act 2002 to consult on the establishment of a Council Controlled Organisation in order to contribute to a potential Rail Hub Special Purpose Vehicle and supports the establishment of a Council Controlled Organisation for the Marton Rail Hub, if required.

## 4. Key Choice Three – Climate Change

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### 4.1.1. Introduction

One of the key questions in Council's Annual Plan consultation 2022/23 was how to reduce the impacts of climate change in the Rangitikei District and what resources are needed to better prepare the Rangitikei for the effects of climate change.

Climate change is expected to have a substantial impact on the district whether it be extreme weather, impact on our infrastructure or disrupting everyday activities. It is important for Council to protect our natural environment and build resilience within our communities.

Council received 27 submissions that made comment regarding this key choice.

### 4.1.2. Comments

Topic 1	Reducing the Impact of Climate Change
Topic 2	Accounting for Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Topic 3	Infrastructure and Climate Change
Topic 4	Spatial Plan
Topic 5	Recycling and Waste
Topic 6	Dairy Farming
Topic 7	New Initiatives
Topic 8	Reporting

## 4.2. Topic 1: Reducing the Impact of Climate Change

### 4.2.1. Submissions

Climate Change Joint Action Committee (001), Horizons Regional Council (003), Elisabeth Riley (011), Carolyn Bates (012), Anonymous (020), Jane Russell Bowen (024), Taihape Playground Group (048), Anonymous (049).

### 4.2.2. Summary of submissions

Submitters 001, 003 and 020 noted the impact climate change will have across the district and the need for Council to prioritise climate actions, and respond to risks, including committing the necessary resources.

Submitters 001 and 003 noted that Council can enable further action or planning via feedback from this annual plan.

Submitters 001, 012 and 048 suggested more encouragement should be provided for active transport, including the construction of cycleways or lanes.

Submitter 011 suggested native bush is to be encouraged, and submitter 049 suggested more trees are planted.

Submitters 011 and 012 requested the restoration or preservation of waterways, with submitter 011 suggesting using natural solutions to keep waterways clear.

Submitter 024 suggested a smaller footprint, greener and less run off. They suggested Council encourage rainwater catching, engage with plumbers and artists on how to catch water off sheds. The less run-off, the less pressure on infrastructure.

Submitter 048 suggested access to recycling be improved, as well as warmer homes

#### **4.2.3.Council Comment**

As part of Councils vision and long-term plan, climate change was identified as a focus area. Climate change is considered across the organisation through spatial planning, emergency management and infrastructure planning.

Council currently sits on the 'Climate Action Joint Committee' with other Councils in our region. This provides information, resources, and communication across the region focused on best practice regarding climate change. Previously, a risk assessment for the region was completed which informs Council of the risks in the district. Council has previously consulted with community committees and boards to help understand the risks and issues already being faced. Currently rural and isolated areas are being impacted the most and Council seeks to support resilience for these communities. Resilience in our communities looks like lowering emissions, having access to relevant resources, and enabling alternative choices including transport options.

Council is planning on developing a Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan during 2022/23, and will consider the recommendations by submitters.

### **4.3. Topic 2: Accounting for Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

#### **4.3.1.Submissions**

Climate Change Joint Action Committee (001), Horizons Regional Council (003), Carolyn Bates (012), Jane Russell Bowen (024), Southern North Island Wood Council (060).

#### **4.3.2.Summary of submissions**

Submitters 001 and 060 suggested measuring carbon emissions and emitters.

Submitter 003 suggested undertaking an annual organisation greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Submitter 012 suggested offsetting emissions.

Submitter 024 suggested a smaller footprint, for our areas to become greener and the need for less run-off.

Submitter 060 suggested Council map all possible areas for reforestation, and measure forest resources that might be available for future carbon storage.

#### **4.3.3.Council Comment**

Managing greenhouse emissions is a focus area for Central Government, with the recent release of the emissions budget and emissions reduction plan. The importance of reducing greenhouse gases as an organisation and a district is part of taking steps to mitigate climate change. Council's proposed Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan is likely to consider both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

#### 4.4. Topic 3: Infrastructure and Climate Change

##### 4.4.1.Submissions

Elisabeth Riley (011), Carolyn Bates (012), Nerolie Goddard (035), Anonymous (037), Federated Farmers (059).

##### 4.4.2.Summary of submissions

Submitter 011 and 012 suggests stormwater systems to reroute water into areas that need it and to make resource connecting easier for projects involving water etc. Flood management, erosion barriers, new technology, educational resources were suggested as being important and should actively be happening.

Submitter 059 questions what areas are at risk of climate-change related hazards, and what the level of that risk is. Areas likely to experience high or extreme risk of destruction/ loss may need to be abandoned, rather than sinking large amounts of ratepayer resources into staving off inevitable destruction, rather than investing in infrastructure solutions, especially where use of such at-risk land is limited, or where there is a risk of harm to life (including human life). Infrastructure should be invested in initiatives such as river/ floodplain stop-banks, which have a 'high-payback' for investment where these enable economic utilisation of primary production land, from which revenue can be derived (including rates), and where there is little risk of damage to residential properties.

Submitter 035 suggests better drainage and notes regular flooding due to undersized pipes.

Submitter 037 suggests natural flood management, resilience in infrastructure planning e.g. roading.

##### 4.4.3.Council Comment

All Infrastructure engineering design accommodates future rainfall forecasts to allow enough available capacity for future rainfall expectations. The infrastructure is designed for future expected conditions rather than current conditions. It is important to note that all infrastructure design is determined by Council's levels of service. For storm water management the primary system is designed to have sufficient capacity for specific rainfall intensities. A change in level of service for any council supplied services would have financial implications. Horizons Regional Council lead flood protection infrastructure works in the District.

#### 4.5. Topic 4: Spatial Planning

##### 4.5.1.Submissions

Heather Thorby (007), Anonymous (030), Anonymous (037), Charlotte Rowland (050).

##### 4.5.2.Summary of submissions

Submitter 007 suggests the clustering of industrial enterprises away from residential areas for noise, smells and risk factors to human health. Retail and commercial zone kept on the main highways. Retail in town centres, create happy and fun places to support retail and people.

Submitter 030 suggests planning for larger reservoirs. Build a proper path for walkers on Te Araroa along SH3 and out to Koitiata. Probably need to plan for shifting Scotts Ferry and Koitiata.

Submitter 037 suggests that planning for concreting new development areas/roading and the impact this has on the surface flooding is important. They also suggest waterway planting, protection and restoration of nearby land, and to stop allowing companies to reshape the Rangitikei River in Bulls. Innovative connection solutions between local hubs e.g. Marton connection solutions between local hubs e.g. Marton and Bulls, cycleway/walkways, buses, transport.

Submitter 050 suggests safe cycle ways and better public transport.

#### **4.5.3.Council Comment**

The submitters' comments are appreciated and will be considered as feedback for Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond, Council's spatial planning project. This project will consider the future location of different land uses within towns and throughout the District, nature networks and transport networks. It will consider at a high level what an appropriate response might be for hazard-prone communities.

### **4.6. Topic 5: Recycling and Waste**

#### **4.6.1.Submissions**

Grace Laws (022), Barbara Atkinson (025), Tim Whitehouse (028), Karen Kennedy (032), Peter Galpin (033), Charlotte Oswald (048), Anonymous (050).

#### **4.6.2.Summary of submissions**

Submitter 022 suggests curbside recycling.

Submitter 025 suggests investigating recycling options as soon as the problem of where the recycling will be sent is resolved.

Submitter 028 stats the amount of rubbish that comes from out of the immediate area should stop and some form of recycling/ power source burning process to the rubbish needs to happen.

Submitter 032 recycling bin, all separated. Could we expand our local recycle centre to take all waste? Could we look to set up composting centre to take all food waste. Submitter 033 suggest Council reduces wastage.

Submitter 048 wants better access to recycling, warmer homes, incentives for bike riding - more tracks and lanes

Submitter 050 suggests recycling collection from homes - noting how disheartening it is to see recycling in people's rubbish. Recycling bins should be available alongside rubbish bins in the town centres.

#### **4.6.3.Council Comment**

Council acknowledges the issues faced in the district regarding the collection and disposal of waste. The issue has been consulted on twice in recent years, including during consultation on the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan with no clear direction on demand for recycling services.



Council recently made a submission to Central Government on the Te panonu I te hangarua Transforming Recycling initiative, so will await to hear the outcome of that consultation.

#### **4.7. Topic 6: Dairy Farming**

##### **4.7.1.Submissions**

Jane Russel Bowen (024), Rodger Rangi (026), Waru Panapa (027).

##### **4.7.2.Summary of submissions**

Submitter 024 suggests working with Federated Farmers - hold open days at farms where the most efficient cultivation tools are used.

Submitter 026 suggests reducing dairy farming.

Submitter 027 suggests facilitating the transition from dairy farming to hydroponics.

##### **4.7.3.Council Comment**

Council recognises the impact the dairy industry has on emissions, and acknowledges the impact climate change will be having on our dairy farming industry. Through consultation of the priorities of climate change in the district we were able to recognise the impact climate change is already having on our rural areas and farming community. Whether this be the impact of rising temperatures on livestock, erosion on the land from cattle or the emissions caused by dairy farming, climate change will continue to impact agriculture. Council are committed to supporting dairy farming in our district.

We expect central government policies, such as the emissions trading scheme, and market forces to play a role in dairy capacity and the changes this may bring. We aim to have productive use of land in the district and are supportive of best practice dairy farming.

#### **Topic 7: New Initiatives**

##### **4.7.4.Submissions**

Rodger Rangi (026), Waru Panapa (027), Robert Snijders (051).

##### **4.7.5.Summary of submissions**

Submitter 026 suggests wind farms.

Submitter 027 suggests the development of desalination plants to contribute to the reduction of rising sea levels and research and development and collaboration for opportunities associated with hydrogen fuel plants.

Submitter 051 suggests other climate control ideas such as electricity generation from animal excrement.

##### **4.7.6.Council Comment**

Council is always looking for new initiatives and seeking feedback from our community. Initiatives that require significant funding or long term planning would need feasibility planning and assessment. We encourage new ideas from our community to combat the impact of climate change. Taking further steps to reforest

areas and cleaning waterways is beneficial for both the environment and community resilience.

Officers recommend that the potential for hydrogen initiatives in the District is considered further during the development of Council's Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan.

#### **4.8. Topic 8: Reporting**

##### **4.8.1.Submissions**

Anonymous (037), Sally Patrick (058), Federated Farmer (059), Southern North Island Wood Council (060).

##### **4.8.2.Summary of submissions**

Submitter 059 said Council should undertake a cost benefit analysis to identify any benefit to citizens and ratepayers for future identified projects based on the likelihood of actual use of such facilities. For example, cycleways may be a waste of ratepayers' money if these are not used (or barely used) over the asset lifetime.

Submitter 037 suggests Council provide information, such as Wellington City Council and Auckland City Council on eco-sourcing and climate friendly solutions, about how small dwellings can make positive environmental choices such as eco-sourcing, pollinator plants, shade planting, root systems and surface flooding, about the consequence of concrete compared to gravel driveways.

Submitter 058 notes the Rangitikei-wide issues with which we as a community need Council to take the lead in mitigating (as mentioned: sea-level rise; extreme weather events; infrastructure breakdown; etc.). Support for spatial planning work which will consider the effect of climate change and the impacts it will have on the district. The submitter identifies it is crucial to include the potential breakdown of communication networks within the considered mitigation measures. Council ability to collaborate successfully across multiple sectors/communities is also important.

Submitter 060 notes more data should be collected of current sectors that are contributing to positive climate change outcomes (forestry) and the contribution to the communities and economy.

##### **4.8.3.Council Comment**

Being able to collect data and report on the information that is received is crucial towards combatting the effects of climate change and planning for the impacts on the district. The collection of data is also beneficial in communicating this to our communities.

Council appreciates any feedback regarding climate change as the environment and challenges are unprecedented. Community consultation is a key component in understanding and disseminating data we have available and the impacts this having on our district.

Council is planning to prepare a Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan and will use the feedback from the annual plan to help support its development. This strategy will enable us to take a district wide approach to build resilience within our communities.

#### **4.8.4.Summary**

The feedback received through our annual plan process will be able to guide Council on the next steps for climate action in the Rangitikei. The comments reflect the expectation on local government to report and plan for next steps for climate action and to consider the impact climate change will have on all aspects of the district.

Submissions were varied, referencing the organisation and district in the urgency to reduce the impact of climate change. Climate impacts will vary across the district and the results of a changing climate are likely to impact our remote, rural, and coastal areas the greatest. Because of this we need to prepare for the changes that are likely to impact our district. We can do this by supporting our business communities and agricultural industries, considering climate in all aspects of our services, and providing the information and data needed to build resilience in our communities.

Council will need to forecast the impact climate change will have and respond to these changes. Having oversight on our greenhouse gas emissions will guide decision making and contribute to Council proactively decreasing our carbon footprint. Officers plan to prepare a Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan during 2022/23, this will enable Council to take a leadership role in responding to climate impacts throughout the Rangitikei.

#### **4.8.5.Resolution**

That Council commits to developing a Climate Impact Strategy and Action Plan in 2022/23, subject to funding being received for the project from the "Better Off" fund.

## 5. Finance

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Topic 1	Rate Increase
Topic 2	Debt levels
Topic 3	Development Contributions
Topic 4	Rural Water Schemes

### 5.1. Topic 1: Rate Increase

#### 5.1.1. Submissions

Elisabeth Riley (011), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitīkei (013), Federated Farmers (059), Emma Watson (022), Nerolie Goddard (035), Anonymous (039), Lyn Duncan (041), Grant Wilson (042), Anonymous (045), Anonymous (052).

#### 5.1.2. Summary of submissions

Submitters indicated a preference for a lower rate increase. Some submitters raised the increased cost of living, while noting that incomes are not increasing at the same rate.

Submitter 042 indicated that the rates rise should have been consulted on.

Submitter 045 queried how rates have not exceeded the level indicated in the Long Term Plan, given unexpected levels of inflation.

#### 5.1.3. Council Comment

Generally, zero/lower rate increases are not seen as being financially responsible. Councils are faced with rising costs alongside increasing community and central government expectations. Councils need to ensure that they have sufficient income to cover their costs.

Additionally, a single year's rate increase should not be looked at in isolation – it is preferable to have a steady, predictable level of annual rate increase instead of some years of zero rate increase followed by much larger increases.

Council has an underlying operational financial deficit that needs to be addressed, and reducing the rates increase in the current year will only create a need for higher rates rises in future years. Officers are managing levels of operating expenditure to retain its operating position without exceeding the rates rise indicated in the Long Term Plan.

While a proposed rates rise is often a point of interest to the community, consulting on this percentage overly simplifies Council's work. Should Council attempt to achieve a lower rates rise, this would be through removing or reducing projects or services until costs are at a level deemed acceptable.

### 5.2. Topic 2: Debt Levels

#### 5.2.1. Submissions

Simon Loudon (013), Anonymous (030).

#### 5.2.2. Summary of submissions

Submitters 013 and 030 requested that Council reduce the level of debt indicated in the Annual Plan, with submitter 013 specifying a debt limit of \$40 million.

#### **5.2.3.Council Comment**

Council's proposed debt levels do not exceed sector-recognised prudent lending limits.

### **5.3. Topic 3: Development Contributions**

#### **5.3.1.Submissions**

Robert Snijders (051).

#### **5.3.2.Summary of submissions**

Submitter 051 indicated that the Development Contributions Policy should be revisited and development contributions charged.

#### **5.3.3.Council Comment**

During the development of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Development Contributions were discussed and Council agreed to continue its current approach of having Developer Agreements (as provided for in Sections 207A-F of the Local Government Act 2002) and not a Development Contributions Policy. These agreements are voluntary but legally enforceable once signed by the Council and the developer.

This approach must be reviewed every three years, so it will next be reviewed prior to the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (if not before). If a Development Contributions Policy was prepared, public consultation is required before it is adopted.

### **5.4. Topic 4: Rural Water Schemes**

#### **5.4.1.Submissions**

Erewhon Rural Water Scheme (063), Hunterville Rural Water Scheme (064).

#### **5.4.2.Summary of submissions**

Two rural water scheme committees have requested specific increases to their respective water rates (i.e. the rates that are charged to their respective members for each connected rating unit). Such rate income is essentially held 'on trust' of these schemes.

The Erewhon Rural Water Scheme initially requested an increase of 25%, however, the members of the Erewhon Rural Water Supply scheme have canvassed their members and now request that the Erewhon rate be increased 100% - this has the support of the members of the Scheme.

The Hunterville Rural Water Scheme requested no increase to their targeted rate.

#### **5.4.3.Council Comment**

Officers have worked with these committees to understand their respective current financial positions and future capital programs. The rates increase suggested by the schemes (Erewhon 100% and Hunterville 0%) are consistent with their respective financial position and future capital programs.

#### **5.4.4. Resolution**

That the targeted rate associated with Erewhon Rural Water Scheme be increased by 100% for the 2022/23 financial year.

That the targeted rate associated with the Hunterville Rural Water Scheme remain unchanged for the 2022/23 financial year (0% increase).

## 6. Community and Leisure Assets

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### Community Development

- Topic 1 Chinese Language Week
- Topic 2 Housing
- Topic 3 Shared accommodation for over 65s in Taihape
- Topic 4 Hunterville Sport Complex Equipment
- Topic 5 Community Digital Development Plan

#### 6.1. Topic 1: Chinese Language Week

##### 6.1.1. Submissions

Jo Coughlan, New Zealand Chinese Language Week (002).

##### 6.1.2. Summary of submissions

Submitter 002 suggested that council give a grant towards Chinese Language week and requested that the Mayor give an endorsement in a promotional video.

##### 6.1.3. Council Comment

Funding is available through Council's Event Sponsorship Scheme for events that help develop community cohesion and reinforce economic growth. Council's Community Initiative Fund supports community initiatives that have the potential to benefit the district in community service and support or leisure promotion. Council also administers the Creative Communities fund on behalf of the DIA that supports diversity and inclusion. Projects with a youth focus are also encouraged.

Council suggests that the submitter applies to Council's existing funding schemes. This project would not be eligible for the "Better Off" funding.

##### 6.1.4. Resolution

That Council does not provide funding [to Chinese Language Week NZ] and instead supports Officers to assist the submitter with an application to Council's funding schemes.

##### 6.1.5. Actions

Officers to contact submitter with information on available grants and support for events that take place within the district. Staff to explore opportunity for Mayor's endorsement with submitter.

#### 6.2. Topic 2: Housing

##### 6.2.1. Submissions

Ian Rae (005), Taihape Community Development Trust (006), Door of Hope Rangitikei Charitable Trust (010), Waru Panapa (027), Sally Patrick (058).

##### 6.2.2. Summary of submissions

Submitters 005 and 006 requested that Council allocate funding to purchase land for housing in Taihape.

Submitter 010 suggested that Council should fund social housing in the district and requested that Council subdivide land to create sections for sale for residential housing, including social housing.

Submitter 027 suggested Council could investigate innovative housing solutions, recognising the wellbeing role Councils will hold in the future.

Submitter 058 commended RDC for its initial steps to remedy the Rangitikei housing crisis.

### **6.2.3. Council Response**

Council's response to date to support housing demand in the Rangitikei include the development of the Housing Strategy and the facilitation and capacity building of two not-for-profit social housing providers.

Council held discussions in early 2022 on the Housing Strategy that considered needs and Council's role across each of the housing sectors. There was support for Officers to develop the scope for a business case for the site at 22 Tui Street, Taihape. Draft Terms of Reference for the business case are being developed. \$50,000 was signaled as funding for the business case, to be funded via the 'Better Off' fund.

At this stage, Council has not committed to purchasing and subdividing land throughout the district for residential purposes. The first step of Council becoming more active in creating residential developments would be a piece of work that would examine the need, appropriate mechanism, resourcing and costs associated with taking a more active role. There is currently no funding for this. Council could consider extending the scope of the business case to include the points raised by submitters. Extending the scope of the business case for 22 Tui Street, to include the points raised by submitters 005, 006 and 010, would increase costs. Officers would come back to Council with an estimate of costs prior to the lodgment of Council's application to the 'Better Off' fund.

Housing projects would be eligible to apply to the "Better Off" fund.

Currently Kainga Ora are the main provider of social housing in the Rangitikei, with Council the provider of community housing primarily for those aged 65 years and older.

### **6.2.4. Resolution**

Subject to further costs being provided by Officers, that Council supports in principle, the scope of the terms of reference for the housing business case to be extended to capture the points raised by submitters 005, 006 and 010 regarding Council's potential role in housing, which would be subject to the approval of funding via the "Better Off" fund.

### **6.2.5. Actions**

Council staff will continue to meet with the submitters to receive more details related to their submissions, including where they propose that Council purchase land and information held on the level of demand for different kinds of housing in Taihape. The Strategic Advisor, Economic Development has been an ex officio board member of the Taihape Housing Steering Group (THSG) since April 2021 and supports and facilitates its development by providing institutional strengthening, capacity development and linkages to Council, central government ministries and not-for-profit housing providers. In this capacity he coordinates closely with the Taihape



Community Development Trust on behalf of THSG, which serves as the Trust's sub-committee on housing.

### 6.3. Topic 3: Shared accommodation for over 65s in Taihape

#### 6.3.1.Submissions

Taihape Community Development Trust (006).

#### 6.3.2.Summary of submissions

Submitter 006 suggested that Council investigates providing shared accommodation for seniors and the elderly in Taihape, through funding or the construction and donation of facilities.

#### 6.3.3.Council Comment

From February to April 2022, the Taihape Housing Steering Group and the Taihape Community Development Trust jointly sponsored a survey in Taihape to determine the level of interest amongst independent, mobile seniors (65+) and the elderly to become residents in a shared accommodation/group home. Seventeen out of the eighteen people who responded expressed interest in becoming residents of a group home: eight within 24 months and six at some point in the future.

The expressions of interest that were received was a good first step, however, more residents will be needed to ensure the project's financial viability. For this reason, the groups involved have indicated the survey will be extended to other nearby towns and the farming community over the next few months to see if there is enough interest from additional potential group home residents to support moving forward with the project.

Officers will meet with the shared accommodation survey administrators to analyse the results once all responses have been received. This information will help demonstrate the viability of shared accommodation options for seniors. If this appears viable, Officers will return to Elected Members to discuss what role (if any) Council could play.

### 6.4. Topic 4: Hunterville Sports Complex Equipment

#### 6.4.1.Submissions

Anonymous (016), Kelsey Smith (036), Lynette Thompson, Hunterville Community Sports Trust (043), Hunterville Community Sport Complex (044).

#### 6.4.2.Summary of submissions

The community have undertaken fundraising efforts towards a wider project to refurbish the turf. This request is for council to contribute \$20,000 to buy tennis nets and hockey goals.

#### 6.4.3.Council Comment

This request could be made under Council's Community Initiatives grant. Council could also consider an application under the Parks Upgrade Partnership if the total value of the total project is \$60,000 or more. While this proposal does not strictly comply with the requirements of the Parks Upgrade Partnership because the Community Sports Complex is not on Council land, Council did contribute funding to the Marton Pump Track (on Marton School land) because the track would be available to the public to use, as the Hunterville Community Sports Complex is at

Huntermville School. The 2021/22 Parks Upgrade Partnership Fund currently has a balance of \$75,000. Sport Whanganui is another organisation that could be a possible funder. Officers are able to support the Trust in the grant application process and offer support with an application to Sport Whanganui.

#### **6.4.4. Resolution**

That Council approves funding of \$20,000, for the Huntermville Sports Complex equipment from the Parks Upgrade Partnership Fund.

### **6.5. Topic 5: Community Digital Development Plan**

#### **6.5.1. Submissions**

Sally Patrick (058).

#### **6.5.2. Summary of submissions**

Submitter 058 suggested that council undertake a community digital development plan, incorporating features such as improving rural access to fibre broadband and supporting business to improve online presence.

#### **6.5.3. Council comment**

Officers note the wellbeing benefits associated with strong digital competency and accessibility in the Rangitikei. However, further investigation is needed to establish the opportunity, cost and benefits of developing a community digital development plan.

Central Government will be releasing a digital strategy soon, which will provide an insight into priorities for Central Government, and may also provide an indication of investment available.

#### **6.5.4. Actions**

Following release of Central Government's digital strategy, staff will consider the need and timeline for a community digital development plan, noting staff capacity and priorities will need to be considered.

## 7. Property

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Topic 1	Koitiata Campground
Topic 2	CCTV Marton
Topic 3	Squash Club Expansion

### 7.1. Topic 1: Koitiata Campground

#### 7.1.1. Submissions

Keith Gray (053), Graeme Munro and Diane Brown (054).

#### 7.1.2. Summary of submissions

Submitters 053 and 054 requested a rebuild or upgrade of the current toilet and shower facility, indicating it is well used, and no longer fit for purpose.

Submitter 053 suggested that a Permaloo dry vault toilet be installed near the access to the beach to allow for public use.

Submitter 054 also noted issues with surface water pooling at the campground.

#### 7.1.3. Council Comment

Following a submission from the Koitiata Residents Committee to the Long Term Plan 2021/2031 it was resolved that staff would investigate the requirements for the upgrading of the toilet and shower facility at the campground including consideration of the need for an additional toilet.

Council staff met with representatives from the Koitiata Residents Committee and campground caretakers to discuss the various options. The Committee requests the following - that initial refurbishment of the existing building occurs in the short term, an additional public toilet is installed near the playground, and in the long term a total rebuild occurs which would provide extra toilet and shower facilities to meet demand.

To refurbish the existing facilities the cost would be approximately \$70,000. This would include a full renovation of the existing building, with new lining, fixtures and fittings. The existing facility has one toilet and shower for males, and one shower and toilet for females. The refurbishment could occur before the 2022/23 summer period, noting that in the present market, this would be supply and contractor dependent. The existing facility is in poor condition, with refurbishment a high priority. Officers would also investigate installing counters on the refurbished facility to obtain a more accurate understanding of use, that would inform any planning for a future rebuild.

The refurbishment of the Koitata campground toilets/showers would not be eligible for the 'Better Off' fund, as it is a maintenance project.

The cost of installing a Permaloo dry vault toilet near the playground is approximately \$90,000, however this cost does not include the associated consent fees (resource consent is also required as this area is within the Outstanding Natural Feature or Landscape. A Discretionary Resource consent would be required along with consultation with Horizons). Therefore, the total cost of this option is estimated at \$100,000.

A total rebuild of the facilities to increase the number of toilets and showers is a more complex option. Officers estimate a total rebuild could cost \$550,000 (based on a similar model from Mangaweka). There are a range of factors to consider with a total rebuild; the flooding associated with the lagoon impacting the site, ground water level, the location (and property boundaries associated with the expansion), consenting and water supply. This option would take longer to undertake a design, achieve required consents and for construction. This would be a long term project to proceed with alongside the community once stormwater issues have been addressed.

#### **7.1.4. Resolution**

That Council provides funding of \$70,000 for refurbishment of the toilets/showers at the Koitiata Campground in the 2022/23 Annual Plan.

### **7.2. Topic 2: CCTV Marton**

#### **7.2.1. Submissions**

Taihape Community Development Trust (TCDT) (006).

#### **7.2.2. Summary of submissions**

Submitter 006 requested that Council be final funder of a sum of Council's choice in the purchasing of CCTV cameras for Marton. The group have already undertaken work with a supplier who has donated items and supply towards necessary CCTV upgrades in Bulls, Hunterville, and Taihape. At hearings, the submitter indicated the total cost may be up to \$100,000, though the intention is to seek funding elsewhere.

#### **7.2.3. Council Comment**

When CCTV was introduced to the District, Project Marton sought funding for CCTV installation across Marton, Bulls, Taihape and Hunterville. It was agreed at the time, between the local trusts, that they would take turns applying for funding when upgrades or renewal of the CCTV network was required. It is TCDT's turn to apply for funding for required upgrades.

The CCTV network is valuable for supporting the safety of the community. Access to video footage is held by the police.

Council currently pays for the maintenance of the systems and there is a sum of \$5,000 allocated for this. There is currently no budget allocated for renewals. Officers are happy to support the TCDT with their external funding applications.

This project would not be eligible for the 'Better Off' fund as it is maintenance of an existing asset that Council does not own.

#### **7.2.4. Resolution**

That Council does not provide funding towards the upgrade of the CCTV cameras in Marton, at this stage

### **7.3. Topic 3: Squash Club Expansion Submissions**

#### **7.3.1. Submissions**

Taihape Squash Club (055), Taihape Community Board (062).

### **7.3.2.Summary of submissions**

Submitter 055 indicated that the Squash Club expansion is progressing well, however the land area previously requested does not align with plans. The additional land required is also controlled and managed by Council. It was used by the bowls club who are no longer active. The Squash Club are also willing to take on responsibilities for the remainder of the area between the requested site and the Weka Street extension, which will not be constructed on, but utilised for providing for a picnic/shade outdoor area. The submitter indicated that the expansions will not only benefit the squash group, but also have incorporated ideas to make the facility more useful for the tennis and netball players.

The request is for Council approval to extend onto the neighbouring land as required to complete the planned extension, as well as processing any changes rapidly to ensure the upgrades take place as soon as possible.

Submitter 062 indicated support for this request.

### **7.3.3.Officer Comment**

Due to the urgency of the request, the Taihape Squash Club attended public forum at Council's 26 May 2022 meeting. At that meeting, Council considered the request as a late item as the decision could not be delayed as the Club needed to urgently submit a funding application.

Council resolved the following:

*That Council direct the Chief Executive to examine the request made by Taihape Squash club for additional land and to advise Council on what adverse impacts, if any, there may be in agreeing to this request.*

AND

*That Council delegate to the Chief Executive, HWTM and the Chair of the Assets/Infrastructure Committee to authorise the request made by Taihape Squash for additional land, should there be no, or minor adverse impacts to Council of the request.*

## 8. Infrastructure

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### 8.1. Parks

- Topic 1 Taihape Playground  
Topic 2 Funding Request – Friends of Taihape

### 8.2. Topic 1: Taihape Playground

#### 8.2.1.Submission

Taihape Playground Group (048).

#### 8.2.2.Summary of submission

Submitter 048 noted the playground needs upgrading and requested support progressing work on the Taihape Playground.

#### 8.2.3.Council Comment

The submitter has been working on plans to upgrade the playground at Taihape Memorial Park. During the 2021-31 Long Term Plan process the submitter requested funding for this project. As part of Council deliberations, it was agreed to support the project in Year 2 of the LTP:

*That Council provides a capital provision of up to \$50,000 (in Year 2 of the LTP) to the Taihape Playground Group for the upgrading of Taihape Memorial Park Playground, subject to alignment with the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy and Reserve Management Plans.*

Officers have commenced work with external consultants on both the development of an Urban Design Plan for Taihape Memorial Park and the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy. These two pieces of work will guide the upgrade to the playground at Taihape Memorial Park. The submitter will be invited to participate in the development of both pieces of work.

### 8.3. Topic 2: Funding Request – Friends of Taihape

#### 8.3.1.Submission

Friends of Taihape Charitable Society (065).

#### 8.3.2.Summary of submissions

Submitter 065 requested funding towards the construction of 3 pedestrian public access bridges across the Hautapu River as part of a number of projects on the native reserve forest in Taihape. Four bridges are planned, with bridge number 2 funded and planned for completion in the summer of 2022/23. The funding required for the remaining bridges is as follows:

- Final plans, inventory reports, tendering/designer building inspections: \$25,000
- Bridge 1: \$79,000
- Bridge 2: funding sourced
- Bridge 3: \$75,000

- Bridge 4: \$95,000

Other projects requiring funding include:

- Killing and removal of weed trees (i.e. willow, sycamore) in waterways and river beds: \$35,000
- Digital mapping, signs and marketing: \$37,000
- Resurfacing tracks with precipitation issues (~10,000m): \$80,000.

This request is for any funding Council can provide towards the above projects, noting that the charity is not registered for GST, though business could be conducted through RDC if approved, allowing projects to proceed with the GST-exclusive prices listed.

### **8.3.3.Council Comment**

The Friends of Taihape Charitable Society are an active community group delivering community-led projects in Taihape. The bridges are part of a concept plan completed for Papakai and Memorial Park outlining a future vision for the area. The proposed bridges would enable greater public use of the recreation areas in Taihape and form part of a wider walking and cycling network being developed.

The removal of weeds from waterways is a Horizons responsibility.

This project could be funded through the 'Better Off' funding, however, Officers would need to explore potential ongoing operational costs, such as staff resourcing, maintenance, and depreciation.

### **8.3.4.Resolution**

That Council in principle agrees to applying for 'Better Off' funding, to support the work being done by the Friends of Taihape Charitable Society, subject to further consideration of the ongoing operational impact associated with the project.

## 9. Rooding

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Topic 1	Rural Rooding
Topic 2	Cobber Kain
Topic 3	Transport

### 9.1. Topic 1: Rural Rooding

#### 9.1.1. Submissions

Heather Thorby (007), Federated Farmers (059).

#### 9.1.2. Summary of submissions

Submitter 007 suggests that Brandon Hall Road is not fit for trucks, and that there is seal movement. This submitter has requested that Brandon Hall Road be widened to accommodate trucks.

Submitter 059 from Federated Farmers encourage council to improve and seal rural rooding.

Submitter 059 request clarification on the proposed \$3.2 million increase of rooding debt and requested information on what projects this increase is funding is for.

Submitter 059 also highlight that the rooding performance measures do not capture user experience on unsealed roads.

#### 9.1.3. Council Comment

All planned road improvements are managed through the Rooding Activity Management Plans that are created in accordance with Waka Kotahi requirements. Council's performance measure for unsealed roads was confirmed during the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. The performance measure focuses on the percentage of the unsealed road network which is remetalled each year. A well-planned re-metalling programme ensures the best user experience possible within the current budget.

For the traffic using Brandon Hall Road, the width is in line with national rooding standards. There are no plans to widen this road.

It is not possible to allocate the increase in debt to specific projects or improvements. The debt increase is determined by the shortfall between income and proposed expenditure. It could be argued that all capital improvements contribute a proportionate increase in debt.

### 9.2. Topic 2: Cobber Kain

#### 9.2.1. Submissions

Jocelyn Hunt (019).

#### 9.2.2. Summary of submissions

Submitter 019 requests the sealing of Cobber Kain Avenue. The submitter notes there is a dust problem and 22 people living in the area.



### **9.2.3.Council Comment**

Cobber Kain Avenue was programmed in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan for sealing during Years 1 – 3. This project is scheduled to occur during the next two years, with construction occurring during the 2022/23 and 2023/24 years.

## **9.3. Topic 3: Transport**

### **9.3.1.Submissions**

Anonymous (030).

### **9.3.2.Summary of submissions**

Submitter 030 suggests Bulls and Sanson need a bypass with a new bridge to the east of Bulls. The submitter queries whether Council is working with Waka Kotahi on this project yet. The submitter also notes the traffic issues in Bulls and the need for a solution for the main intersection and better access for pedestrians.

Submitter 030 questions whether Marton has an EV station, and if not, suggests it should.

### **9.3.3.Council Comment**

The traffic issues in Bulls raised by the submitter are noted. As indicated by the submitter, the State Highway network is managed by Waka Kotahi (not Council). Council will work proactively with Waka Kotahi to improve the situation in and around Bulls if the opportunity arises.

An Electric Vehicle charging station is available at New World Marton.

## 10. Three Waters

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- Topic 1 Marton Water  
Topic 2 Koitiata Lagoon

### 10.1. Topic 1: Marton Water

#### 10.1.1. Submissions

Carolyn Bates (012), Anonymous (039), Grant Wilson (042), Robert Snijders (051).

#### 10.1.2. Summary of submissions

Submitter 012 has asked if the drinking water in Marton will see an improvement with Three Waters.

Submitter 039 suggested that Marton Water is disgusting and Submitter 042 identified water quality as important.

Submitter 051 raised concern there is insufficient back up for planned bores and is concerned about potential health impacts from the brine.

#### 10.1.3. Council Comment

Council is aware of the current shortcomings of the Marton water supply and as a result has planned to spend approximately \$11 million over the next two years to make improvements aligned with the Marton Water Supply Strategy. The purpose of the Marton Water Strategy is to consistently deliver good quality, affordable, safe drinking water at volumes for today and the future. Several key projects are planned to improve the Marton water supply including; the investigation and construction of an additional bore to supply raw water, a leak detection and repair programme and the construction of a new water treatment plant. Marton water quality will be improved through the changes identified in the Marton Water Strategy.

The additional production bore will add a level of redundancy of available raw water sources and contribute to an improved security of supply in the future. We will have a total of three bores to use in different configurations and would potentially still have the option to make use of the existing raw water source available from the Marton dams. The drinking water produced will always be subject to the national drinking water standards that will ensure safe drinking water regardless of the treatment process.

The Government's Three Waters proposal would mean significant changes in the delivery of water services. The new water services entity would be responsible for the delivery of the Marton water supply, including the improvements made via the Marton Water Strategy.

### 10.2. Topic 2: Koitiata Lagoon

#### 10.2.1. Submissions

Graeme Munro and Dianne Brown (054).

### **10.2.2.Summary of submissions**

There is a significant problem with the open drain the floods in front of the campground. It is caused by rain and farm run-off that drains to the estuary. The submitter is concerned about safety of children and damage to roading.

### **10.2.3.Council Comment**

The Lagoon has been a concern of residents for several years. Council notes the concern raised by the community about the impact land reforming work on nearby farmland has had on exacerbating the issue. In the past, the issues was resolved by breaching the sand dunes without consent. However, the community has now been informed of consent requirements. Council has advocated on behalf of the community for the issue to be addressed by Horizons, most recently in May 2022. Addressing the issue is a function of Horizons and Council continues to urge them to take responsibility and fund the resource consent and work needed to address the issue.

## 11. Projects

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Topic 1 Marton Civic Centre

### 11.1. Topic 1: Marton Civic Centre

#### 11.1.1.Submissions

Carolyn Bates (012).

#### 11.1.2.Summary of submissions

Submitter 012 indicated frustration at the time projects take to complete, stating that there has been talk for some time about the Marton Civic Centre project, but there does not appear to be progress. Submitter 012 suggested that current and future projects be assessed and information conveyed to residents to improve confidence in projects.

#### 11.1.3.Council Comment

From lessons learned during the Te Matapihi, Bulls Community Centre Projects, Council established a project management office (PMO) in October 2020. Staff in the PMO have had oversight of the capital projects planned since 2019/20.

The PMO reviewed the order and timing of all projects, including those projects that were underway to ensure understanding of the history of the project. This included the Marton Civic Centre project, which is currently in the planning phase. This process is best practice to make sure that the initiation of the project is complete and thorough, aiming to achieve the best possible result of the project.

Implementing the PMO and improving project management seeks to improve the community's trust and confidence in Council's capital projects. Work is underway to increase communication with our community about Council's major projects.

## 12. Democracy and Planning

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Topic 1	Formal Consultation
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### 12.1. Topic 1: Formal Consultation

#### 12.1.1. Submissions

Carolyn Bates (012), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitikei (013), Grant Wilson (043), Robert Snijders (051), Anonymous(052).

#### 12.1.2. Summary of submissions

Submitter 012 requested that an option was made available to provide input to annual and long-term plans outside of the submission period.

Submitter 013 indicated that the consultation period was too short and simple.

Submitters 013 and 043 indicated that the Annual Plan flyer had insufficient information.

Submitters 013 and 051 suggested that Council should not highlight their preferred option for key choices.

Submitter 043 stated that the flyer did not include the closing date and time for the consultation, and noted dissatisfaction with the online submission having comment limits.

Submitter 051 suggested more detail should be provided for costs included in the Annual Plan (e.g. \$11m earmarked for Marton's water supply).

Submitter 052 expressed dissatisfaction with the survey.

#### 12.1.3. Council Comment

As Council is required to adopt Long Term and Annual Plans with set deadlines and has limited ability to amend or act outside of these plans once adopted, it is a necessity to have a limited timeframe for feedback on key choices and budget settings. Legal requirements for the official consultation period are outlined in the Local Government Act, and this is the opportunity to have requests formally heard and responded to. The public can contact Council outside of submission periods if interested, and Council endeavors to reflect on known community sentiment in decision making.

This year it was decided to send a one-page, double-sided flyer to every household in the District. This was intended to be a summary of the information that was contained in the consultation document. Both pages had the closing date and time in the bottom right hand corner. It also directed people to how and where they could

find the more detailed information on all issues being consulted on and ways to make a submission.

The preparation of the budget is a core feature of the Annual Plan. The financial implications for Council's preferred option need to be included to ensure this budget is accurate. Under the Local Government Act 2002, Council is required to include in consultations a proposal and other practicable options, or a suite of options alongside the preferred option. While this is not specifically required for the annual plan, it is considered best practice to follow this format to aid the community in understanding not only what is proposed, but what other options are possible.

The Annual Plan document provides the financial information required by the Local Government Act 2002. Major projects are reported monthly to Council. Information about the Marton Water Strategy is provided on Council's website.

It is important to enable input to decision making, and officers strive to make engagement opportunities concise and appealing while conveying sufficient information. Feedback on engagement is always welcome.

#### **12.1.4.Actions**

Investigate ability to remove comment limit on future surveys.

### **12.2. Topic 2: Council's communication**

#### **12.2.1. Submissions**

Carolyn Bates (012).

#### **12.2.2.Summary of submissions**

Submitter 012 requested that Council uses less formal language with the community.

Submitter 012 also indicated that the website can be difficult to navigate.

#### **12.2.3. Council Comment**

It is important to make public information accessible. Often, the terminology used has a specific and significant meaning within a Council setting, especially the examples provided, however officers will be mindful of whether this is always necessary in public communications.

### **12.3. Topic 3: Website**

#### **12.3.1. Submissions**

Carolyn Bates (012), Federated Farmers (015).

#### **12.3.2.Summary of submissions**

Submitter 012 indicated that the website can be difficult to navigate.

Submitter 015 requested that Council include the 2020 and 2021 Annual Report under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act on their website.

#### **12.3.3.Council Comment**

Officers endeavour to keep the website up to date, consider accessibility and look for improvements that can be made to enhance the user experience; this is ongoing.

Where users are unable to find the information required, it is possible to contact Council to request the information and indicate that this was difficult to find online.

Council acknowledges the request to upload the District Licensing Committee Annual Report, while these documents were on the website in the meetings section they have now also been loaded to the Licensing Authority Reports as suggested by the submitter.

## **12.4. Topic 4: General Engagement**

### **12.4.1. Submissions**

Carolyn Bates (012).

### **12.4.2. Summary of submissions**

Submitter 012 requested that Council continues to hold information sessions, particularly online. Submitter 012 also requested the continuation of Community Committees and Boards and endorsed the recently established Chair's Meetings.

### **12.4.3. Council Comment**

It is important to Council to make information available and accessible to the public, and intends to continue to communicate with the community, including online sessions where suitable.

The relationship with communities that is fostered through Committees and Community Boards is important. It is positive to see feedback on the success of the Chair's Meetings. The Council does not intend to dis-establish the Community Committees.

## **12.5. Topic 5: Strategic Planning**

### **12.5.1. Submissions**

Heather Thorby (007), Carolyn Bates (012), Anonymous (030), Anonymous (049).

### **12.5.2. Summary of submissions**

Submitter 007 suggested the flat land at the end of Trickers Road is appropriate for residential development, and requested a connecting through road via Viles Road onto Whanganui Highway.

Submitter 012 Indicated concern over the impact of growth, including Ohakea and other developments on infrastructure, and stated that people are not always aware of what may affect them.

Submitter 013 requests respect and protection for historic buildings such as the old Bulls town hall.

Submitter 049 requests Council consider a panoramic view policy, noting the view of Ruapehu from Broadway needs to be restored as an integral part of our connection to the Rangitikei.

### **12.5.3. Council Comment**

The comments regarding future development of Trickers Road is noted and will be considered as part of feedback on Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond, Council's spatial planning project. Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond focuses on being proactive about the

aspirations throughout the Rangitīkei for growth. This project will support Council in ensuring infrastructure is provided to support our growing communities at the right time in the right place.

The District Plan provides the list of Heritage buildings protected due to their significance (see Schedule C3). The list of protected heritage buildings is aligned with the Heritage List managed by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. The Bulls Town Hall is not protected. The next opportunity for consideration of whether additional buildings should be protected will be through the District Plan Review.

Council does not currently have a panoramic view policy. It is acknowledged that Mt Ruapehu can be seen from a range of locations throughout the District. A significant volume of work would be required to create a mechanism for protecting views throughout the district. At this time such a project is not a priority for the 2022/23 Annual Plan.

## **12.6. Topic 6: Amalgamation**

### **12.6.1. Submissions**

Pete Galpin (033).

### **12.6.2. Summary of submissions**

Submitter 033 requested that Council revisit amalgamation with the Manawatū.

### **12.6.3. Council Comment**

Previously, the Manawatū District Council and Palmerston North District Councils have considered amalgamation, at which point Council raised concerns for the future of the Rangitīkei without access to shared service arrangements.

Additionally, some resident groups have suggested that part or all of the Rangitīkei amalgamate with the Manawatū.

However, there are concerns that increasing the scale of our local bodies would lessen the ability of individuals to be represented in governance. Further, with a range of reforms underway that are expected to have significant impact on the local government sector, it is not prudent to consider amalgamation until the future role and status of local government is clearer.