

18 August 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Local Government Official Information Request

Thank you for your request for information from Council. All requests to the Council for information are required to be considered in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). More information about how the Council handles LGOIMA requests can be found in the Council's LGOIMA Request Policy which is available on the Council's website [LGOIMA Request Policy: Rangitikei District Council](#)

Your request for information was received on 21 July 2026 and requested information about Taihape-Napier Road Crash. Your questions and our response can be found below:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Question 1:

I want to know about the crashes that happened near this location on Taihape Road over the past 10 years. I want to know the date of each crash on Taihape road. I want to know how bad each crash on Taihape road was. I want to know what type of crash it was or what might have caused it.

Response:

There have been no reported crashes near to the location of the crash relating to this request. The closest crash recorded within the past 10 years was approximately 1.4km away, towards Taihape.

See attached Attachment 6 - Crash Records Last 10 Years. This file shows crashes that occurred within the last 10 years that are within a 20-kilometre radius.

Note: the crash relating to this request is highlighted yellow.

Question 2:

I want to see any reports about the safety of this part of Taihape Road

Response:

Please find attached the following documents, which relate to the safety of this section of Taihape Road.

- Attachment 1 - Taihape-Napier Road Corridor Management Plan
- Attachment 2 - Taihape-Napier Road CMP Option Development and Implementation Plan – Redacted

Please note that personal information has been redacted from the above attachment under Section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 – privacy of natural persons.

These documents relate to a route study of the Taihape–Napier Road between Taihape and Hastings. Within the Rangitikei District, the relevant section extends to the district boundary at the Ngaruroro River.

The location referred to in your request falls within Taihape-Napier Road 2, section 4B – Ngamatea Rest Stop to Ngaruroro River (RP29.61 to RP35.60). The location is approximately RP33.45.

Question 3:

I want to know about the signs at this location on Taihape Road. I want to know if anyone thought about putting up an advisory sign to tell people to slow down. I want to know why the signs are the way they are on Taihape road. I want to know if the signs on Taihape Road follow the rules.

Response:

Council is not aware of any request made prior to the incident for additional curve warning or advisory speed signage at this location.

The attached Attachment 1 - Taihape–Napier Road Corridor Management Plan identifies the curves between RP30.770 and RP35.580, which include the crash location at approximately RP33.45, as a grouped curve-improvement project. Appendix F identifies proposed treatments including additional chevron signage, centreline RRPMS, barriers and widening. The schedule records no advisory signage for this grouped project.

See attached:

- Attachment 1 – Taihape–Napier Road Corridor Management Plan, page 94, Section 4B.
- Attachment 2 – Taihape–Napier Road Corridor Management Plan: Option Development and Implementation Plan, chart between pages 20 and 21, Section 4B.

Council records indicate that the chevron signs at this location were installed in 2009. Council does not hold the original assessment, design, or decision records explaining why this treatment was selected.

At the time the signs were installed, the applicable national guidance was the NZ Transport Agency's Manual of Traffic Signs and Markings (MOTSAM), Part 1. MOTSAM provided guidance on the use of curve warning signs, advisory speed signs, chevron sight boards, and other curve delineation devices. It was mandatory for state highways and recommended for use by other road controlling authorities.

MOTSAM recognised that the appropriate treatment depended on factors such as the road environment, operating speed, assessed curve advisory speed, and the characteristics of the curve.

MOTSAM has since been replaced by the NZ Transport Agency's Traffic Control Devices Manual (TCD Manual). Part 5 of the current manual sets out a hierarchy of curve warning treatments. Under that hierarchy, chevron curve indicators are used as part of an appropriate treatment for a curve, depending on the site-specific assessment.

Question 4:

I want to know if anyone else has complained about this part of Taihape Road being unsafe.

Response:

Council has received reports over time raising safety concerns about the Gentle Annie section of Taihape-Napier Road. These concerns relate to a range of issues at various locations along the route.

Council has not received complaints specifically about safety at the location referred in the request.

Question 5:

I want to know what work has been done on this part of Taihape Road over the year. I want to know about the signs on Taihape Road. I want to know about the lines on Taihape Road I want to know about the condition of the road surface on Taihape Road.

Response:

Council has identified the following information relevant to maintenance, signage, road marking, and road surface condition at this location on Taihape-Napier Road.

Maintenance

Records of maintenance work undertaken on this section of Taihape -Napier Road during the bas year are provided in Attachment 3 – Maintenance Records.

Signs

Records relating to sign maintenance are also contained in Attachment 3 – Maintenance Records. The relevant sign maintenance entries have been highlighted in yellow for ease of reference.

Road Markings

Guidance relevant to road delineation and markings is contained in RTS 5 – Guidelines for Rural Road Marking and Delineation. For a road of this width and traffic volume, continuous painted centreline and edgeline markings are not necessarily prescribed. The relevant table from RTS 5 is provided as Attachment 4 – RTS Delineation.

Road surface condition

Council's road condition data for this section of Taihape-Napier Road is provided in Attachment 5 – Road Condition Data.

Question 6:

I want to know if any signs were damaged or missing near this section of Taihape Road over the year

Response:

Council's records of sign maintenance undertaken in this area during the past year are provided in Attachment 3 – Maintenance Records. The relevant sign maintenance entries have been highlighted in yellow for ease of reference.

At the time of responding to your request, Council's records show no open sign maintenance jobs for this area (that is, no recorded sign maintenance work awaiting completion).

Question 7:

I want to know if anyone is planning to make this part of Taihape Road safer.

Response:

The Taihape-Napier Road Corridor Management Plan identified and recommends a range of improvements along the Taihape-Napier Road corridor.

Implementation of these improvements is dependent on factors including the availability and approval of government funding. Government funding for safety improvements on this route was not approved for the current 2024-2027 funding period.

Council is currently preparing its funding application for the 2027-2030 funding period. At this stage, the specific projects that may be included or funded have not been confirmed.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests, where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly at [RDC Official Information - Proactive Release](#) with your personal information removed.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to email lgoima@rangitikei.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,

LGOIMA Officer
Rangitikei District Council

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 - Taihape-Napier-Corridor-Management-Plan-Oct-2020
- Attachment 2 - Taihape-Napier Road CMP -Option Development and Implementation Plan - Redacted
- Attachment 3 - Maintenance Records
- Attachment 4 - RTS – Delineation
- Attachment 5 - Road Condition Data
- Attachment 6 - Crash Records - Last 10 years

NOTE: Attachments released to the requester have not been proactively released due to size, accessibility, or administrative reasons. They may be requested under LGOIMA.

Please email lgoima@rangitikei.govt.nz to request these.