

SECTION 3: **Response to Submitters**

Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the written and oral submissions received by Council on “Unfolding the Plan... Rangitikei 2018-28”.

The section initially provides an analysis of the three key issues:

- Issue 1: Rubbish and Recycling
- Issue 2: Economic Development
- Issue 3: Insulation

Issues raised by group of activity are then provided and discussed.

Summary of submissions

Consultation

Consultation on “Unfolding the Plan... Rangitikei 2018-28” was conducted in accordance with the Special Consultative Procedure as required under the Local Government Act 2002.

Submissions were open from 4 April to 4 May 2018.

The Mayor and Councillors hosted 16 public meetings across the District. The Mayor also held individual meetings with those that requested them. Information about the consultation was promoted through Council’s website, Facebook page, twitter, in local newspapers (including a two page feature run over two weeks), in the Rangitikei Line and Rangitikei Bulletin. Posters were also displayed in the areas where the public meetings were being held. Consultation documents were distributed widely, in Council’s main offices, libraries and information centres as well as cafes, doctor surgeries and public meeting spaces.



Overview of submissions

Council received a total of 172 written submissions. Of these, 20 submitters spoke to their submissions at the oral hearings held on 16 May 2018 in Taihape (7) and 17 May 2018 (13) in Marton.

There were a number of submitters with two people at the same address that submitted individually. In some cases they had opposing views, while in other cases they had the same view.

The location of the submissions are provided in Figure 1 below. This figure shows that the most submissions came from residents from Marton (60), followed by Taihape (29). Interestingly, Council received a large number of submissions from the residents of Scotts Ferry (28). There were a wide range of organisations or groups (35) that submitted on Council’s Long Term Plan (Figure 2). The list of organisations that submitted is provided as Appendix 1.



Juniors area at the Library.

Address of submitter (n=172)

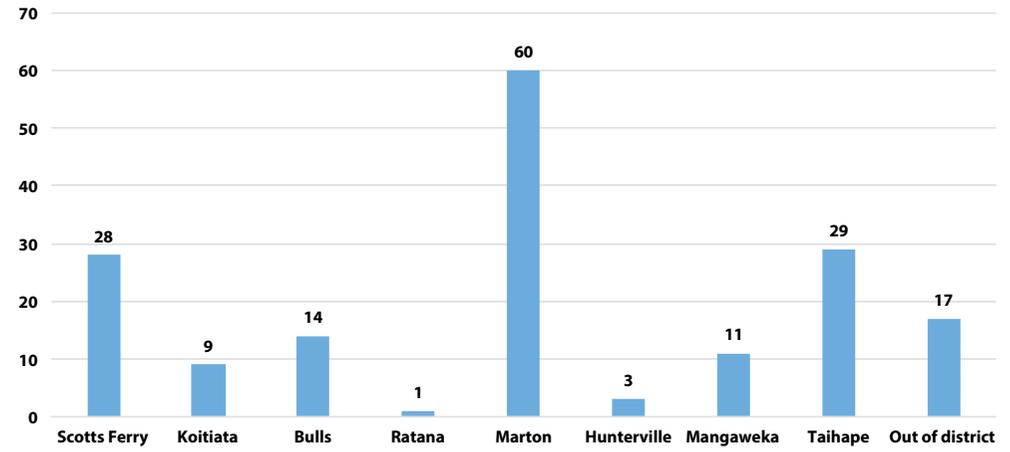


Figure 1. Address of submitter – all individuals

Submissions by organisations/groups (n=172)

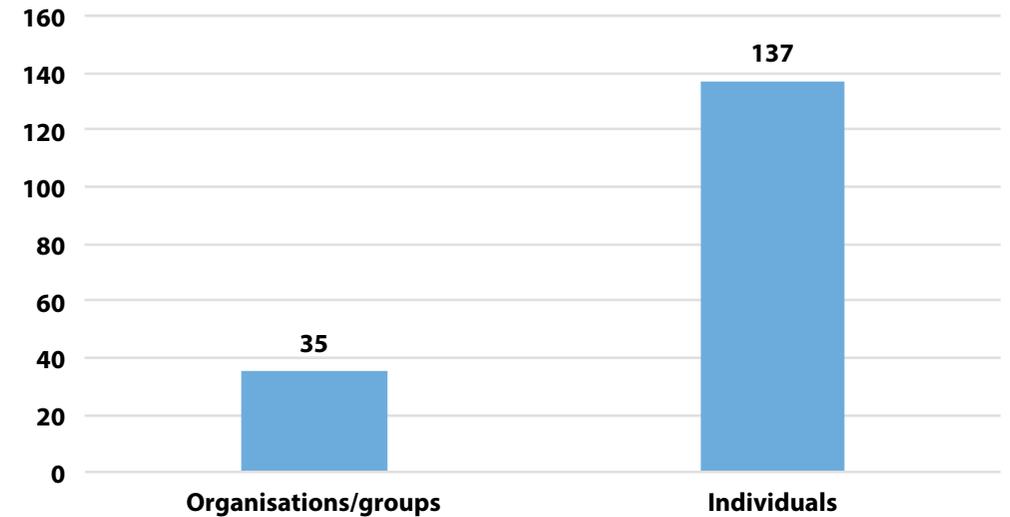


Figure 2. Submissions by organisations/groups

Issue 1: Rubbish and Recycling

Background

Council asked the community whether the urban areas of the District should be provided with a Council recycling service (preferred option), both a Council rubbish and recycling service, or if they wished to retain the status quo.

Council's preferred option – to provide recycling only, was aimed at increasing recycling (thus reducing the volume of rubbish being disposed of).

Submissions

The overall results are provided as Figure 3. This figure shows the responses per property. This shows that the majority of submitters that responded to this question (55%) indicated a preference for Option 2 – both rubbish and recycling. These results have been split down to responses by the area concerned (Figure 4). Several submitters were from the same property. These have been combined so that one response per property is recorded.

Issue 1: Rubbish and Recycling in the urban areas of Ratana, Koitiata, Scotts Ferry, Bulls, Marton, Hunterville, Taihape and Mangaweka (n=143)

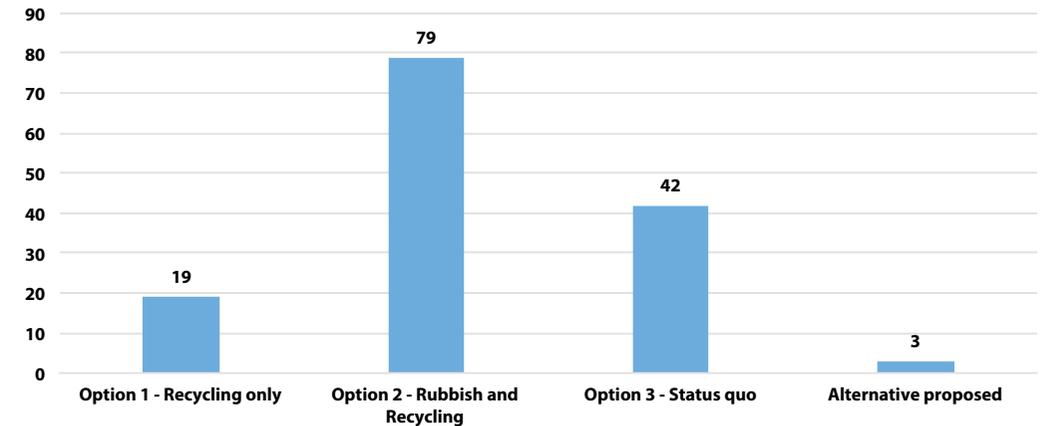


Figure 3. Responses to Issue 1: Rubbish and Recycling

Issue 1: Rubbish and Recycling - by area - properties only (n=110)

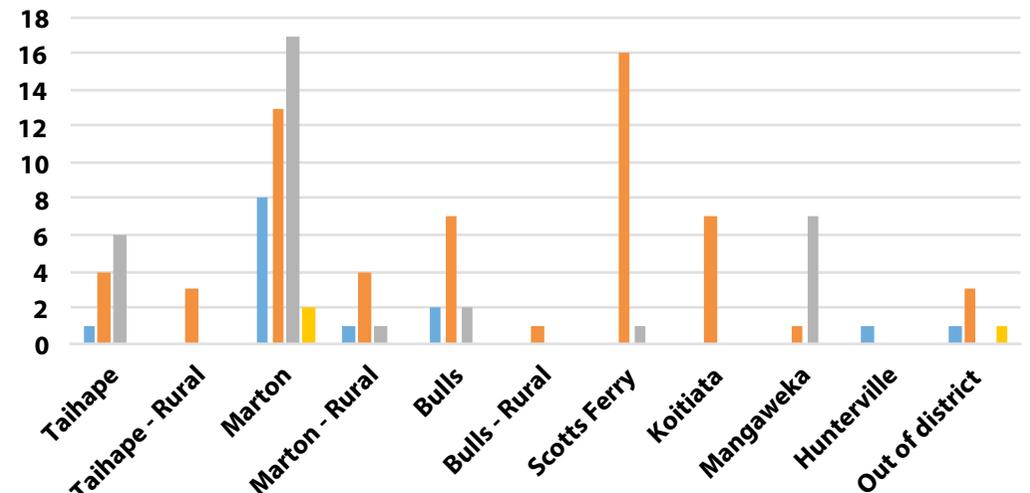


Figure 4. Rubbish and Recycling by area

Taihape

Taihape (urban and rural) received a total of 14 responses from individuals to this question. When considering Taihape urban properties alone, Option 3 is the preferred option (option 1 - 9%, option 2 - 36%, **option 3 - 55%**). However, when combining the Taihape urban and Taihape rural properties option 2 becomes the preferred option (option 1 - 7%, option 2 - 50%, option 3 - 43%) (Figure 5).

The Taihape Community Board and the Taihape Community Development Trust submitted in favour of option 2.

Other local Taihape organisations submitted as follows:

- Taihape A&P – option 2
- Rangitikei Guardians – option 2
- McQueen School of Dance – option 3

When combining all individual and organisation submissions from the Taihape area the results are in favour of option 2 – see Figure 6 (option 1 - 5%, option 2 - 58%, option 3 - 37%).

Issue 1: Taihape responses by property (n=14)

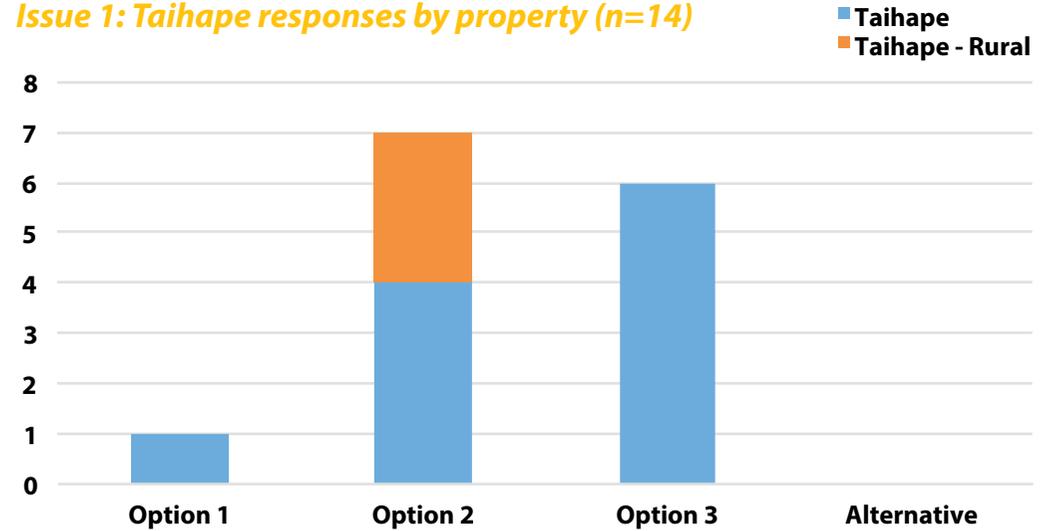


Figure 5. Issue 1: Taihape individual responses

Issue 1: Taihape - all responses (n= 19)

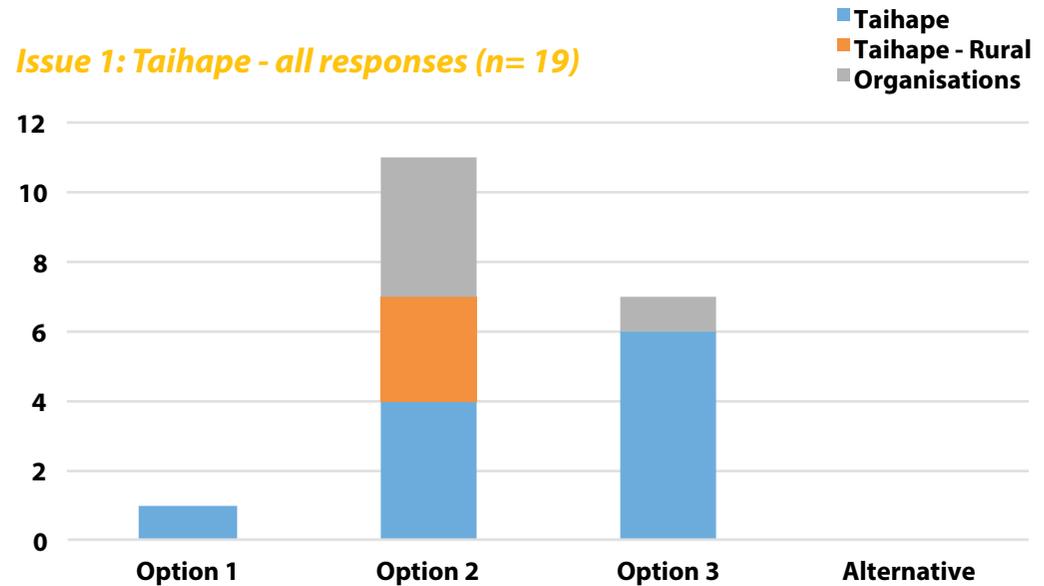


Figure 6. Issue 1: Taihape all responses

Marlon

Marlon (urban and rural) received a total of 46 responses from individual properties (Figure 7). When considering Marlon urban properties alone, option 3 is the preferred option (option 1 - 20%, option 2 - 33%, **option 3 - 43%**). When considering both urban and rural individuals, option 3 remains the preferred option (option 1 - 20%, option 2 - 37%, option 3 - 45%). Neither option provides a majority view.

The Marlon Community Committee did not provide a submission. Other Marlon organisations provided the following options:

- Marlon RSA – option 1
- Marlon Motel – option 3

Bulls

Bulls (urban and rural) received a total of 12 responses from individual properties to this question. When considering Bulls urban properties alone, option 2 is the preferred option. (option 1 - 18%, **option 2 - 64%**, option 3 - 18%). When considering both urban and rural individuals, option 2 remains the preferred option (option 1 - 17%, option 2 - 67%, option 3 - 17%). Option 2 has a majority view in both scenarios (Figure 8).

The Bulls Community Committee submitted in favour of option 2. There were no other organisations that submitted from Bulls.

Issue 1: Marlon individual responses by property (n=46)

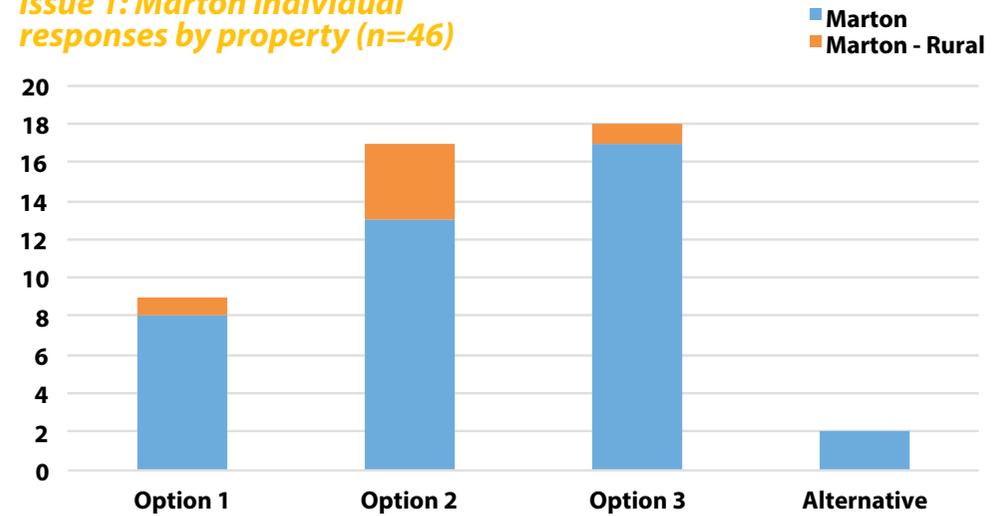


Figure 7. Issue 1: Marlon individual responses

Issue 1: Bulls individual responses by property (n=12)



Figure 8. Issue 1: Bulls individual responses

Scotts Ferry

Council received a total of 17 submissions from individual properties at Scotts Ferry. Option 2 was the preferred option by a significant majority (option 1 - 0%, **option 2 - 94%**, option 3 – 6%) (Figure 9).

Issue 1: Scotts Ferry responses by property (n=17)

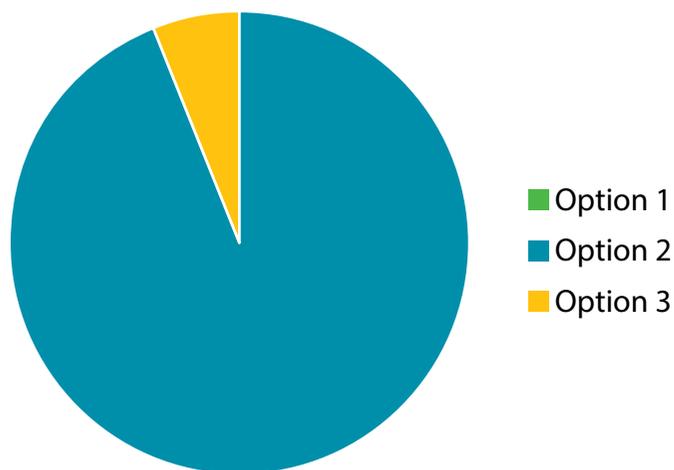


Figure 9. Issue 1: Scotts Ferry

Koitiata

Koitiata received 7 responses from individual properties, all in favour of **option 2**. Additionally, the Koitiata Residents Committee submitted in favour of **option 2**. A couple of residents requested that the collection day be Monday (#011, #029).

Mangaweka

Mangaweka received 8 responses from individual properties, with option 3 the most popular (option 1 - 0%, option 2 - 13%, **option 3 - 88%**). Mangaweka Adventure Company submitted in favour of option 3.

Huntermville, Ratana, Turakina

Very few responses were received from these communities.

Huntermville received one response from an individual in favour of option 1. However, the Huntermville Community Committee identified that **option 2** was their preferred option.

One response was received from the Ratana community from the Ratana Community Board which identified **option 3** was their preferred option.

Turakina Community committee submitted that they wished Turakina to be included as part of **option 1**.

Summary

There were mixed view from throughout the District on which option communities preferred. A summary of the most popular view from those properties directly affected per area is provided below (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of responses by affected properties by area

AREA	OPTION 1 – RECYCLING ONLY	OPTION 2 – RUBBISH AND RECYCLING	OPTION 3 – STATUS QUO
Taihape	9%	36%	55%
Marton	20%	33%	43%
Bulls	18%	64%	18%
Scotts Ferry	0%	94%	59%
Koitiata	0%	100%	0%
Mangaweka	0%	13%	88%
Huntermville		Huntermville CC	
Ratana			Ratana CC
Turakina	Turakina CC		

Comments from submitters

Wheelie bins/green waste

There were a number of submitters that specified option 2 was their preferred option, if this option was a wheelie bin (#014, #083, #084, #085, #086, #087, #100, and #168).

The size of the wheelie bin was also a topic commented on by submitter #011. Submitter #014 identified that there should be different size options available, and the option for large household to have more than one bin. While submitter #158 suggested a wheelie bin with a divider for glass. A further submitter requested wheelie bins for everything (including glass), raising concerns that elderly residents would not be able to carry crates for glass (#173). Additional concerns were raised about the ability for elderly residents to move wheelie bins or glass crates (#121, #171).

Some concerns were also raised, particularly by oral submitters that, if large wheelie bins were provided, they would be filled with everything, including green waste (#098, #121, and #173). Submitter #173 asked Council to investigate alternative options for addressing green waste. Submitter #149 requests a dedicated green waste area.

Rangitikei Wheelie Bins

Wiremu, Leanne and Renee Abraham, the current operators of Rangitikei Wheelie Bins provided both a written and oral submission. Their written submission raised the following issues:

- Have been active in encouraging commercial businesses to recycle.
- Some elderly people cannot push a 240L bin.
- Have kept prices low and provided services that larger companies have stopped.
- Are active local sponsors.
- Would like to participate with Council.

Their oral submission raised the following additional issues:

- Their local knowledge can help support the District's transition to improved recycling.
- Could have an opt-in service.
- Have increased their collection of bags from 300 to 1500 recently.

The following further comments were provided from submitters on the issue of rubbish/recycling:

- Submitters #010 and #094 identified the benefits for waste minimisation for providing a recycling service.
- Submitter #022 suggested Council should give ratepayers the right to choose. In their oral submission #121 Rangitikei Wheelie Bins identified it would be possible for them to potentially provide an opt-in service.
- Cost - Four comments were received from submitters that raised concerns about costs (#009, #028, #065, and #079). Submitter #079 identified they believed that current rate increases are already unsustainable. Submitter #065 stated that the proposal is more costly than the current situation, and #028 that it would punish people who already recycle and put added strain on low incomes.
- Current low use - A number of submitters noted that they do not support a rubbish collection as they do not generate enough rubbish to make it worth the rates increase (#65, #069, #081, #092, and #098).
- Support existing services - Three submitters raised concerns about the potential effects on local services #056, #133, #165.
- Alternative - Submitter #013 suggested Council should provide rubbish collection only. Recycling status quo.
- Request that Council considers inorganic rubbish collection (#168, #171).

Officer Comment

While the total response rate on the issue was reasonable (125), once considered at a 'town' basis, the number of responses were low for the main centres. The exception to this being Scotts Ferry, where 17 of the approximately 50 properties provided comment. Council will need to consider, given the low response rate, how much weight it gives the submissions received in by the community committees/boards as the representatives of their communities.

Wheelie bins - If Council decided to provide a rubbish collection service, the method of collection (bins or bags, size of bins and collection days) would be considered during the preparation for implementing the service. There are options for providing a smaller wheelie bin. There is also the potential to provide a mixed recycling bin, which includes glass, however, this option would need to be costed and would likely be significantly more expensive. Crates for glass are a common method throughout New Zealand for collecting glass.



Greenwaste – There are a number of options Council could consider for increasing greenwaste recycling. It is suggested if Council is interested in pursuing this issue that a report is provided to a subsequent Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Inorganic collection – The potential need for an inorganic collection was raised as an issue by a couple of submitters. It is suggested if Council is interested in pursuing this issue that a report is provided to a subsequent Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Opt-in – Submitter #121 identified that it would be feasible for an opt-in service to be provided. This is also a possible option with other potential contractors. However, it is likely that the costs of providing the service would increase, as the number of residents opting-in decreased. Residents already have the option of an opt-in service through existing contractors. Submitter #092 identified this service costs \$8 per week for a wheelie bin.

Turakina – the location of Turakina, means that it would be easy to include this community in any rubbish/recycling option provided by Council.

As any rubbish/recycling services are not planned to be provided until the 2019/20 financial year, Council could consider whether there are other options for gaining an increased level of feedback from the community (it could also include further consideration of the feasibility of the opt-in option).

Council decision

That Council includes the cost of a kerbside recycling and rubbish collection service in its budgets (as specified in the Consultation Document) for the Long Term Plan, but undertakes further consultation with the community in 2018 to gain a better insight into the level of interest for a kerbside recycling service or a kerbside rubbish and recycling service.

Council decision

That options available for Council to provide more effective green waste and/or inorganic rubbish collection services are provided to the 9 August 2018 Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting for consideration and recommendation to Council, noting that any proposal to introduce a new service should be considered as part of the 2019/20 Annual Plan process.

Issue 2: Economic Development

Background

Council informed the community and sought feedback in the form of priority ranking of the five areas where Council considers it could be effective in the economic development space, these being:

- Promotion – to build the Districts reputation as a great place to live, work and visit.
- Expanding markets – to focus on growth and prosperity.
- Facilitation – to facilitate and connect business development agencies with local businesses.
- Labour planning – to align business employment needs with education providers.
- Incentivising growth/development – to attract residential development, new businesses and expand existing business.

Council stated no preferred options – only that it had committed to being in this space and a provision of \$200,000 had been included in the draft Long Term Plan.

Submissions

The overall District-wide results are provided as Figure 10 below. The numbers above each column show the number of submitters that stated this area as their priority. There are a different number of total responses for each priority area as not all respondents listed a response for all priority numbers.

The scored District-wide results are provided as Figure 11 below. When scoring the District-wide results against each set of priority (i.e. priority 1 areas receive a score of 5, priority 2 areas receive a score of 4, and so forth) the overall rankings for each area are identified.

The scored District-wide results as a percentage by submitter’s location are provided as Figure 12 below.

The priorities of submitters by town/area of residence are provided as Figure 13.

Issue 2: Economic areas as aligned to the priority of respondents (by respondent total)

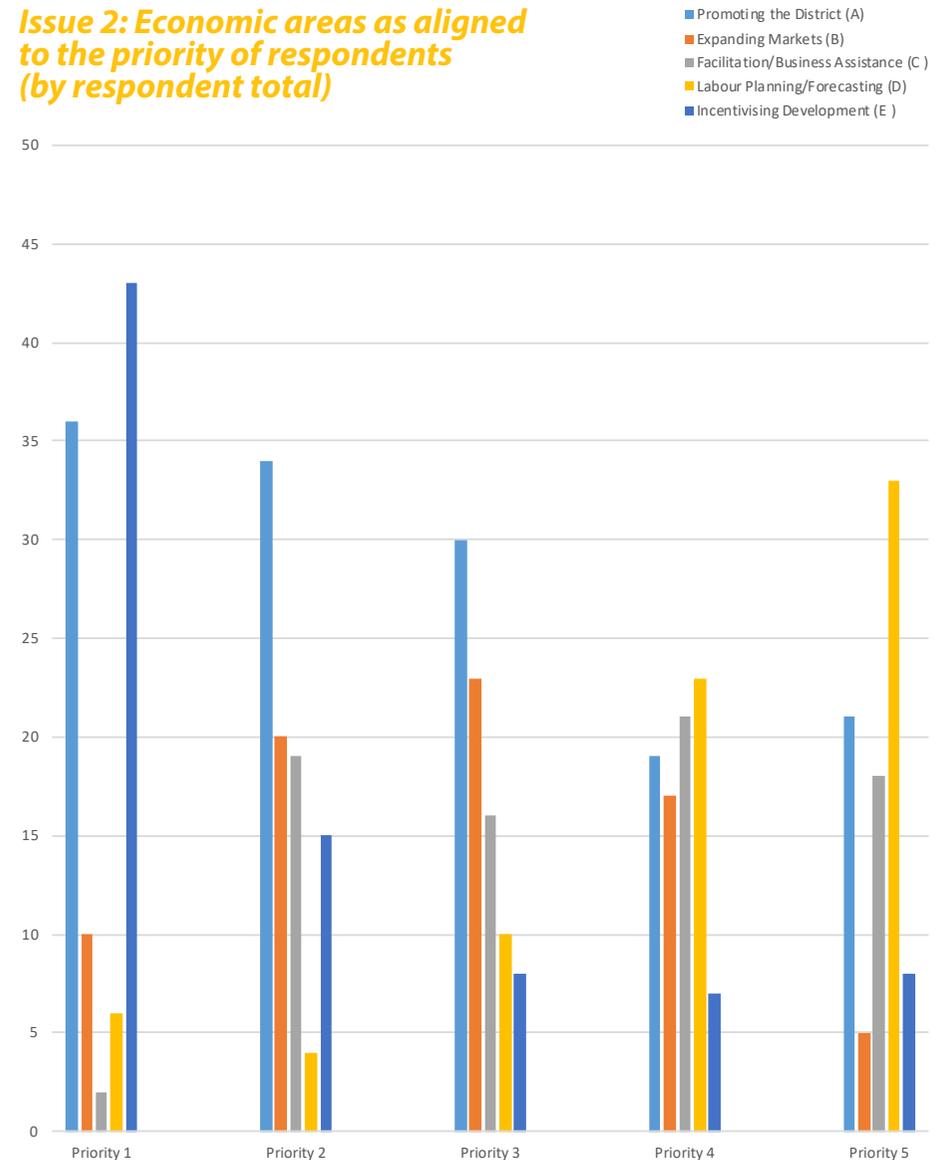


Figure 10. Responses to Issue 2: Economic Development

Issue 2: Overall score of economic priorities as a percentage (n=97)

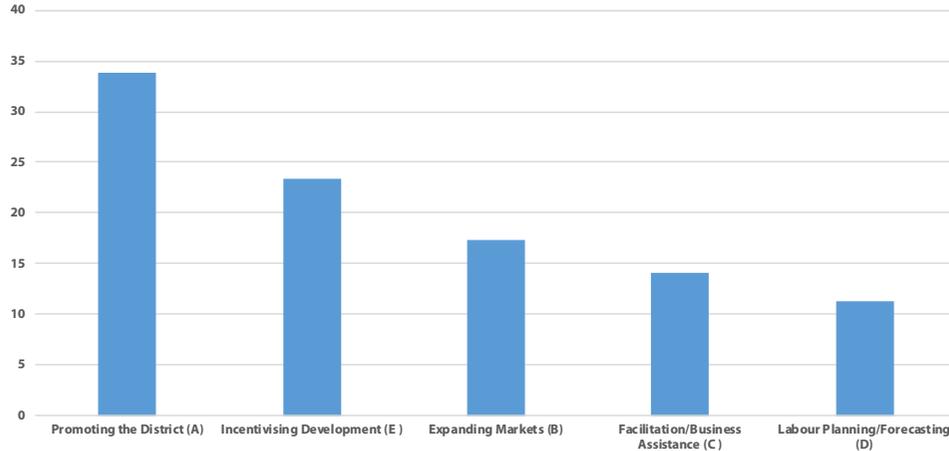


Figure 11. Overall ranked priority scoring of Issue 2: Economic Development

Issue 2: Overall score of economic priorities as a percentage by town (n=97)

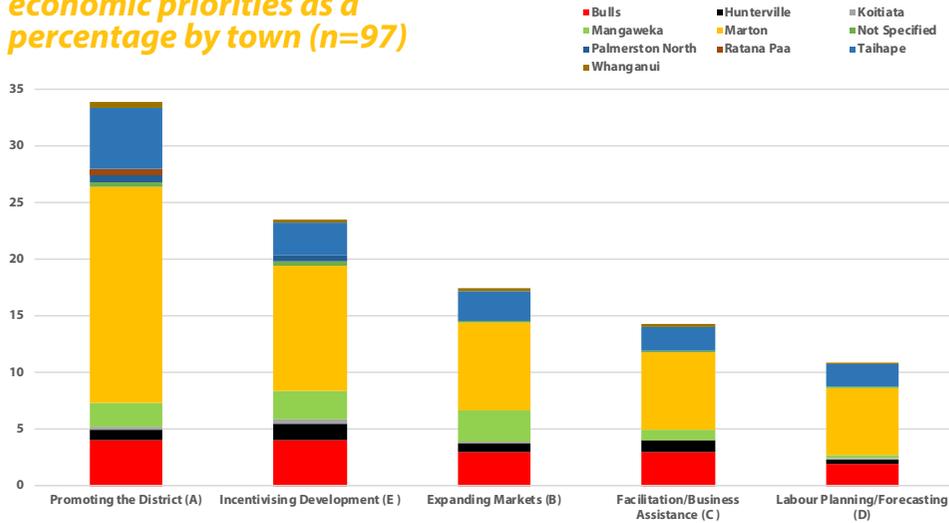


Figure 12. Overall ranked priority scoring by submitter's location – Issue 2: Economic Development

Issue 2: Consideration of ranked priorities by submitter location - expressed as a percentage by town (n=97)

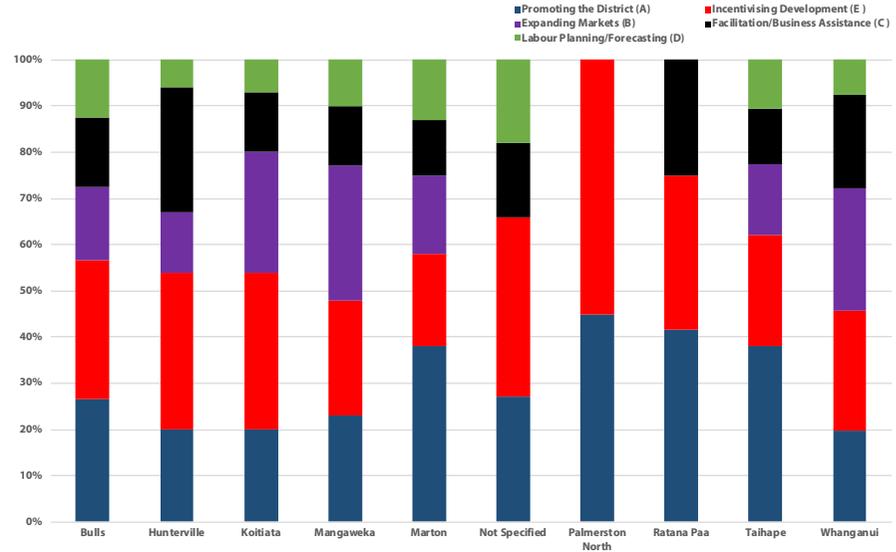


Figure 13. Overall percentage scoring by submitter's location - Issue 2: Economic Development

Submitters have shown a clear and distinct focus from the overall ranking of the priority areas. The results show that the areas considered to be the most worthwhile fall into the category of 'Growing business and jobs'; with subsequent consideration given to 'Growing skills and capability'.

Table 2. Overall priority scoring of Issue 2: Economic Development

GROWING BUSINESS AND JOBS	GROWING SKILLS AND CAPABILITY
Through Council's actions the aim is to attract and grow highly productive businesses.	Through Council's actions the aim is to attract, retain and grow highly productive and talented people.
<p>(1) Promotion – to build the Districts reputation as a great place to live, work and visit.</p> <p>(2) Incentivising growth/development – to attract residential development, new businesses and expand existing business.</p>	<p>(3) Expanding markets – to focus on growth and prosperity.</p> <p>(4) Facilitation – to facilitate and connect business development agencies with local businesses.</p> <p>(5) Labour planning – to align business employment needs with education providers.</p>

Comments from submitters

Promotion Considerations

Submitter #013 suggests that Council should provide more tangible incentives in building the District's reputation as a great place to live, work and visit. Consideration and planning should be given as to identify what our point of difference is.

In promoting the District through signage, two comments were received from submitters. Both submitters (#070, #143) acknowledge the desire for more signage within the District, with #070 requesting that the signage boards should be electronic, with the same information easily accessible from apps and websites. Similarly, if Council continues with information centres the development of booklets and pamphlets should be contracted out to a local business.

Submitter #150 referenced the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan stating Council's previous intention to promote the District as an art friendly community where those who create original works of the imagination feel appreciated. Aside from the stated action or inaction of Council, #150 noted that the creative community has continued to develop – highlighting to Council that it should be supported as an economic activity.

Incentivising Growth Considerations

Submitter #146 suggests that Council needs to address Marton's issue around housing and rental supply; being due to there being no point in promoting the District as a place to make home if there are no availability of houses or rental properties.

Two comments were received from submitters that raised concerns over the amount of vacant, dirty and substandard buildings in the towns across the district. Submitter #155 identified that in Taihape, Council should be providing encouragement for new businesses, existing businesses and landlords to upgrade their facilities. Submitter #143 identified that as visitors enter Bulls they are met with dirty buildings that are poorly maintained.

Support of Businesses

Submitters #060 and #155 suggest that Council needs to be accepting, encouraging and supportive of new businesses and opportunities in the District.

Consideration of Economic Models

Submitter #001 presented and provided three recommendations relating to a subjective economic model known as donut economics. The submission sought Council to consider and explore what planetary and social boundaries imply for rethinking economic development, and additionally how Council should measure economic progress. In response to the values and approaches of this model, Council was asked to make a submission to the House of Representatives to urge the Government to reject the resurrected Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

Submitter #025 asked Council to consider the reasons why regional economies have deteriorated over recent decades and what needs to be done to alleviate these issues. A summary of these concerns was provided referencing New Zealand Rhodes Scholar and Author Bryan Gould's book, 'Rescuing the New Zealand Economy: Where We Went Wrong and how We Can Fix it' (2008). These included:

- Increasing the scope of the Reserve Bank;
- The development of modernised inflation controls;
- Equitable taxation in the investment in housing;
- Mitigating the impacts of globalisation and trade in local communities.

Public Transport

Submitter #143 commented that public transport from small centres to main centres such as Whanganui, Palmerston North or Feilding should be considered by Council. The submission notes that having effective public transport would reduce the cost of living in the District, potentially brings money back into our satellite towns.

Officer Comment

Promotion Considerations – Council intends on undertaking a signage programme across the townships within the District. Once a budget has been formally allocated, community committees and partnering organisations will be placed to work with Council in undertaking this programme. Additionally, any incentives to attract people to the District for events and programmes will be run in conjunction with these parties. Incentives for attracting people to the District may be considered as part of the Incentivising Growth area. Furthermore, Council acknowledges that there is a significant art community within the District. Whilst this probably does not yet justify the recruitment of an arts development staff for Council, there is the potential for programmes to be considered within its Economic Development portfolio.



Incentivising Growth Considerations - Both the housing shortages in Marton and the state of many of the buildings within the District, Council is aware of.

Support of Businesses – Council is aware and intends on improving its delivery in this area, within the requirements to enforce legislation imposed by Central Government.

Consideration of Economic Models – Failings of the present economic landscape, legislating changes to the Reserve Bank, and developing legislation for the taxation of housing investment are not issues that Council can usefully address. Similarly, Council is not positioned to develop planetary and social boundaries as a measurement for economic development. Council, within the scope of the Local Government Act, will continue to assess and undertake activities once duly considering environmental and social outcomes.

Public Transport – Public transport is a rated activity by the Horizons Regional Council. Council is committed in achieving workable outcomes for our communities – which includes meeting with the Horizons Transport team as a primary stakeholder.

This consultation process has provided Council with the community's view on the direction Council should take in implementing economic development activities throughout the District. This area is complex, therefore, it is recommended that staff prepare a draft Economic Development Strategy/Action Plan based on the priorities identified by the community (Priority 1 – Promotion, Priority 2 – Incentives for development, Priority 3 – Expanding Markets, Priority 4 – Facilitation of business assistance, Priority 5 – Labour forecasting), for discussion at Council's 19 July 2018 workshop.

Council decision

That a draft Economic Development Strategy/Action Plan is prepared for discussion with Council at their 19 July 2018 workshop on the basis of the following priorities:

- **Priority 1 – Promotion**
- **Priority 2 – Incentives for growth/development**
- **Priority 3 – Expanding markets**
- **Priority 4 – Facilitation of business assistance**
- **Priority 5 – Labour forecasting**

Issue 3: Insulation

Background

Council is able to contribute to improve the quality of the local housing stock by providing a loan to ratepayers for the insulation or heating of their homes¹⁸. The ratepayer would repay the cost of the loan, plus interest over a number of years. It is not a scheme which would be subsidised by other ratepayers.

This is an approach which has been undertaken by at least 10 other councils (with varying criteria).

Submissions

Council wanted to gauge what level of interest its ratepayers would have for being involved in the scheme. The results of this consultation are shown in Figure 14. This shows that 29 residents showed interest in taking up the scheme.

Issue 3: If Council were to establish a voluntary targeted rate for ceiling and underfloor insulation would you be interested in taking it up? (n=84)

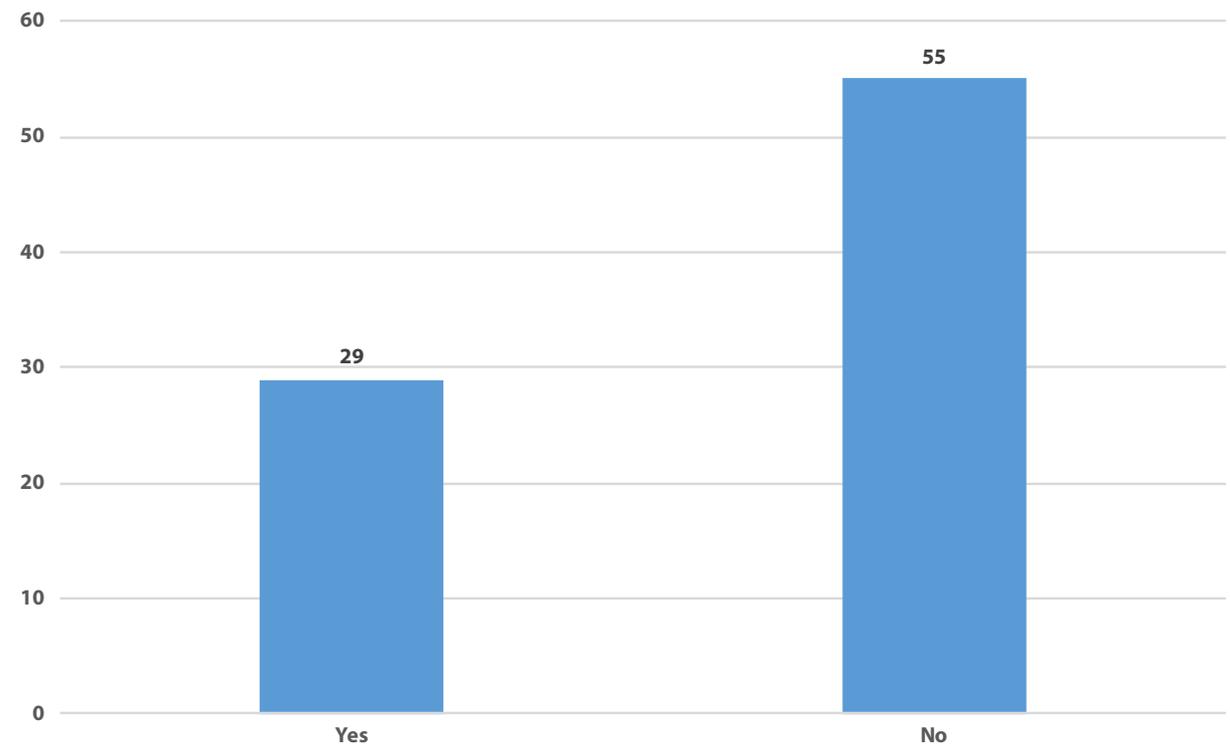


Figure 14. Interest in taking up the voluntary targeted rate for insulation

¹⁸ Note: EECA provides a grant to cover 50% of insulation costs for properties built before 2000. However, this scheme is scheduled to conclude July 2018, and residents must meet specific income thresholds to be eligible. However, the 2018 Budget includes funding to implement the Healthy Homes Guarantee Act and provide grants for insulation and heating retrofits for eligible owner occupiers: lower-income households living in their own homes will be eligible for grants covering two-thirds of the cost of installing ceiling and underfloor insulation. The grants will be topped up wherever possible by third-party funding to make the insulation as low-cost as possible. The first year of the programme will focus on insulation as the highest priority for creating warm, dry homes. The second phase will concentrate on heat sources.

Council received the following additional comments on this issue:

- A number of submitters noted they would not be interested in being involved in the scheme as their home was already insulated (#007, #062, #103, #098).
- Council should require the loan to be paid in full if the dwelling is sold (#167).
- Concern about what options Council has if a ratepayer did not make payment (#100).

Submitter #131 identified as being a professional involved in the healthy homes scheme. They were supportive of Council providing the voluntary targeted rated and noted the following key points:

- The Rangitikei District has a large number of homes which have inadequate insulation.



- Often poorly insulated homes are rented out to families who then have subsequent health issues.
- Low income families that qualify for the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority subsidy struggle to find their share of the insulation costs (\$1,000 - \$3,000).

Officer Comment

Council has proposed to offer the scheme as a result of the issues identified by submitter #131.

Council will have security over the loan through the property being rated. Residents will be required to repay the loan upon the sale of their property - this requirement will be included in the agreement with participating property owners (it is the same as was done with the targeted rate for Ruru Road properties which participated in the sewer extension).

Funding is not required to be included in Council's budgets, as there is no net cost to ratepayers. The repayments for each ratepayer that signs up to the scheme at the maximum value (\$5,000) would be \$753.53 excl GST per annum.

Council decision

That Council implements a voluntary targeted rate to allow ratepayers to insulate and/or install heating at their property based on the following conditions and criteria:

- **The ratepayer must be up-to-date with their rate payments.**
- **The ratepayer must have a good payment history (no arrears or a payment plan in place).**
- **An approved installer of insulation must be used.**
- **There is no limit on the number of ratepayers who are able to be involved in this scheme.**
- **The loan will be to a maximum value of \$5,000 per property.**
- **The loan will be for a maximum term of 9 years**
- **The interest on the loan will be set at 7% per annum**

Community and Leisure Assets

Motorhomes/caravans

The Motor Caravan Association submitted on the Long Term Plan (#002). They requested that Council recognises the value of the Motorhome Friendly Scheme in the Long Term Plan.

Submitter #092 requested that Council establishes a motorhome/caravan park close to Marton.

There were a number of submissions related to a motorhome/caravan stop over area in Taihape:

- Request that Council establish a formal campervan parking area which is signposted close to the Taihape shops (#100, Taihape Community Development Trust).
- Taihape Community Board wants to see the development of a motor home friendly town rating for Taihape and see the potential development of the Weka street extension turnoff area at the back of the bowling/croquet grounds at Taihape Memorial Park as a possible site (#168).
- Taihape Bowling Club would like Council to consider a stopover site at the Bowling Club in Taihape for New Zealand Motor Caravan Association. The Bowling Club have an un-utilised building. They could share the building and lease the croquet area, install power points and a dump station (#118).
- The suggestion that the area on Kuku Street beside the weather station is casually used for their overnight parking. This area should be formalised with sign posting, toilet and shower facilities and drinking water (#164).

Officer Comment

Marton is already a recognised Motorhome Friendly Town. Council already has three camping grounds in close proximity to Marton, along with a New Zealand Motor Caravan Association camping ground in the town.

There is support in Taihape for the development of a motorhome stop over area. Staff are working with the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association to bring Taihape

dump station up to standard to enable Taihape to be recognised as a Motorhome Friendly Town. There is scope for a stopover area to be included as part of plans for the new amenities area in Memorial Park. It is suggested that staff work with the Bowling Club and Cr Rainey and Gordon (as portfolio holders) on the matter.

Other towns within the District do not presently have (an independent) dump station to qualify as a motorhome friendly town.

Council decision

That Council endorses the investigation of the feasibility of including a motorhome stopover area as part of the development of the amenities building at Taihape Memorial Park.

Taihape Memorial Park

A number of comments were received about the redevelopment of Taihape Memorial Park:

- Request from Taihape Show Jumping for an ablution block, including showers (#108) supported by submissions (#120 Taihape Shearing Sports Committee, #164, #152 Taihape and Districts, #153 Taihape Dressage, #174 Taihape Netball).
- Supportive of the upgrades to the toilets and grandstands (#088).
- Request a visual plan of the proposal and would like it displayed at the Taihape Town Hall. Clubs Taihape should be involved (#100).
- Support retaining the grandstand as a key feature of the town's heritage (#164, #171)
- Support the Friends of Taihape, Papakai Park and Memorial Park redevelopment and upgrade (#168).
- Upgrade existing shower/toilet facilities e.g. grandstand or pool (#171).

Officer Comment

Council has already committed to developing a new amenities block at Taihape Memorial Park to the east of the courts. This building will contain new toilets and showers.

A concept plan will be developed for this site. Information will be displayed at Taihape Information Centre and online as it becomes available. The Memorial Park User Group is involved with this project and is led by two Councillors assigned to this portfolio.

Council intends on retaining the grandstand. The existing grandstand space does not allow fit-for-purpose changing rooms sufficient for all codes e.g. rugby, netball, horse-sports, shearing, motor home users, without an extension or re-build; neither does Taihape Swim Centre, which is also located on the least-convenient location with regard to the fore-mentioned users.

Taihape Pool

The following comments were received regarding the Taihape Pool:

- Supportive of proposed upgrades (#088, #168).
- Support purchase of new pool covers. More funding for re-roofing and exploring energy efficient options. Trust happy to provide assistance as part of the MOU (#100, Taihape Community Development Trust). The Trust confirmed at the oral hearings that they had money set aside for roofing.

Officer Comment

Council recently requested an energy audit of Marton Swim Centre. A similar exercise may be conducted at Taihape Swim Centre with particular regard for the energy efficiency when re-roofing.

Taihape Town Hall

A number of comments were made related to the Taihape Town Hall:

- It should be demolished and a new building constructed (#088).
- It is important the building is retained, but addressing the heating issue is important (#114).

- The town hall is an important community space. Council needs to ensure it has a functional kitchen, heating and power points (#115).
- McQueen's School of Dance requested that the hall remains as it is good for concerts. Suggests the best option is earthquake-strengthening rather than replacement (#116).
- Suggest the redevelopment of the building is innovative to better use the building, provide heating, catering facilities and moveable partitions (#117).
- The Taihape Town Hall is well used and part of the heritage of the town. The building should not be demolished, and instead strengthened and provided with catering facilities, repair of the gallery (#151).
- Retain the Town Hall which is part of the heritage of Taihape (#164).
- Support further consultation on the future of the site (#168, Taihape Community Board).
- Council should consider who will lead the process, how communication will take place and how decisions will take place (#100, Taihape Community Development Trust).
- Concern about Council calling the building earthquake-prone (#171).

Officer Comment

Council has yet to explore the options for this site with the community and undertake a business case. Council intends to fully engage with the community on the future options for the site. Council will lead this process and communications, with Mayor and Councillors fully involved, as they have done and continue to do for the Bulls (and Marton) project. Design work is scheduled to begin in 2021/22.

Dudding Lake

Bruce Gordon, on behalf of Dudding Lake requested that Council seals the entrance road to Dudding Lake and that Council re-negotiate the lease (#137).

Officer Comment

Council received \$11,686 (GST excl) from the logging of the site. This money has so far been used to lay the new sewage pipe \$3,000 with the balance committed to replanting.

There was no submission received on this matter in 2017/18. An Annual Plan submission for 16/17 requested that \$7,000 - \$8,000 was carried over for the upgrade. The 2015-2025 Long Term Plan deliberations considered this issue in more depth. This figure was based on the FAR rate – the total estimated cost was \$10,000. The proposal at this stage was for the re-metalling of the road. The resolution is provided below:

Council agree to making good the access road to Dudding Lake, the net cost after a contribution from the Dudding Lake Management Trust to be funded from the reserve up to a maximum of \$6,200¹⁹.

The cost of re-metalling the road is included in the 2018/19 budget (\$16,000), with the cost for sealing the road included in the 2019/20 budget (\$31,000). However, the current estimate for sealing is \$53,900. Bringing the 2019/20 provision forward would enable sealing to be done in 2018/19. Whether the FAR rate could be applied to this project is under discussion with the New Zealand Transport Agency.

Council staff will engage with Mr Gordon to discuss potential alterations to the current lease document.

Council decision

That Council brings forward the \$31,000 identified in the 2019/20 budget for the sealing of the Dudding Lake entrance to the 2018/19 year, less any co-investment secured from the New Zealand Transport Agency.

Council decision

That Council endorse staff engaging with Mr Bruce Gordon to discuss potential alternations to the current lease document for Dudding Lake and report to the Assets/Infrastructure Committee.

Other issues

Bulls

- Bulls Community Centre Hall is too small (#070).
- Concern about the Bulls Community Centre cost and exacerbating traffic issues (#098).
- The Criterion site is a mess (#070).
- Haylock Park should retain the name and a room in the new building should be named after Dr Haylock (#088).
- Request the Bulls Domain is developed further as a camping ground, with renovations to the ablutions block (#097).

Officer Comment

Bulls Community Centre – the site is not owned by Council however as an invested party, Council may consider how it could contribute to the interim maintenance of the site. The size of the proposed community centre building reflects the budget available. The proposed site is designed to be a civic centre near the centre of the Bulls township to support town vitality. The inclusion of Dr Haylock's name will be considered in proportion to the value the land provides the centre.

Haylock Park – will retain its name.

Bulls Domain - A review of the Bulls Domain Reserve Management Plan is required. These two requests will be considered as part of this process which is scheduled to occur in the second half of 2018.

Council decision

That Council endorses staff engaging in discussions with the owners of the Criterion Street site regarding interim maintenance of the site.

¹⁹ 15/RDC/129

Taihape

- Concern about the processes in place if Council buildings test positive for asbestos e.g. Taihape Women's Club (#100).
- Maintenance requirements for Taihape Women's Club (#107).
- The Taihape Napier Road should have campervan parking, toilet facilities and drinking water, alongside information boards (#164).
- Taihape Netball would like clarification on the ownership of the Squash Club building, would like Council support to redevelop the netball courts e.g. drainage works. The club would like to gain more autonomy over the remaining space (#174).

Officer Comment

Asbestos – The asbestos regulations require individual asbestos management plans for all buildings. Asbestos will be presumed to be present if asbestos surveys have not been conducted. Information has been sent to pre-qualified contractors regarding an awareness of asbestos on Council sites. Asbestos will be monitored, and managed in line with regulations and the condition of the asbestos management plan.

Taihape Women's Club - Quotes are being sought for the removal of asbestos and the subsequent renovation this would then require. The maintenance issues raised could be addressed through this process. However, once the information is received Council will be required to make a decision on whether the work required should proceed.

Taihape Napier Road facilities – There are existing places for visitors to stop on the Taihape-Napier Road (Kuripapango campsite managed by the Department of Conservation is the most significant). There is an existing brochure for the journey.

Taihape Netball – the Squash Club building is owned by the Squash Club. Council is unable to undertake drainage on the site to assist the netball club as it does

not have its own contractors. The Parks Upgrade Partnership Fund would be an appropriate avenue for Taihape Netball to apply for funding to upgrade the courts. Staff will work with the club to discuss the use of the remaining space.

Council decision

That Council endorse staff engaging with Taihape Netball over their needs regarding netball at Taihape Memorial Park.

Community housing

- Request for Council to increase community housing capacity (#159).
- Request for Council to consider selling the community housing (#088).

Officer Comment

Community Housing - Council went to the market for an alternative provider of management services for its community housing but did not find anyone suitable. For the time being, it will continue to provide this service²⁰. Council has previously agreed that an integrated approach to the delivery of community housing is implemented. This could include ways to address warmth and energy efficient and could include the sale and purchase of property, rebuilds and new builds.²¹

Other

- Thank Council for their support for the Nga Tawa School Turf (#080)
- Hunterville Pool needs heating (#088).
- Marton CBD buildings – the vacant site is not attractive, suggest murals are put along the street frontage, (#133). The site should be demolished (#088). Council should aid business owners in addressing earthquake-prone building issues (#133).

²⁰ 17/RDC/310

²¹ 17/RDC/313

- Request for public toilets and a bus shelter in Mangaweka (#074, #112).
- Request that Council supports the upgrade of the Ratana gym (#089).
- Koitiata Domain land – would like Council to designate as reserve land, develop a reserve management plan (preferred option), or use as a campground, or sell a portion to be privately developed as a holiday park (#096, Koitiata Residents Committee).
- Request that the driveway at the Ratana Cemetery is extended and provided with a turning bay (#089, Ratana Community Board).
- The Tourism Industry of Aotearoa request Council support tourism in a wide number of methods (#027):
 - Apply to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund
 - Coordinate with Central Government and industry partners on infrastructure projected submitted to the Regional Growth Fund
 - Ensure freedom camping is effectively managed
 - Promote the benefits of tourism to the local community
 - Support tourism sustainability through positive policy and regulatory setting and funding
 - Sign up the Council to the Tourism Sustainability Commitment and activity promote Tourism Sustainability Commitment to local tourism operators
 - Recognise the economic value of environmental assets to tourism
 - Ensure the LTP recognises the environmental needs to tourism
 - Action the requirements of the NPS for Freshwater ASAP.

Officer Comment

Nga Tawa Turf - Council is a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding with Nga Tawa, Rangitikei College, Rangitikei Hockey Association and Sport Whanganui to establish a community turf partnership and committed (in the 2016/17 Annual Plan) to make a ratepayer contribution of \$100,000 towards the proposed facility at Nga Tawa School, provided that the balance is raised from alternative sources.

Huntermville Pool - Huntermville Swim Centre is owned/managed by the Huntermville Sport & Recreation Trust, which receives an annual operation grant from Council to contribute to their costs.

Marton CBD Buildings - Council is presently exploring options for its site on Broadway/High Street, Marton. The windows have been used to publicise a range of community activities and Council proposals: this will be stepped up now that there is additional staffing in the Communications area. Council is currently involved in a project to facilitate funding for the retention of a Marton Heritage Precinct.

Mangaweka – Council is currently in the process of installing toilets in Mangaweka and incorporated a bus stop into the design.

Ratana Gym – Staff have been engaged with the community on potential requirements for upgrading the building. The building and land has been confirmed to be owned by Council. A recent assessment of the building has shown that the roof needs replacing and there are other minor remedial works to be undertaken (\$15,000). There are ongoing investigations regarding issues with drainage on the site, with the costs of remedial works not yet available. This cost has not been included in budgets. An additional consideration is that the Ratana Communal Board have expressed interest in the transfer of ownership of the site to them.

Koitiata Domain Land – The site has been identified as being surplus to requirements. It is proposed that the future of the site is discussed directly with the Koitiata community at a future meeting.

Ratana Cemetery – Staff have been considering options for the extension of the road in the Ratana Cemetery. This is part of a wider project where Council needs to purchase more land in the area. The cost for this upgrade is \$42,000 which has been included in budget for the 2019/20 year.

Tourism Industry of Aotearoa – Council has made a number of applications to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund, works with Central Government where possible, has a permissive regulatory framework, and has a permissive regime for freedom camping.

Council decision

That a report be provided to the Assets/Infrastructure Committee on total upgrading work required for the Ratana Gym.

Council decision

A sum of up to \$15,000 if needed, be included in the LTP for the roof at Rātana Gym.

Parks and Reserves

Taihape Memorial Park

There were a number of comments received about the development of Taihape Memorial Park as follows:

- Skate Park – the Taihape Community Development Trust has been working with Council staff, and Taihape Area School regarding the development of a skate park. Would like an update of progress. Raised concerns about the cost (#100).
- Request that further contracts are taken over by Council (#168, Taihape Community Board).

Officer Comment

Skate park – Council staff are willing to work with the local community on a skate park concept, on the same basis as they are doing in Marton. Subsoil testing has yet to be undertaken as discussed with the Trust due to contractor availability. Staff do not anticipate issues with the ground. Learnings need to be taken from Marton, with costs of the project established early. Given the size of the Taihape extension is less than half of the proposal for Marton, it is unlikely to have the same expenses.

Contracts – Council currently undertakes management of Memorial Park. From mid-August 2018 the Parks team will also undertake daily care of the rubbish bins (taking over from the current contractor).

Marton Skate Park

The Marton Skate Park Committee has requested Council provides the following additional money for the proposed skate park extension at Centennial Park:

- \$50,000 to go towards the extension.
- \$24,000 to fix the existing area.

This request has been made because the initial quote for the skate park of \$100,000 has now been superseded by a more detailed quote which has given the price at \$247,000.

The Committee is now looking for extra funding to cover the shortfall (\$180,000 has been sourced from funders).

Officer Comment

Council has previously provided \$50,000 of funding towards the Marton Skate Park proposal.

Clarification has been sought on the final design (to be reviewed by the steering group) and the cost schedule being subject to peer review. The results of this will inform how the project proceeds. An update will be provided to the Assets/Infrastructure Committee's meeting on 14 June 2018. That Committee has the delegation to approve expenditure from the Parks Partnership Upgrade Programme.

Council decision

That the Assets/Infrastructure Committee consider the final design and peer-reviewed costs for the Centennial Park Skate Park Extension project and consider whether any additional grant is made from available funds in the Parks Upgrade Partnership Scheme and/or the placemaking budget.

Ratana Park

The Ratana Community Board made a number of requests to Council related to their local park.

- Request that Council undertake remediation of the Rugby Field and ongoing maintenance.
- Request that Council provide support in the redevelopment of the playground, including ongoing maintenance.

Officer Comment

Rugby field - The local Ratana Park is an area owned by the Ratana Communal Board. The Parks team do not have existing capacity to maintain this area under current resourcing. It is recommended that further discussion is held with the Ratana Community Board at their 12 June 2018 meeting, with a report outlining the feasibility and costs involved in this request provided to the 9 August 2018 Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Playground – staff have been in discussions with the Ratana Community Board about the need for a new playground. Council agreed to provide up to \$15,000 for the maintenance/development of a playground at Ratana – in addition to the \$1,500 grant approved from the Community Initiatives Fund for a design of a new playground²². The \$15,000 figure was reflective of the cost to undertake repairs to the playground and the new mulch required for the site. Council has a current contract (991) for the maintenance of the playground. It provides for a contractor to maintain play equipment and undertake repairs up to a value of \$250.

The \$15,000 has not been spent, as a larger playground redevelopment project has been proposed. The local community have been receiving quotes on the proposed new playground. It is likely the proposed playground will cost approximately \$300,000 - \$400,000.

A key decision for Council is whether it is prepared to allow the Parks Upgrade Programme to apply to this site. While the land is owned by the Ratana Church (and it is unlikely to be transferred to the Council), the lack of a Council-managed playground/sportsfield in Ratana may be seen as providing justification for Council to agree to this approach.

Council decision

That Council agrees in principle to allow the Parks Upgrade Programme to apply to upgrading recreational facilities at Ratana Paa in addition to the \$15,000 previously approved for the playground.

Council decision

That the request for Council to undertake remediation works at the Ratana Rugby field is discussed further at the June 2018 Ratana Community Board meeting, with a report on the feasibility and costs required for Council to undertake this work provided to the 9 August 2018 Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Other issues

There were a range of other comments received on the Parks and Reserves activity as outlined below.

- Two requests that Council establish an eco-burial area, with one submitter requesting this be in Taihape (#057, #119).
- The entrance to the Mangaweka Village should be upgraded (#161).
- That Council work together with the Taihape Community Board on the development of the Gumboot Theme Playground at the 'Outback' (#168).
- Concern about the picnic area by the Rangitikei River in Bulls being left covered in rubbish and suggestions of better maintaining walking tracks (#143).
- Request to have recycle bins in public places (#062, #139).
- Suggestion to plant fruit and nut trees in parks (#139).
- The Boer War Memorial in Marton Park needs restoration (\$60,000) (#101 – Marton RSA).
- Request for a rubbish bin in the main street of Mangaweka (#112).
- Request that Council does some landscaping works at the Ratana Cemetery (#089).

Officer Comment

Natural Burials - Natural burials are becoming more common, however, require specific ground conditions. It is suggested feasibility of establishing an eco-burial area in Taihape will be reported to the Assets/Infrastructure Committee.

Mangaweka Village Entrance - The gardens at the entrance of the Mangaweka Village were installed by the New Zealand Transport Agency, but now require replanting. This is an issue which can be addressed by the Parks Team in the summer of 2018/19 under existing budgets.

²¹ 17/RDC/259

Gumboot playground - Council staff are supportive of a gumboot themed playground and are willing to work on the project with the Taihape Community Board.

Bulls River – Council currently undertakes a weekly inorganic litter collection on the Horizons owned land along the Rangitikei River. There is no rubbish bin provided or emptied at the picnic area. The walking tracks along the Rangitikei River are not managed by Council.

Recycle bins – Recycle bins in public places could be trialled. Staff suggest this could be done for Taihape and Bulls, either near playground or public toilets. However, they each come at a cost of \$3750. There is no current budget provision for this.

Fruit and nut trees in parks – Staff will consider incorporating fruit trees into the winter planting programme. These trees are not always used because they are more easily damaged and have a short lifespan compared with exotic tree species.

Boer War Memorial – The Marton RSA has been working on gathering information on the restoration of the Memorial. Staff are willing to work with the RSA to gain funding for this project.

Mangaweka rubbish bin – A rubbish bin could be installed at the location of the new toilets in Mangaweka. This could be emptied daily by the Parks team from mid-August 2018. It is a project which could be completed within existing budgets.

Ratana Cemetery – Council staff will undertake some landscaping works at the Ratana Cemetery.



Council's Parks and Reserves staff planting at Marton Park.

Council decision

That Council endorses a trial of recycling bins located in Taihape, at the railway station on the basis it can be funded by the Waste Levy.

Council decision

That Council endorses the replanting of the gardens at the entrance to Mangaweka Village.

Council decision

That Council endorses Council staff working with the Taihape Community Board on the feasibility and design of a gumboot playground at the 'Outback' site.

Council decision

That Council endorses the planting of fruit and nut trees in Council's parks.

Council decision

That Council endorses Council staff working alongside the Marton RSA to gain funding for the redevelopment of the Boer War Memorial at Marton Park.

Council decision

That Council endorses the installation of a rubbish bin at the location of the new toilets in Mangaweka.

Council decision

That Council endorses Council staff undertaking landscaping works at the Ratana Cemetery.

Council decision

That a report is provided to the 13 September 2018 Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting regarding the feasibility and costs of establishing an eco-burial area in Taihape.

Water Supply

The following comments were received on the District's water supply:

- Request that Council does not fluoridate water (#003).
- Hunterville Rugby Club requests that when Council upgrades the transformer at the Hunterville Domain, the transformer is upgraded to a level which would support LED lighting of the rugby ground (#066, supported by #088).
- Tutaenui/ Hunterville Rural Water Scheme – supportive of water for stock, but not for irrigation. Support new town water source for Hunterville (#088).
- Support replacement of concrete pipes to PVC for Marton (#088).
- Marton needs to improve water supply (brown water issues) (#143, #156, and #174).
- Concern about publicity of Bulls water issues (#143).
- Water supply systems should not have a detrimental effect on the environment (#098).

Officer Comment

Fluoridation - None of Council's water supplies are currently fluoridated.

Transformer upgrade at Hunterville Domain – when considering the upgrade required, staff will consider the power needs not only of the proposed bore, but also of the future needs of Hunterville Domain, including the lighting of the rugby fields.

Tutaenui/ Hunterville Rural Water Scheme – The pre-feasibility study concluded that it is feasible to establish a stock water and irrigation scheme around the Tutaenui Area. The next stage of the project is further investigation for a stock water scheme.

Marton Water – Council have been investigating the causes of brown water issues in Marton. It was previously thought that iron and manganese in the concrete pipes has built up over the last few decades on the inside of the pipes. The way of removing this discolouration is replacing the pipes. However, more recently Council has engaged external consultant who have suggested it is manganese precipitating out of the water in the pipes which is causing the issues. Staff are making changes to the treatment processes to remove more of the dissolved manganese before it exits the water treatment plant. Budgets over the next few years have been rearranged to allow more work to be done to address this issue.

Bulls Water – Council has had the water in Bulls tested for PFAS following concerns about the levels of PFAS around Ohakea. Test results showing PFAS levels in Bulls' water supply are well below the national Drinking Water Guidelines and that the town's water remains safe to drink. However, Council is still looking for assurances about the source of the PFAS. The Government has committed additional funding for this in the 2018 Budget.

Environment – Water supply is essential for public health and safety of local communities. Council works closely with Horizons when obtaining resource consents for the take of water to minimise the environmental effects of the water takes.

Council decision

That Council endorses staff considering the future power needs of the Hunterville Domain (including the floodlights for the Hunterville Rugby Club) when considering required transformer upgrades for the proposed Hunterville water supply bore.

²³ Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances



Photo from June 2015 flooding event.

Stormwater

The following comments were received on the District's stormwater:

- Concern about flooding of their property (#056).
- Request that Council have conversations with Horizons about whether the management of private drains could be aligned with an existing river management scheme (#078).
- Stormwater treatment should be addressed (#098).
- Stormwater at Scotts Ferry (#034 late)

Officer Comment

Flooding – Council has committed to a programme of stormwater upgrades to address hot spots. Marumaru Street is included as a hot spot area for further investigation.

Horizons river management scheme – Council staff are willing to engage in conversations with Horizons about the feasibility of whether the management of private drains could be aligned

Stormwater treatment – Council does not currently treat stormwater, but over time it will be required to, however, the timing around this is uncertain.

Stormwater Scotts Ferry – The issue of stormwater flooding has been raised previously at the Bulls Community Committee meeting. This issue has been placed in the work programme for investigation in 2018/19. Prior to works commencing discussions will be held with the submitter on the proposed solution. Recent works on the adjoining property need investigation to determine what the effect is on the drainage network. Any effects of this new drainage will be considered as part of any solution for stormwater issues in Scotts Ferry.

Council decision

That Council endorses staff engaging with Horizons staff to examine the feasibility of aligning the urban drains with the existing river management schemes.

Wastewater

The following comments were received on the District's wastewater:

- Council needs to have a clear consenting strategy for managing the consent renewal process for its waste water treatment plants. The consenting strategy will need to emphasise re-consenting occurring before consent expiry, as reliance on existing use rights will not be encouraged. Specific concern about the timeframes and want a firm commitment from Council about Marton's wastewater (#078, Horizons Regional Council).
- Need to address the resource consent for Marton Wastewater Treatment Plant urgently. Concerns raised about the combined treatment with Bulls – risk of the pipe breaking in an earthquake. Spreading of wastewater on the sand country is environmentally unsound practice (#070).
- Request for Council to investigate upgrades to the Mangaweka Wastewater Treatment Plant (#026, Manawatu District Council).
- Support for the upgrades to the Ratana, Marton and Bulls, Wastewater Treatment Plants from Manawatu District Council (#026).
- Support for the proposed Marton/Bulls Wastewater Treatment Plant (#088).
- Support wastewater treatment plant upgrades, if alternative solutions are provided for Taihape/Mangaweka, careful consideration needs to be given to potential public health effects of individual treatment systems (#094, Whanganui Public Health Centre).
- Concern about the location of the Koitiata Wastewater Treatment Plant (wetland). The pond may overflow in wet weather. Would like Council to consider options and costs for an upgraded treatment plant (#096, Koitiata Residents Committee).
- Suggestion that composting toilets are considered for Council owned facilities, in homes, and businesses (#159).
- Wastewater systems should not have a detrimental effect on the environment (#098).
- Council needs to closely monitor the Bonny Glen leachate and minimise threats to our environment/infrastructure (#089).

Officer Comment

Consenting strategy – Council staff are in the process of developing a consenting strategy for its wastewater treatment plants. This strategy will be discussed with Horizons staff, particularly regarding timeframes for the consents due for renewal over the next two years.

Marton/Bulls Wastewater Treatment Plant – Council is committed to finding a long term solution for the Marton/Bulls wastewater discharges. It is essential that the solution provided is cost effective for the communities. The risk of earthquakes is a hazard for any Council infrastructure.

Taihape/Mangaweka Wastewater Treatment Plants - The consent for the Mangaweka Wastewater Treatment Plant expires in 2024, while the Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant has a consent expiry of 2027. Council will need to consider a range of options for addressing the discharges in these areas. One of the most significant considerations of any alternative option will be the public health implications.

Koitiata Wastewater Treatment Plant – The discharge consent for the Koitiata Wastewater Treatment Plant is due to expire in 2024. The pond and effluent field is located in a wetland area. At the time of consent renewal Council will consider all options for this discharge to ensure the plant is the most appropriate system for the local community.

Composting toilets – the removal of human waste is one of the most important aspects of protecting the health of local communities. Composting toilets can be effective in certain situations; however, they require frequent maintenance to ensure they are operating effectively. At this stage composting toilets are not a viable option for the urban areas of the Rangitikei District.

Environment – Council has been working closely with Horizons Regional Council to design solutions to its wastewater treatment plants which have a reduced impact on the environment. Key examples of this include the proposal for land based discharges at Ratana, Bulls and Marton.

Bonny Glen – Council is committed to ensuring the leachate from Bonny Glen does not adversely affect Council infrastructure. Council has a trade waste agreement with MidWest Disposals, with monitoring conditions to address this.

Council decision

That the consenting strategy for Council's waste water treatment plant upgrade projects is provided to the 9 August 2018 Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Roading

A number of submitters made comments related to Council's Roothing network.

Mangaweka Bridge

Support was provided from a number of submitters to replace the Mangaweka Bridge (#026, #067, #072, #077, and #167). These submitters included Manawatu District Council and Federated Farmers among local community members.

Submitters from the local community (Mangaweka Heritage (#067), John Eames (#072) and Paul Eames (#167) also requested that following the construction of the new bridge, the existing bridge was retained for pedestrian/cycle access. More specific comments on the value of retaining the bridge from submitter #167 are summarised below:

- The bridge is a heritage highlight for the area.
- It is common to see photographers on the bridge.
- Crossing the Rangitikei on foot is popular.
- Provide a safe area for pedestrians.
- Costs of retention have not been investigated.

Officer Comment

Investigations have not yet been completed for examining the cost of retaining the Mangaweka Bridge for pedestrian/cycle access following the completion of a new bridge. Consideration will need to occur in conjunction with Manawatu District Council.

Council decision

That a report on the options, including the costs of retaining the existing Mangaweka Bridge following completion of the new bridge, be provided to the 13 September 2018 Assets/Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Maintenance of Roads

Three submitters provided comments on the maintenance of roads and the need to ensure Council retains the quality of roading throughout the District (#088, #137, and #151). Specific concern about Mokai Road was raised by submitter #063. This submitter suggested sealing some parts of Mokai Road.

Officer Comment

The aim of Council is to ensure that the quality/standard of work to the roading infrastructure is maintained to a high standard. Mokai Road is currently unsealed and presents a number of challenges for the roading team in summer as the road is narrow, steep and winding. The key issue is that the road corrugates, which can create safety issues. Staff have previously had discussions with the submitter regarding options for this road. An unsubsidised seal extension for a section of this road is planned for the 2020/21 financial year to address the issue²⁴.

Footpaths

Three submitters raised issues regarding the footpath network as follows:

- Submitter #061 requested that Council repairs/upgrades all pedestrian walkways.
- Submitter #089, Ratana Community Board, raised issues about the footpaths on Taitokerau and Waipounamu Streets.
- Submitter #172 identified concerns with not having footpaths on both sides of every street in Marton – e.g. Princess Street.

Officer Comment

Council has a programme of footpath renewals based on priorities within budget constraints. The footpaths on Taitokerau and Waipounamu Streets are scheduled in

²⁴This is to follow works being done on Turakina Valley Road.

the footpath renewal programme Taitokerau has had a section recently completed and Waipounamu Street is scheduled for the 2020/21 financial year. Council's Long Term Plan notes a 'desire' to have footpaths on both sides of the road. Priority is given to areas where there are Area Wide Pavement Treatments occurring (e.g. Wanganui Road, Broadway). Princess Street is not a high priority in this programme because it is a no exit street, with low pedestrian numbers.

Street cleaning and vegetation maintenance

Four submitters raised issues related to street cleaning and vegetation maintenance.

- Submitter #061 requested that Council enforce its Bylaw for overhanging trees.
- Submitter #086 raised concerns about the mess left behind following the removal of trees under the railway land on Mill Street.
- Submitter #102 requested that Council fell the trees on Broadway blocking views of Ruapehu.
- Submitter #151 raised concerns that Taihape is neglected for street cleaning.

Officer Comment

Clause 20 of the Public Places Bylaw authorises Council to address vegetation which obstructs lighting and movement of people on roads and footpaths. Council acts in response to service requests on particular locations.

Mill Street - The Roading Team has investigated the issues identified regarding tree removals on Mill Street. The trees were felled due to the risk they were posing to the power supply in the area (particularly the 33000 volt feed). The trees which have been felled have been done so by KiwiRail and are not encroaching on the road/road reserve. The area has been left in an untidy state. KiwiRail's contractor will be spraying the regrowth in the near future. The Parks Team will undertake some new planting on the berms in 2018. There are additional works planned in the area to address trees near power lines.

Broadway trees - The trees on Broadway are an asset to the townscape. They are managed with that in mind, and to maximise their health. The Urban Tree Plan 2017 sets out the management approach for street trees. Section 4.10.1 identifies that Council does not prioritise panoramic views as part of managing street trees. However, pruning may be undertaken where this will not have an adverse impact on the tree.

Taihape has a street cleaning programme in place. A key issue in Taihape is the footpath material shows up dirt more readily than in other areas. The street cleaning programme in Taihape is more frequent than in other locations due to this reason (twice per year compared with annually).

Other

Council received a number of other submissions as follows:

- Two submitters expressed support for Council lobbying Central Government for the Taihape-Napier Road to become part of the State Highway network (#164, #168).
- Three submitters made comments about Council's use of herbicides (#003, #139, and #160), suggesting Council does not use dangerous chemicals (Glyphosate) near waterways or in places accessible to humans and animals.
- Submitter #139 identified that Council needs to consider alternative options for managing weeds.
- Submitter #141 requested that Council stops the installation of LED streetlights to amend the type of lights being installed (to a less bright light in urban areas) to reduce light pollution issues.
- Submitter #070 raised concerns that Council does not have knowledge about crashes.
- Submitter #105, the St Andrews Church Committee requested that Council be involved in a project to increase parking and include a bus stop area for Bulls School.
- Submitter #014 requested that Council keep heavy vehicles off Pukepapa Road, for example those going to Bonny Glen.
- Submitter #089, the Ratana Community Board requested that the community is provided with permanent speed bumps.
- Horizons Regional Council encouraged Council to consider opportunities for the enhancement of facilities to support active transport and provide funding accordingly
- Request that Council consider putting up more anti-litter signs on rural roads (#087).

Officer Comment

Glyphosate – the use of glyphosate in Council’s parks and reserves was considered in 2016. Glyphosate is used in Councils parks and reserves and in the roading corridor, with a number of restrictions - no spray zones (requested by residents), drains that have running water and is sprayed in accordance with best practice guidelines. Glyphosate remains the most cost-effective option for Council to manage weeds.

The LED replacement programme is already established and has been subsidised by the New Zealand Transport Agency.

Fatal and serious crashes are reported for the Rangitikei District to the New Zealand Police. Council has access to this information which identifies the type of accident, location and time.



Mangaweka Bridge.

Pukepapa Road, Marton, is an arterial road, intended to cope with heavy vehicle movements. This includes for trucks heading to Bonny Glen.

Bulls School Parking area – The St Andrews Church have identified land next to Bulls School which they would be willing to provide for the purposes of additional parking and a bus stop for Bulls School. The church has requested that Council makes a contribution to this project. Discussions with the roading manager have defined this request as providing the vehicle crossing to the site.

Ratana speed bumps - Currently three speed humps have been constructed in Ratana. These are permanent bumps which have recently been repaired (they are speed humps that are pinned to the road). The construction of these caused problems by vehicles driving around them and thus causing Council to have to construct bollards. The merits of additional humps and their locations is suggested to be discussed at the next meeting of the Ratana Community Board.

Active transport - With the new Government Policy Statement’s focus on active transport, and the availability of a subsidy for walking and cycling projects, Council will develop a Strategic Case for Active Transport and funding for any identified enhancements will be sought through Council and New Zealand Transport Agency’s processes.

Litter signs – Council has an extensive rural roading network, and while it is recognised that there are issues with rubbish on these roads, additional signage throughout the District would not be feasible. Council already undertakes some litter collection as part of the roading contract (3 – 4 times per year) on key roads leading out of urban centres. Additionally, Council respond to specific complaints as a result of fly tipping as required.

Council decision

That the feasibility and requested Council contribution to a parking area and bus stop at the St Andrews Church site for Bulls School is investigated and reported back to the 9 August 2018 Assets/Infrastructure meeting.

Council decision

That the merit of additional speed humps in Ratana and their location is further discussed with the Ratana Community Board at their 12 June 2018 meeting.

Community Well-being

A few submitters made comments related to the Community Well-being group of activities as follows:

- Advocating public transport from small centres to the larger centres – Whanganui, Feilding, and Palmerston North (#143).
- Residents from Koitiata raised concerns about broadband connectivity for Koitiata (#006, #007). Concerns were also raised about broadband connectivity for Onepuhi Road (#004)
- Youth – suggest one full time staff member (#088) who works closely with other organisations. The Taihape Community Development Trust will support Council initiatives on the delivery of youth services (#100).
- The health of the Rangitikei River is important (#149).
- Council needs to plan for an ageing population (#103).

Ngati Rangi provided a submission which highlighted the following key points (#058):

- Expectation that Council is familiar with the Ngati Rangi 2014 Taiao Management Plan and considered it to inform meaningful engagement with Ngati Rangi.
- Council will need to plan to ensure that the Te Waiu o te Ika is included in Council's long term planning.
- Council should refer to climate change as Climate Crisis in planning, communications and response.
- Council should make Climate Crisis (climate change) a priority as a key issue of a water supply strategy.
- Ngati Rangi wants to work alongside the Council in developing solutions to address water allocation issues.
- Ngati Rangi does not support initiatives that can lead to a risk of over allocating water supply.
- Ngati Rangi wishes to work with the Council's planning team to establish an approach to managing Resource Management Act activities in their rohe, this includes but is not limited to the development of a Heritage Management Plan.

- Ngati Rangi wishes to have representation in the tourism and regional growth space to ensure continuity from Ruapehu to Rangitikei.

Officer Comment

Public Transport – Horizons Regional Council provides the public transport services throughout the region. There are currently a limited number of services available to the Rangitikei District. Council has been advocating for the retention of these services.

Broadband connectivity – Broadband connectivity is dependent on network providers. Central Government has been incentivising the extension to rural wireless networks. Council has been advocating at all stages for better connectivity for the Rangitikei District and will continue to do so.

Youth – Council now has one full time resource for the youth space and is partnering with a range of organisations in the delivery of youth services. Mokai Patea Services will be the lead provider of youth services in Taihape for the 2018/19 financial year.

Rangitikei River – Council is undertaking a range of initiatives to support the health of the Rangitikei River. This includes moving the discharge of waste water from the River (or tributaries) to land for the Marton and Bulls Waste Water Treatment Plants. Council is also supportive of projects by iwi/hapu to plant tributaries connecting to the Rangitikei River. Council also facilitates the Treasured Natural Environment Group which works with other key stakeholders on projects which enhance the environment.

Ngati Rangi – Council has had initial conversations with representatives from Ngati Rangi about the 2014 Taiao Management Plan. The new position of Strategic Advisor - Iwi will help to ensure that engagement with Ngati Rangi is meaningful. Council intends on working with Ngati Rangi on water issues as required.

Ageing population – Council recognises the population is aging and makes this a consideration when undertaking projects.

Community Leadership

Communication

Three comments on Council's communication were made as follows:

- Council should increase their online services (#088).
- Council needs to improve interactions with the community (#168).
- Council should improve their notification an ongoing consultation of major projects – Wanganui Road/Broadway are key examples where communication has been lacking (#173).



Signing of Deed of Settlement, Ngati Rangī, supplied by Gail Imhoff.

Officer Comment

As part of Council's Communications and IT Strategy, more online services are a key action area which are being investigated and implemented as resourcing allows.

Council is working on improving interactions with the community. It has recently increased resource in the communications area by establishing a new part-time role. Part of the responsibilities for this role is to profile other aspects of our District and the community and ensure Council has a higher presence in our District. Council's existing publications will reflect this approach, which will encourage our community to interact with us.

Based on recent learnings from Wanganui Road/Broadway projects, Council has put in place processes to increase the focus on communications. This includes affected parties being informed of progress and changes to agreed timeframes.

Rates

A number of submitters raised the following concerns about rates:

- Request that Council justifies a 3% increase in rates – concern rates are out of alignment with Consumer Price Index. Would like rates capped at 3% (#013).
- Keep rates below inflation (#065).
- Avoid rates increases (#071, #109, #110, and #157).
- Council should focus on core infrastructure (#077).
- Incomes of ratepayers will not increase in-line with rates increases (#077).

Officer Comment

Rates have been kept as low as possible while maintaining the services essential to a thriving community and meeting the Government's standards. Council has formal arrangements with several community organisations which helps them gain external funding for projects which benefit the District. Council actively looks to find funding from central government and other agencies which, when successful, helps reduce ratepayer costs.

Finances

A few submitters provided comments on financial matters as set out below.

- Bridges - Council should share the cost and borrow to pay for these upgrades to ensure intergenerational equity of payment. However, borrowing should be capped to a level that is within the means of the Council to repay and still conduct daily services (#088).
- Costs - Further work should occur to ensure the maintenance, renewal and capital expenditure programmes are providing the Council with the best information and cost versus return is achieved (#088).
- Funding - Council should investigate a suitable borrowing strategy to assist with extra spending requirements to replace assets at the end of their life (#088).
- Erewhon Rural Waste Scheme – concerns are raised about the Rural Water Scheme being included in 'Future Projects' as part of Council budgets given the project is self-funded. This risks negative impacts on the farming community's reputation (#164).
- Request that Council considers higher rates rebates for ratepayers earning under \$27,000 per year (#162).

Officer Comment

Bridges - Bridges have a depreciation period of between 75-120 years. Funding for bridge renewal, upgrades or replacement reflect this, which means intergenerational equity. Council is required by statute to specify its limits on borrowing in its long term plans, annual plans and annual reports.

Costs - Council pays close attention to improving information about its assets so that renewals and replacement is targeted where it is most needed. The New Zealand Transport Agency model for prioritising work (for roads) is being adopted for water, wastewater and stormwater.

Funding - Council will be borrowing from the Local Government Funding Agency, established specifically to reduce borrowing costs for local councils.

Erewhon Rural Water Supply - Rural water schemes are self-funding (apart from overheads which are a District-wide charge on all ratepayers) and recommend

the level of rates for Council each year. It is correct (and required by the Council's auditors) to show all projected revenue and costs (including capital costs) relating to Council's assets, which the rural water schemes are. In addition, while the borrowing costs will be paid by scheme members (through their rates), Council arranges the borrowing; the schemes do not have their own banking accounts. Council has regard for these interest costs when discussing the rates to be set with the scheme management committees.

Rate rebates – Are not an issue that Council can address, the level of rates rebates is determined by Central Government.



Environment and Regulatory

The following submitters provided comments in relation to the Environment and Regulatory Services area as follows:

- Concern about Council's regulatory environment inhibiting local business development (#023, #150, #168).
- Request to ensure Council has adequately resource enforcement officers under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (#012).
- That Council prioritises the importance of landscapes for the development or protection of the Northern Rangitikei (#140).
- Request from the Motor Caravan Association to ensure adequate resourcing to review rules, policies and bylaws to support an integrated freedom camping management regime (#002).

Officer Comment

Council is required to enforce legislation imposed on them by Central Government. Council has been taking a pragmatic approach to building consent requirements

for earthquake-prone buildings. The Chief Executive is also uses waivers on a case-by-case basis as required. The District Plan is permissive (compared with other local authorities) which makes it easy to open businesses in the correct zone e.g. commercial zone. Controls are in place to protect the amenity of residents if a business attempts to open in a residential zone.

Council is responsible for public place and private dwellings under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. Specialists are engaged as required. It is very uncommon for Council to need to act under this legislation. In the past four years there has only been one incident to address.

Outstanding Natural Landscapes are found in Council's District Plan. Those in the north of the District include - Rangitikei Highlands, Ngamatea East Swamp, Reporoa Bog and Makirikiri Tarns, Aorangi, Rangitikei Narrows and Gorges, Raketapauma Wetland. Further consideration can be given to additional Outstanding Natural Landscapes through the District Plan Review – which is due to begin in 2022.

Council does not currently have a Freedom Camping Bylaw. This is a matter which will be addressed through internal resourcing if Council determines in the future that a bylaw is required.



Council's buildings – Corner of Broadway and High Streets, Marton.

Other issues

Some submitters raised other issues for Council's consideration:

- That Council uses the precautionary principle in relation to genetic engineering (#003).
- Request for underground powerlines in Koitiata (#096/154, Koitiata Residents Committee).
- Horizons rates are a concern (#056).
- That Council should work in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals, but particularly in relation to gender equity. Council should undertake a gender analysis of salary bands (#098).
- Concerns about the lagoon flooding on the south of the village. Seeking Council support to engage a hydrologist to investigate a long-term solution (#011, #096, Koitiata Residents Committee).
- Recommend that Council supports the Local Government Four Well-beings Amendment Bill (#001).

Officer Comment

Genetic engineering – Council currently has no involvement in genetic engineering.

Powerlines - Underground powerlines are not an issue that Council can address.

Horizons rates – These submission comments have been forwarded to Horizons Regional Council who will be providing a response directly. The disproportionate increase in rates from Horizons is largely due to the different timing of valuations of Rangitikei properties from properties in other districts.

Gender equity – Council is aware of the importance of this issue, and has used external programmes and seminars focussing on leadership development for women. Participation in the Australasian Local Government Excellence Programme has provided comparative information with other councils, within Australia and New Zealand.

Koitiata Lagoon – Council has been engaged in discussions with the Koitiata community regarding the flooding being caused in the area. A short term solution

to drain the water is being developed. Council will need to consider whether it provides any financial support to investigate a long term solution.

Four well-beings – Council has recently placed a submission in on this Amendment Bill noting support for the re-inclusion of the four well-beings into the Local Government Act 2002.

Council decision

That Council staff work alongside the Koitiata Residents Community and Horizons Regional Council to examine the benefits of engaging a consultant to examine the ongoing management of the Koitiata Lagoon.



Appendix 1 - List of organisations/groups

ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS – RANGITIKEI DISTRICT	ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS FROM OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT
<p> Bulls Community Committee Centennial Park Development - Skate park Extension Committee Dudding Lake Federated Farmers of New Zealand Hunterville Community Committee Hunterville Rugby Club Koitiata Residents Committee Mangaweka Adventure Company Mangaweka Heritage Marton Motel Marton RSA McQueen School of Dance Nga Tawa Diocesan School Ngati Rangi Trust Rangitikei Guardians Ratana Community Board St Andrews Church Committee Taihape and District Women's Club Taihape and Districts A&P Taihape Area Show Jumping Taihape Bowling Club Taihape Community Board Taihape Community Development Trust Taihape Dressage Taihape Shearing Sports Committee Turakina Community Committee Taihape Netball Centre </p>	<p> Environmental Protection Authority Horizons Regional Council Manawatu District Council New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc. Physicians and Scientists for Global Responsibility New Zealand Charitable Trust Toimata Foundation Tourism Industry of Aotearoa Wanganui Public Health Centre </p>