

RANGITĪKEI Connect

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ISSUE 41

FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Kia ora, this week all of the Councillors and our Chief Executive had a workshop with the Future for Local Government Working Party.

So what is this? Government reforms on the Three Waters, Resource Management Act, Civil Defence and you name it have led to the question "If all of these things go to a regional model what will Local Government look like?". A number of people have asked whether this is amalgamation by a different pathway. The Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta has said that local Councils will be as busy as ever, but just doing different stuff. That stuff may include dealing with housing, social welfare issues and employment etc. These are probably issues that Government has struggled to deal with over the last several years. I guess that having a local understanding and voice is important and if I look at the success of the Mahi Tahī Employment Programme where our relationship with iwi sees us leading the sector nationally in finding jobs for people, this indicates we can do these things. But back to the discussion with the Working Party. The Working Party have met with every Council in New Zealand which is extraordinary and the clear message has been that there still needs to be a local voice and local democracy and that is the message that will be taken back to Central Government. One of the reassuring parts of this Government approach is that this work will lead to a manifesto position going into the next general election so at least in this instance there are very clear pathways for communities to engage.

On the local front I still am amazed by the work that is done by local groups in our communities. I understand that the Hunterville Swimming Pool has just had a major renovation with funding largely provided by that community. I know with Covid a number of these things, including the opening of the Bulls Bus Lane, won't be having civic or ribbon-cutting events but it is still really important that we acknowledge that they have been done and the local community has played its part in ensuring it can happen.

You may have seen our Spatial Plan project Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond in the media recently – now is your time to contribute to shaping the future of the Rangitikei. Jump online to find out more and have your say. www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paetawhiti in how you want the district to look in the next 20 years.

Ngā manaakitanga, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei District.



Pae Tawhiti
RANGITĪKEI BEYOND

Kōrero Mai

RANGITĪKEI IS GROWING
Have your say

Rangitikei residents to have say on where growth should occur

Residents are being asked to share their aspirations for their settlements, villages and towns. Including where new homes, commercial/retail buildings and industry should be allowed.

Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond is a spatial roadmap that will support Council's infrastructure planning and the development of a new district plan – setting the development direction of the district through to 2050 and beyond.

Mayor Andy Watson said, "Essentially, we are preparing our communities and district for the next 30 years. Our district is growing again after many years of decline."

"We now have about 16,000 residents and are on track to grow to 25,000. We expect most growth will occur in and around Marton and Bulls, followed by Taihape. While the population in the rest of Rangitikei will also increase, Rangitikei will essentially retain its rural focus."

"We're keen to hear from our smaller settlements from Moawhango, in the north-east to Turakina in the west about whether we should allow lifestyle blocks around them. And, from mana whenua about their plans for papakāinga or homes on traditional lands."

Rangitikei District Council Senior Strategic Planner Katrina Gray said, the name Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond project refers to the distant horizon.

"We aim to identify future land-use changes in each community to accommodate growth. It will also identify areas that should be protected from future development."

"Through the engagement process, we want to gather as much information so that we reflect the community's cultural, economic, environmental and social values. It will guide community Council's land use and infrastructure planning across the district and identify major projects for the future."

Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond Engagement period starts on **Friday 4 March 2022** and feedback should be given by **5pm Tuesday 19 April 2022**.

There are many ways to have your say:

- Full online engagement document and community summary documents can be found on our website.
- Printed copies of the engagement document can be sourced from the Council office's in Marton, Bulls or Taihape or requested by emailing info@rangitikei.govt.nz or calling 0800 422 522.
- Come along to one of our engagement events.

Event	Location	Time	Date
Koitiata drop-in session	BBQ area	9am – 12pm	Sat 19 March
Scott's Ferry community meeting	1946 Parewanui Road	6.30pm – 8pm	Tue 22 March
Bulls drop-in session	Te Matapihi	4pm – 6pm	Tue 29 March
Turakina drop-in session	The Anglican Church Hall, St George's	6pm – 7.30pm	Thu 7 April
Rātana Pā community day	Rātana ICT Hub	10am - 1pm	Sat 9 April
Marton drop-in session	Village Green	3pm – 6pm	Wed 13 April

Please note that public sessions are subject to Covid-19 Traffic Light setting regulations.

For more information: katrina.gray@rangitikei.govt.nz

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paetawhiti

Projects Updates



Mangaweka Bridge

The joint project between Rangitikei District Council and Manawātū District Council to build a new bridge at Mangaweka is expected to be completed ahead of time, in June, one month earlier than the anticipated July completion date.

As part of the construction and testing programme, some vehicles had been given access over the new bridge; that phase is now complete. Further construction is programmed for the future, but the bridge will not be open for public use until all aspects of the project are complete.

The completion of the entire project will be celebrated with a formal opening.

Bulls Bus Lane and Town Square

The new bus lane is now complete and ready for use by passengers this week.



The Town Square will be completed at the end of March and we are working with iwi on a blessing and opening ceremony for the Town Square. Details will be announced when they are finalised.

Marton Rail Hub

Council has commissioned an updated economic report on the impacts the rail hub will have on our economy. The report has been finalised, and we are thrilled to share this with our communities. We've also had a field survey undertaken over summer to determine activity levels and habitat values for roosting long tailed bats in the area of the Marton Rail Hub. These reports and more about the project is available on our website.

www.rangitikei.govt.nz/projects