

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 65

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



The major news this month has been the revised position from Central Government to "Three Waters". Minister Kieran McAnulty has renamed the legislation Affordable Water and the key points are

1. The timing of the reform has been moved out by two years to 2026.
2. We, the Rangitikei District are now in a new entity - one of ten rather than four and are reunited with our Horizons membership of Palmerston North, Manawātū, Whanganui, Tararua and Ruapehu.
3. The Tranche 2 funding of \$1.2b nationally has been withdrawn from the Better Off Funding allocation from Government (we note the funding agreement under Tranche 1 will still be honoured).

These are the bare bones of the restructure and the details are still yet to be understood. The implications of these changes are, in my mind:

1. Every Council will get a seat and a say on the Regional Representation Co-Governorship Advisory Panel. It is important to note that the entity board will still be appointed on the principle of best person for the position. These changes mean that our Council will have a closer linking to the decisions that affect us.
2. The delay of two years means that the opportunity for further changes post the general election is increased.
3. The uncertainty for staff is troubling and the workloads associated with Annual Plans and Long Term Plan positions are more challenging.
4. Relationships between our new entity members and the regional council will require a re-think. We have previously been put in Entity B which does not include Tararua, Manawātū and Palmerston North.
5. The four entities were based on the strength of the combined financial balance sheet of the members and Government insisted that any more than four entities would not be financially viable. There has been little detail around these new visions and the ability to be able to attract the loans needed for upgrades and compliance.

The Government is still silent on many aspects of the reforms especially on the basis of price harmonisation, or in other words the bigger Councils subsidising the smaller ones. I wonder how Palmerston North will view this position in the future?

I thank those people who have attended one of the Annual/Spatial Plan meetings throughout the district over the last few weeks. We have taken note at those meetings of the general positions and comments, however the individual submissions are still incredibly important. Don't forget to have your say!

ANZAC Day on 25th April is the opportunity to honour and remember those that have served in the armed services or supported the country during the First and Second World Wars and subsequent events such as Korean and Vietnam Wars. There will be dawn parades that are historically incredibly well attended and other services throughout the district. It is pleasing to see the number of people especially young people who attend these parades. This year I will attend the Taihape Dawn Parade rather than Marton and will leave Deputy Mayor Dave Wilson to lead the Council at that service. Virtually all of our Councillors are involved in ANZAC services throughout the district. **Lest we forget.**

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



End of season for Marton and Taihape pools

The Marton and Taihape Swim Centres will close at the end of April for the colder seasons and will reopen in October. Taihape Swim Centre's last day will be on Sunday 23 April, and Marton Swim Centre's last day will be the following week on Sunday 30 April.

Make sure to make the most of our pools while you can!



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME

Apply for funding for your project or organisation

The second round of funding is still open for the Creative Communities Fund!

If you have a clever vision for a creative project that you need help getting off the ground, take a look at the funding criteria below and get your applications in for 2023.

Applications close Sunday 7 May 2023.

For more information, please visit www.rangitikei.govt.nz/creative-communities-scheme



Have you had your say yet?

We have multiple consultations running at the moment and they all close on Tuesday 25 April. Don't miss your chance to shape the future of our district by having your say on:

- Annual Plan 2023/2024
- Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond - Draft Community Spatial Plan
- Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/24
- Traffic and Parking Bylaw
- Rates Remission Policy Amendment
- Revenue and Financing Policy Amendment

Annual Plan 2023/2024

Our Annual Plan Consultation Document provides the chance to have your say on the work we are planning and share your ideas on other changes you would like to see.

This year we are seeking your feedback on three key choices:

- The future of the Taihape Town Hall/ Civic Centre
- The Marton Civic Centre
- A new pathway along Calico Line, from Nga Tawa Road to Marton

The proposed Annual Plan also outlines our projected average rates increase for 2023/24.

To find more information about the Consultation Document and proposed Annual Plan, you can:

- **Visit** our website: www.rangitikei.govt.nz
- **Contact** our Council staff by calling 0800 422 522 or contact an Elected Member
- **Email** us at info@rangitikei.govt.nz

Draft Community Spatial Plan - Pae Tawhiti Rangitikei Beyond

Our draft Community Spatial Plan was developed from community feedback and outlines the blueprint for how we want the Rangitikei district to develop over the next 30 years. To make sure this document captures the needs of our community, it's important that we hear your thoughts on our draft plan.

- What do you feel is most important for Rangitikei over the next 30 years?
- How do you see Rangitikei growing?
- What should we prioritise first?

Making a submission is simple - you can:

- **Go online** at www.rangitikei.govt.nz/paetawhiti
- **Drop off** documents at our service centres.
- **Email** info@rangitikei.govt.nz
- **Post** to Private Bag 110 Marton 4741

For full details please check our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz/consultations.

Have your say by 5pm, Tuesday 25 April 2023.

Even though submissions close ANZAC Day our libraries are open for drop offs or there is a postal slot at our High Street, Marton Office.

Kōrero Mai

JOHN TURKINGTON FORESTRY

RANGITIKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

YOUTH AWARDS 2023

YOUTH AWARDS nominations close soon!

If you know an exceptional person between the ages of 12 and 24 who is connected with the Rangitikei District, whether they currently live, work, or attend school here, or have roots in the area, nominate them for one of the eight categories below. Winners will take home a \$500 prize from our generous sponsors. **Nominations are open until Sunday 23 April 2023.**

Don't miss this opportunity to recognise and celebrate the incredible rangatahi in our community!

For more information, visit our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz/youthawards

NOMINATIONS CLOSE SOON