



KŌRERO MAI



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RANGITIKEI  
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ISSUE 113

## Council Message

Rangitikei District Council would like to wish all the nominees for the John Turkington Rangitikei Youth Awards the best of luck for the ceremony being held tonight. We received a record amount of nominations this year, which shows that we have many rangatahi in the district who are achieving at a high level. You can all be very proud of your efforts and we hope you enjoy the night celebrating your success. Please keep an eye out on our social media and our website for a list of the winners following the conclusion of the awards.

A reminder that it's local government elections this year. You may have already received an enrolment pack in the mail back in April. Look out for a letter with the little orange man on it. If your details are correct, you don't need to do anything!

If they're incorrect or you haven't received your enrolment pack yet, you can enrol or update your details at [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz), over the phone on 0800 36 76 56 or by free-texting your name and address to 3676. Or make the changes on the form in your enrolment pack, sign it and send it back before **Friday 1 August**. If your completed form is received after this date, don't worry - you can still vote! You may just be required to do a special vote.

If you run into any issues, feel free to contact us here at Council and we'll be able to assist you, 0800 422 522 or [info@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:info@rangitikei.govt.nz)

The voting period starts on **Tuesday 9 September and closes at midday on Saturday 11 October**. Remember, when you vote, you're not just voting for yourself, you're also voting for future generations that can't yet have their say. Decisions that our Council makes in the next three years will impact rangatahi and youth in your life.

### Thinking about running for local government?

Nominations open Friday July 4th, but there's no reason why you can't start preparing now. More information can be found on our website [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-local-elections](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-local-elections)

## Community Hubs launch sensory play programmes

The amazing team at our Community Hubs are bringing three awesome sensory play initiatives to our community, carefully designed to support neurodiversity, promote inclusion, and create safe spaces in our district for people to play, explore, and thrive.

- Monthly Sensory Play sessions - *Coming Soon*
- Sensory Play pilot program in schools
- Sensory processing kits at your local Community Hubs and Toy library

All three Community hubs will offer sensory processing backpacks and sensory grab kits filled with carefully chosen sensory tools and sensory toys. Whether you're visiting the hub or borrowing the sensory kit from the Toy Library to use at home, these kits are all about promoting regulation, discovery, and connection in a way that works for everyone.

Thank you to JBS Dudding Trust for helping bring to these programmes to life.



## Avoid the pound, license your hound!

### Dog registrations due by July 1

If you own a dog or dogs, then it's time to start planning your annual registrations! Every dog must be registered every year (from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026).

There are discounts available for those that register their dogs prior to 31 July.

For more information and to download a registration form, visit our website.



[www.rangitikei.govt.nz/dogs-rego](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/dogs-rego)



**LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
ELECTIONS 2025**

## WHERE'S WATER @ RANGITIKEI?

### Rangitikei District Council confirms collaborative approach to water reforms.

At the Council meeting held Thursday 22 May 2025, Rangitikei District Council cemented its desire to work collaboratively with neighbouring councils to establish a Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation.

It unanimously resolved to progress newly ignited conversations with Palmerston North City Council and Horowhenua District Council, alongside Whanganui and Ruapehu District Councils - should they choose to.

At the time of consultation, the option to develop a Council-Controlled Organisation with as many Councils in the Manawatu-Whanganui region as possible, was not viable. This was because other Councils had indicated a preference for alternative models.

"We have received new guidance from the Department of Internal Affairs, the Local Government Funding Agency, and the Commerce Commission on the role each will play in the regulation of Local Water Done Well, and how Councils can best achieve economies of scale in a Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation," says Rangitikei Mayor, Andy Watson.

A key element of this guidance is that a Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation servicing 50,000 connections would achieve the greatest cost efficiencies for bill payers.

"The understanding that 50,000 connections would unlock greater savings for all those involved has absolutely contributed to other councils re-entering discussions about a wider model," says Mayor Andy.

Of the 90 submissions received during public consultation, feedback was largely supportive of Council's preference to collaborate.

Council will look to ensure that the constitution of the new Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation identifies key issues where agreement among the councils is required. In addition, Council accepted the preference expressed by Rangitikei rural water supply schemes to not be transferred to the new entity.

Partnership with iwi was also top of mind. Rangitikei District Council resolved to continue working with Rangitikei iwi and hapū on how best to combine their responsibilities as kaitiaki of the water ways and land with the councils' responsibilities for a safe and efficient provision of water services.

The strong working relationship Rangitikei District Council has with its neighbours was seen by Councillors and staff as a real strength of its strong negotiating position. Rangitikei District Council Chief Executive, Carol Gordon, reiterated that relationships built on trust and transparency have been and will continue to be central to success.

Rangitikei District Council's decision is subject to its potential partners making their decision clear in the coming month:

- Palmerston North City Council will make its decision Wednesday 4 June
- Horowhenua District Council will make its decision Wednesday 4 June
- Ruapehu District Council will make its decision Wednesday 25 June
- Whanganui District Council will make its decision in early July

Once all decisions have been made, staff will finalise the Water Services Delivery Plan which must be submitted to Government by September 3, 2025. We will inform Rangitikei residents as soon as the final grouping of councils is clear.

"I thank all who have engaged in this important work, and the staff who have worked incredibly hard to get to this stage. I am so proud of our Councillors and their drive to deliver long-term benefit for Rangitikei," says Mayor Andy.  
[www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-water](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/wheres-water)

