

# RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 42

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk

We continue to be bombarded by Government changes and although there is for the first time a hint of hesitancy by Government around these changes, the legislation continues at pace for Three Waters and the RMA Reform (Resource Management Act).

I applaud the Minister of Civil Defence for example in saying that she is prepared to delay the consultation on changes to Civil Defence because of the pressure Local Government is under. However back to Three Waters. This is where the Government is legislating, or putting into law, the establishment of four new entity boards to provide for drinking water, waste-water processing and to handle storm-water runoff. Councils have no say - it is becoming law. I have been asked to co-Chair a working group of DIA (Department of Internal Affairs) to look at the policies around the Three Water entities and community rights around the regulation processes of the RMA. I have been asked to do this role (which is unpaid) because of my and our Council's criticism of the lack of policy detail in both these areas. It is, in my view, the best chance to obtain change in the process. I will advertise in the District Monitor and on our Council website next week details of the public meetings I will be holding in Bulls, Marton and Taihape to discuss these changes and the options that are open to us.

Council has prepared our draft Annual Plan and next week we are sending out a flyer detailing the Annual Plan and rates increase, which includes an expected rating increase of 7.29%. We know that not everyone gets the District Monitor delivered so we are using a combination of ways to get the information out. Please have your say before the close-off date of Monday 9 May. If you have questions please either contact me on 027 617 7668, or a Councillor or staff. We will also have drop-in sessions, if Covid allows, and will be using social media to engage as well.

Finally, the Covid curve seems to be flattening and I, like everyone else, am looking forward to life approaching normal. Normal being where access to Council facilities, businesses and public events are open to all, and normal also being where people are accepted for their own particular stance within the constraints of the wider public safety. While Covid is flattening there continues to be the risk of new variants and pandemics such as the seasonal flu events.

Several major projects such as the Mangaweka Bridge replacement and the Bulls Bus Lane/Town Square are nearing completion. With all of these there will be a period of bedding down and refinement. My thanks go to staff and contractors and I acknowledge the difficulties that operating in the covid world has presented.

Ngā manaakitanga, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei District.



## What are the decisions we need to make?

Refer to our full Consultation Document for all the details on these key choices.

### Whiringa Tuatahi | Key Choice 1 Introduction of a Forestry Differential

As part of the development of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Council signalled a potential rating differential on land classified as "forestry land". A rating differential is a different value for a particular category or type of a rateable land, in this instance "forestry land".

The additional funds from the differential will be used to address forestry generated roading issues.

The rate is targeted at land that is predominantly or solely in plantation forestry. Farmers who want to plant trees on small blocks on their properties can do so without worrying about the higher rate.

The rates that would be collected under the differential would be additional to the proposed level of rates increase indicated in the Long Term Plan, and only apply to properties classified as "forestry land".

### Whiringa Tuarua | Key Choice 2 New Marton Rail Hub Council- Controlled Organisation

The Council is consulting on a proposal to establish a new Marton Rail Hub related Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) for the purposes of developing, operating and maintaining the Marton Rail Hub and associated assets.

Council Controlled Organisations are very common throughout New Zealand; they are formed by and report back to Council. They are often used as a business to develop funding sources to supplement local rates for Councils. Rangitikei District Council has had one in the past.

Once established, the Council intends to place approximately \$10M of capital, approved under the 2021-31 Long Term Plan for the Marton Rail Hub redevelopment, into the CCO. This includes \$9.1M of Crown funding granted through the Infrastructure Reference

Group (IRG). Assets from the CCO will form part of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The SPV will be responsible for investing capital from the Council, IRG and private third party investors in the Marton Rail Hub redevelopment and will have a similar reporting requirement to that of a CCO.

The SPV will manage the Marton Rail Hub Portfolio on the Council's behalf with revenue mostly being used for the purposes of developing, operating and maintaining the Rail Hub and associated assets.

### Whiringa Tuatoru | Key Choice 3 We want to hear from you about climate change...

Our climate is changing, and Rangitikei District Council is committed to mitigating the impact of these changes on our district.

We want our community and local economy to be more resilient and adaptable in the face of climate change.

Agriculture and manufacturing are a proud driving force of our economy, and we must act against climate change to ensure the sustainable futures of these industries. We have a varied environment in the district, facing challenges with increasing temperatures, sea-level rise, erosion, drought and extreme weather. Our rural and small communities are heavily impacted by these changes.

The purpose of these questions is to plot a course for action to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. They will help to provide a framework for collaboration across the Rangitikei District and beyond among tangata whenua, iwi, neighbouring councils, central government, non-government organisations, private industry, education, our communities, and people.

For more information see our website [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/Framing2022/23](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/Framing2022/23)

## Current Consultations

Everyone within the Rangitikei District is invited and welcome to provide feedback on the following consultations:

- Framing 2022/23 – Annual Plan
- Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2022/23
- Draft Rates Remission Policy for Māori Freehold Land
- Draft Rates Remission Policy
- Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond - Rangitikei District Spatial Plan

For more information visit [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/consultations](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/consultations)

**Kōrero Mai  
Have YOUR  
say!**

## Pae Tawhiti RANGITIKEI BEYOND

Rangitikei is growing – have your say. We're creating a district-wide spatial strategy and plan that will identify how we want our communities to develop to 2050 and beyond. We want to hear your thoughts by 5pm Tuesday 19 April 2022. [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paetawhiti](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paetawhiti)

Kōrero  
Mai



## Plumbosolvency

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metal to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before you use to remove any metal that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings. We recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

