



KŌRERO MAI



Your feedback is important. Scan this QR code to provide feedback on our services and facilities.

RANGITIKEI
Connect

www.rangitikei.govt.nz

ISSUE 122

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WHERE'S YOUR VOTE @ RANGITIKEI?

Voting is open until 12pm Saturday 11 October 2025

The importance of voting...

In just over a week, voting will close for the 2025 local elections - 12 noon on Saturday 11 October, to be exact. To those of you who have already done your civic duty and voted — ka pai! You absolute legends.

If you're planning to vote but just haven't quite got there yet, that's all good too. We trust you'll get it done. Remember, you can drop your papers into our orange voting bins located across the district. We'll even have one travelling around next week, making it even easier to have your say (see below!).

If you're planning to post your vote back, make sure you send it by Tuesday 7 October. Any votes mailed after that date won't be counted.

And if you're thinking of sitting this one out, hear us out for a moment...

This election is about more than choosing who represents you around the Council table. You're also voting on whether or not Rangitikei keeps Māori wards. That decision alone will have a massive impact on the future of our district.

Local election voter turnout has been dropping steadily for 30 years, and in the last election the national average hit a low of 41 percent. Here in Rangitikei, we did slightly better at 46 percent - but we can do better. It's that important.

We know local elections and local government don't always grab your attention. Central government tends to dominate headlines and local issues get less airtime. But here's the thing: Council decisions affect your daily life far more than you might think.

Local government matters. In fact, it's often more important than the politics in Wellington. Every day, most of us use services Council manages — from water, roads, and rubbish, to the less obvious things like:

- **Planning and consenting;** which can affect whether you can build a house, put up a shed, or start a business.
 - **Economic development;** helping attract people, jobs, and opportunities to Rangitikei.
 - **Parks, reserves, and community;** creating safe spaces for our kids, families, and friends to gather, play, and connect.
- And that's just the tip of the iceberg. In a district like ours, we have to make every dollar stretch further. Deciding who sits around the Council table is your chance to influence how that money is spent and what gets prioritised.
- This year, 32 people have put themselves forward to represent you. They've stepped up.
- Now it's your turn. Vote.**



Scan the QR code for more information about how to vote.

It's not too late to enrol and vote

Special voting is a way for people who missed the enrollment cut-off or can't cast an ordinary vote to still have their say in this election.

You can cast a special vote if you:

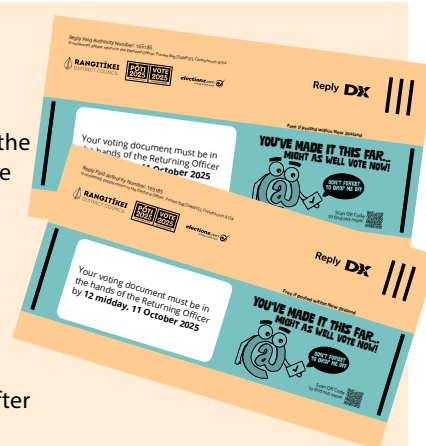
- haven't received a voting pack in your letterbox
- have lost or damaged your voting pack
- have not enrolled yet
- enrolled or updated your address details after 1 August 2025
- are eligible to vote but your name does not appear on the final electoral roll

To cast a special vote, you must be enrolled and your details up to date by 10 October at the latest. For more information, get in touch with our Deputy Electoral Officer: Email: katrina.gray@rangitikei.govt.nz

There are multiple ways you can cast a special vote:

- **Contact us** and request your special voting papers: info@rangitikei.govt.nz or 0800 422 522.
- **Book** a 1:1 20 minute special voting appointment at Marton, Bulls, or Taihape and cast your special vote with an Electoral Official at one of our offices. Scan QR Code to make an online booking.

Please ensure you organise your special vote early in the voting period, so you have enough time to return your vote by 12pm, 11 October 2025.



What is the Māori Wards Referendum?

As part of the 2025 local government elections, Rangitikei District Council will be holding a binding referendum on the future of the Tiikeitia ki Uta (Inland) and the Tiikeitia ki Tai (Coastal) Māori wards.

Voters will be asked:

- Whether Rangitikei District Council should keep or remove its Māori wards.
- Whether Horizons Regional Council should keep or remove its two Māori Constituencies.

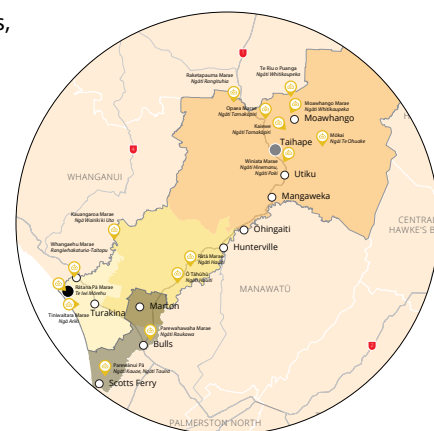
If the majority vote to keep the Māori wards, they'll remain in place for the 2028 and 2031 elections.

If the majority vote to remove the Māori wards, they'll be disestablished for the 2028 and 2031 elections and voters on the Māori electoral roll will vote for the general wards instead.

The referendum will be held alongside the 2025 local elections.

For more information visit www.rangitikei.govt.nz/maori-wards-referendum or contact us on 0800 422 522 or info@rangitikei.govt.nz

Note: This referendum will not affect the 2025 election. The Council elected in October 2025 will include Māori ward councillors. The outcome of the referendum will determine whether the Māori wards are retained for the 2028 and 2031 elections.



WHERE'S YOUR VOTE @ RANGITIKEI?

Voting should be easy so we're bringing a voting bin to your town!
Check out our FB page for when we will be in your area.
www.facebook.com/rangitikeidc