MINUTES

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL
Making this place home.

ASSETS/INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: **Thursday, 27 August 2026**

Time: **9.30am**

Venue: **Council Chamber**
Rangitīkei District Council
46 High Street
Marton

Present	Cr Dave Wilson Cr Alan Buckendahl Cr Fi Dalgety Cr Sandra Field Cr Piki Te Ora Hiroa (Online) Cr Graeme O'Fee Cr Coral Raukawa HWTM Andy Watson Cr Jeff Wong
In attendance	Mr Arno Benadie, Deputy Chief Executive Ms Leanne Macdonald, Group Manager – Corporate Services Ms Katrina Gray, Group Manager – Strategy, Community and Democracy Mr Darryn Black, Acting GM Assets Infrastructure and Projects Mr Eswar Ganapathi, Senior Project Manager Ms Gaylene Prince, Northern Area and Property Manager Ms Petra Fleming, Governance Advisor

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1 Welcome / Prayer

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.31am and read the Council Prayer.

2 Apologies

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/016

That the apologies from Cr Diana Baird, Cr John Hainsworth and Cr Paul Sharland be received.

Cr S Field/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

3 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5 Confirmation of Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

6 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/017

That the minutes of Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 28 May 2026 without amendment be taken as read and verified as an accurate and correct record of the meeting, and that the electronic signature of the Chair of this Committee be added to the official minutes document as a formal record.

Cr A Buckendahl/Cr G O'Fee. Carried

7 Follow-up Action Items from Previous Meetings

7.1 Follow-up Action Items from Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meetings

The Committee accepted that the matters listed on the register are complete and are to be removed.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/018

That the report Follow-up Action Items from Assets/Infrastructure Committee Meetings be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Wong. Carried

8 Chair's Report

8.1 Chair's Report - August 2026

The Chair highlighted the ongoing changes regarding legislative reform and international geopolitical tensions which are relevant to the Committee.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/019

That the report Chair's Report - August 2026 be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

9 Reports for Decision

9.1 Terms of Reference - Assets/Infrastructure Committee

Members discussed the current legislative change from central government which will affect non-elected representative's voting rights in committees and boards and how this could impact the inclusion of a Te Rōpū Ahi Kā Komiti representative within the Assets/Infrastructure Committee.

The Committee agreed that regardless of voting rights, the voice which a TRAK representative provides is important. A footnote that this appointment may be subject to further directions from Council, noting the Local Government (System Improvements) Bill currently moving through parliament would be added to the Draft Terms of Reference.

His Worship the Mayor raised concerns that the delegation powers outlined within the Draft Terms of Reference are too broad, specifically regarding contract approval for major capital projects. Members agreed "(delegations)" would be removed from the Draft Terms of Reference, and this matter will be revisited at a later time, at which all Council committee delegations will considered.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/020

That the report Terms of Reference – Assets/Infrastructure Committee be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/021

That the Assets/Infrastructure Committee recommends to Council the updated Terms of Reference are adopted, as amended.

Cr D Wilson/Cr S Field. Carried

10 Reports for Information

10.1 Project Update Report - August 2026

Marton to Bulls Wastewater Centralisation

Members asked about the status of the Options Report regarding land acquisition. Mr Benardie advised this report is subject to the periphyton risk assessment which has not been completed yet. Members discussed the importance of this report regarding the upcoming Central Districts Water (CDW) transfer in informing decisions.

Rātana Wastewater Discharge to Land

Members discussed the complexities of making decisions on projects that are included in the CDW transfer. Mr Bernadie advised there is a mechanism in place to communicate the information regarding progress made on considering project options to CDW, but the responsibility of managing projects to be transferred lies with Council until 01 July 2027.

Cr Raukawa asked about of progress on this project, the current budget compared to initial forecast and involvement of iwi, hapū and other stakeholders at this point. Mr Bernadie advised that initial forecasts were very high level and that the project is not at the decision-making point where further stakeholder engagement would occur.

Members discussed concerns about the impacts of delays on the communities involved. Mr Bernadie advised that these delays are due to the complexities of the project, including the consenting process. Members requested if Officers are able to link previous reports in upcoming Project Update Reports to keep Committee members and the communities more informed of progress.

Cr O'Fee left during this item at 10.16am and returned at 10.21am.

Taihape Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects

Mr Bernadie highlighted that external advice is progressing well to find where improvements can be made. The main issue currently is the high volume of inflow infiltration, particularly from private properties. Resolving this issue is complex and considering the costs to private property is key to officers' process, alongside following the national guidelines concerning this issue.

Marton Water Strategy

Mr Bernadie advised that CDW have accepted this as a project with a long-term allocated budget of $20 million. Details of the timing will be confirmed by CDW as they evaluate all transferred projects from Rangitīkei, Horowhenua and Palmerston North councils.

Marton EOC

Officers advised that construction is beginning 01 September 2026, with project completion planned for April 2027.

Taihape Grandstand (Community Led Project)

Members raised concerns of the level of information provided through the update and reiterated that Council requires oversight of the project. Officers advised that the Taihape Grandstand Restoration Committee (TGRC) has completed a reset with assistance from Frame Group and will now be able to report back to the Committee/Council with more detailed information within three identified workstreams - heritage, changing rooms and compliance. These reports will include updates regarding funding, completion of works, timeframes and risks.

Taihape Town Hall and Library Redevelopment

Officers highlighted that the detailed design phase would be finished early September.

Marton Swim Centre Structural Remediation

Officers confirmed there is a delay with delivery of the steel roof frames due to geopolitical tensions.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/022

That the report Project Updates Report – August 2026 be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr C Raukawa. Carried

10.2 Consent Compliance Report - August 2026

Members raised concerns regarding the apparent level of non-compliance for the water reporting. Officers advised there are complexities around consenting limits and non-compliance does not always signal significant issues. Were these to arise, Taumata Arowai would advise Council officers to remedy the matter, which would also be brought to the committee.

Cr Hiroa left during this item at 11.02am returned at 11.04am.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/023

That the report Consent Compliance Report – August 2026 be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr A Buckendahl. Carried

10.3 Roading Update – August 2026

Otara Bridge

Mr Black advised that a full capacity assessment of the bridge is underway, noting the complexity of repairs to suspension bridges as well as the age of the bridge. The length of time restrictions will be in place is unknown. Members discussed how this is a shared issue alongside Manawatū District Council and communication and collaboration will be key to ensure the best outcome.

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/024

That *Standing Order 4.2 No meeting can sit for more than two hours continuously without a break of at least ten minutes, unless the meeting resolves to extend the time before a break* is set aside until the completion of Item 10.3.

Cr D Wilson/Cr J Wong. Carried

Resolved minute number 26/AIN/025

That the report Roading Update – August 2026 be received.

Cr D Wilson/Cr F Dalgety. Carried

The meeting closed at 11.35am.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Assets/Infrastructure Committee held on 29 October 2026.

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Chairperson