

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE 84

FROM THE Mayor's Desk



Kia ora koutou, roading for the Rangitikei is normally our largest budget and unfortunately our roads are deteriorating. The deterioration of our network has been driven by decreased allocation, climate change and the impacts of forestry on roads that were not designed for heavy units. Any opportunity to engage with Government and NZTA Waka Kotahi on roads must be taken. Our reports indicate that we have 40 dropouts (places where the seal is broken and the road has dropped away). I suspect that this number is under-reported and we have roads now such as the Watershed, Pohaniui and others that are not suitable for non-4WD vehicles. This is the reality. Our biggest funder of roading is not from rates, it is NZTA Waka Kotahi at 63% and any roading allocation needs to be approved by NZTA Waka Kotahi who are guided by Government Policy Statements and Government budget allocation. We need to influence that process of national allocation and priority setting. One of the ways we can influence roading allocations is by arguing for priorities at the Regional Roading meetings at Horizons. Our Council will be submitting that the priority for roading must be one of maintenance above all else.

At our last Council meeting we adopted the draft Long Term Plan for consultation. With the revaluation by the Government Department QV (Quotable Value) of the capital values of properties in our district, setting the rates has been challenging with increases in some areas of the district higher than others. The average rate increase for the next three years is - Year One 11.50%, Year Two 8.9% and Year Three 10.6%. The figures we have been given for rates rises by other councils illustrates that this is about average as all councils are struggling with budgets and dealing with Three Waters issues.

As I travel throughout the district I am almost asked on a daily basis for updates around the proposed Industrial Rail Hub in Marton. The short version is that the Environment Court has ruled in favour of the rezoning, there is still a short period for further appeals and beyond that there will be conditions for rezoning that Council will need to satisfy when the zone becomes operative. It is then up to the private sector to determine a potential purchase and use.

And finally, another good news story, The Friends of Taihape, iwi and Council gathered at the Hautapu River recently for a blessing ahead of the construction of a series of walking track bridges as part of the reserve. I love walking these tracks – there are few local tracks built around mature native forests close to our towns for walkers and I congratulate all of the people involved in the planning, fundraising, maintenance and design.

Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.



Otago Bridge strengthening update

Contractors have been grinding and welding away on Otago Bridge over the last week. They have started welding steel plates to the bottom of the horizontal beam of the bridge, with more strengthening plates to be welded to the top of the beam.

When that is done, the plates will be treated inside and outside to prevent corrosion. They'll also be cleaning and inspecting the vertical hangars for signs of fatigue.

Work on the bridge is expected to be completed by the end of April, with the bridge being closed to vehicles between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm so contractors can work uninterrupted.

While work continues, the current restrictions still apply:

- Weight limit of six tonnes and speed limit posted on the bridge.
- One vehicle to cross the bridge at a time.
- Vehicles to travel central to the bridge.



Marton RSA and Citizens' Memorial Hall targeted by thieves

On investigation, it was found the spouting and header tanks from the Hall had been removed and the water filter station located next to the hall, had been damaged.

Council staff are working on remedies to get the Hall and the water filter station reopened to the community as soon as possible.

At this stage, the repair costs are not known, but staff advise it is disappointing that this will be another cost to ratepayers.

Council has cameras at the Hall and footage has been provided to the Police to enable them to assist in finding the people responsible.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR LONG TERM PLAN He aha tō tirohanga whakamua mō Rangitikei?

Submissions close at 5pm, Sunday 7 April 2024.

Consultation on Rangitikei District Council's 2024/34 Long Term Plan is now open, and the community is encouraged to share their feedback on Council's proposed plans and budget for the next ten years. The Long Term Plan (LTP) is a ten year plan which is refreshed every three years, and as such builds on the progress made over the last three years. This includes changes to projects and considers things like the rising costs of living and what it costs to keep Rangitikei running. This is all detailed in our consultation document for our community to read.

To find more information on any part of this process, the LTP or this document, you can:

- Visit our website www.rangitikei.govt.nz
- Follow us in Facebook - www.facebook.com/RangitikeiDC
- Contact our Council staff by calling **0800 422 522** or contact an Elected Member
- Email us at info@rangitikei.govt.nz
- Attend one of our **Community Engagement Events** or **Hui-a-Marae**

For full details scan QR code above or visit our website.

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

Refer to our consultation document for the full details on these three key choices.



KEY CHOICE 1 | MARTON POOL

Should we open the Marton pool all year round?



KEY CHOICE 2 | KERBSIDE COLLECTION

How do you want to roll out the kerbside collection requirements?



KEY CHOICE 3 | MARTON MAIN STREET UPGRADE

Should we revitalise the Marton Town Centre?

WHAT ELSE ARE WE CONSULTING ON?

- Proposed Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2024/25
- Draft Development Contributions Policy
- Draft Rates Remission Policy
- Draft Revenue and Financing Policy
- Draft Significance and Engagement Policy

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Where	When	Start Time
Hunterville Town Hall	Monday, 11 March	6:30pm
Tutaenui Hall	Tuesday, 12 March	6:30pm
Te Matapihi, Bulls	Wednesday, 13 March	11am - 2pm
Scotts Ferry Fire Station	Sunday, 17 March	6pm
Omatane Hall	Monday, 18 March	6:30pm
Marton Village Green	Tuesday, 19 March	11am - 2pm
Taoroa (venue TBC)	Tuesday, 19 March	6pm
Ratana Playground and Whānau Space	Saturday, 23 March	11am
Papanui Hall	Monday, 25 March	6pm
Ngā Awa Block, Taihape	Wednesday, 27 March	11am - 2pm
Koitiata Hall	Tuesday, 2 April	7pm

KŌRERO MAI

We need to receive your feedback by 5pm on Sunday, 7 April 2024

