

RANGITIKEI Connect

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ISSUE EIGHT

FROM THE

Mayor's Desk

I am so pleased to say that the construction of the Bulls Community Centre is finished and the building will be officially opened at an 'invitation only' event on Friday, 25 September, followed by a public open day on Saturday, 26 September. I have had the opportunity to go inside the building several times and it's just stunning! I hope everyone takes the opportunity to visit the building and see for yourself this fantastic facility that we now have in our District.

During the month we received the great news that we received \$9.1 million from the Government's Covid-19 response and recovery fund for a new rail hub in Marton. This is very welcome news for our District. The recent proposed District Plan change is a key part of the rail hub going ahead. So it was also great to receive the news that the District Plan Change has been approved in part by the independent commissioner Mr Robert Schofield. The proposed plan change sought to rezone 217ha of Rural zoned land to Industrial and the Plan Change was approved in part, meaning that approximately 40ha, and not the total of 217ha, will be rezoned from Rural to Industrial. This Council has worked hard to get the Plan Change through to this stage, it's been three and a half years of determined effort by a number of people – both staff and Councillors and I want to thank everyone for their efforts.

At the Council meeting last week the contract for the Mangaweka Bridge replacement was approved, Emmetts Civil Construction Ltd., Stringfellows Contracting Ltd., and Dempsey Wood Civil Ltd were the successful tenderers. This is a 132m long single-lane bridge and will be approximately 30m downstream from the existing bridge (in the northern part of the Mangaweka Campground).

Although it will only be marked as single lane, the bridge is designed for two-lane operation in emergency situations (such as a detour for when SH1 nearby is closed) and at each end of the bridge there is a vehicle access to adjoining properties. The existing bridge will be strengthened for walking and cycling.

Council has started work on looking at its Long Term Plan for 2021-31. This is an important document which outlines what we will do over the next 3-10 years. We want to give our residents and ratepayers the opportunity for them to tell us what they would like to see included in this plan, so we will be running a process over the next three months where you will have an opportunity to talk to us. We are using the slogan "Framing Our Future" and will be present at venues and events across the District over the next three months. I really encourage you to come and tell us what you think and give your ideas of what our District's future will be.

Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei District.



BULLS BEATS + BITES

COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 10AM - 2PM

Come and celebrate the opening of the Bulls Community Centre
Criterion Street - Bulls

FOR MORE INFO: Bronwyn Meads - Events and Venue Coordinator.
bronwyn.meads@rangitikei.govt.nz

A postponement date will be announced if our District is at Covid 19 Level 2 or above.

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.



RANGITIKEI LINE

Council Bulletin

2021-31 Long Term Plan

Council has agreed to engage early, on a more informal basis, with all sectors of the Rangitikei community to find out what's important to them, and do this by going out to where people are, using the concept "Framing our Future". This precedes the formal engagement that needs to be done next year, using a formal Consultation Document and submission process.

A number of workshops have been held with Council and included discussions on roading (to review the basis for Council's initial application to the New Zealand Transport Agency for continuing co-investment), forecasting assumptions (particularly likely population trends), the revenue and financing policy (which defines the balance between fees and charges and rates in funding Council's various activities) and the performance framework (which sets out how Council will measure how well it is doing against targets).

Three Waters Reform

Following discussion at extraordinary meetings of Te Rōpu Ahi Kā and the Audit/

Risk Committee, and consideration of legal advice from Simpson Grierson, Council has signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Internal Affairs. This allows Council to access its allocation of stimulus funding which, following agreement between the mayors of the regions, totals \$4.8 million.

Signing commits Council to continue discussion about the proposed reforms (up until 30 June 2021) and to provide information about its three water assets. While the nature of that information has yet to be defined, it is unlikely to be problematic given the work currently being done to improve systematic collection of condition data for the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

The projects which will be included in the funding agreement and delivery plan, both to be completed by 30 September 2020, are: accelerating the Marton-Bulls wastewater pipeline (\$3.5 million), upgrading the Bulls water supply rising main (\$800,000), upgrading the Taihape Papakai station rising main (\$375,000), a contribution for a future regional investigation fund to look at non-reticulated drinking water and wastewater supplies, including at marae and papakainga (\$100,000) and miscellaneous reports, investigations and legal fees

(\$45,000). All projects must start no later than 31 March 2021 and be completed by 31 March 2022.

New Amenities Block - Taihape Memorial Park

At its meeting on 27 August 2020, Council received a Notice of Motion requesting Council revoke its previous decisions to construct a new amenities building and instead construct these facilities within the existing historic grandstand, as requested in the petition presented to Council's meeting on 30 July 2020 by the Taihape Heritage Trust. The Chief Executive will prepare a report which will include a comparison of the facilities envisaged being built at each location and the estimated costs of these.

Replacement Mangaweka Bridge

Council has agreed to award the contract for the Mangaweka Bridge Replacement to Emmetts Civil Construction Ltd., Stringfellows Contracting Ltd., and Dempsey Wood Civil Ltd. for \$7,900,000. This decision mirrors that taken by Manawatu District Council – necessary, as this is a boundary bridge between the two councils who will share the costs equally. Both councils will receive co-investment from the New Zealand Transport Agency. For Rangitikei, this is 63% of the total cost.

District Plan Change

On 21 August 2020 the appointed Independent Hearing Commissioner, Robert Schofield, issued his decision report, this is available on Council's website - www.rangitikei.govt.nz/council/publications/district-plan/proposed-plan-change-1165-1151-and-1091-state-highway-1-marton

The Commissioner's decisions on the proposed Plan Change are to rezone approximately 40 ha from Rural to Industrial, with an overlay entitled Industrial Development Area which is subject to additional objectives, policies and rules being added into the Rangitikei District Plan. This reflects the area needed for the envisaged initial development of the site and is located close to the Main Trunk Railway and Makirikiri Road.

Any person who made a submission or further submission to the Plan Change has the right to appeal the Commissioner's decision, in respect to their submission or further submission, to the Environment Court. Any appeal must be made within 30 working days of 21 August 2020.